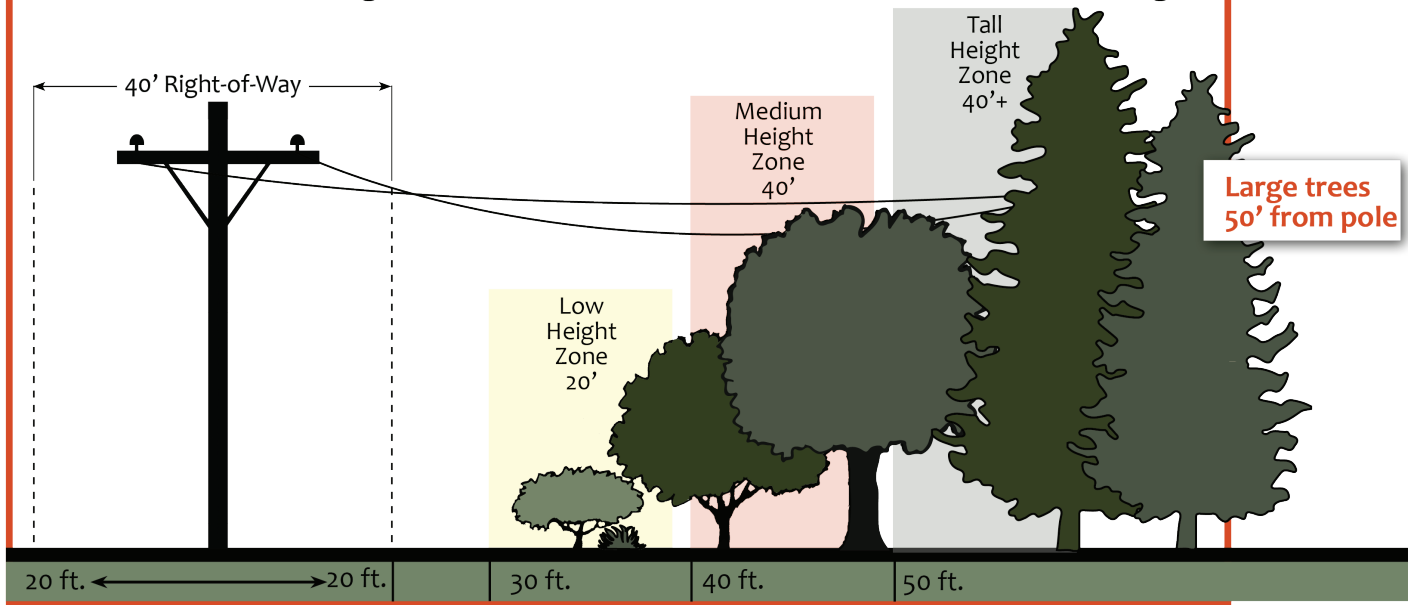## Where to plant in order to **AVOID** CVEC right-of-ways:

Low Height Zone: *These trees do not exceed 20' in mature height and must be planted 30' from the pole or powerline, 10' outside of the ROW. Low height trees include Dogwoods, Redbuds, and Crepe Myrtles, which rarely need crown height reduction.*

Medium Height Zone: *These trees generally exceed 20' in mature height and must be planted at least 40' from the pole or powerline, 20' outside of the ROW.*

Suitable Plantings Around CVEC Right-of-Ways

Trees planted well outside the 40' zone will reach full maturity without extending into CVEC's ROW and will not need trimming.

40' Right-of-Way

Tall Height Zone 40'+

Medium Height Zone 40'

Low Height Zone 20'

Large trees 50' from pole

20 ft. — 20 ft. | 30 ft. | 40 ft. | 50 ft.

Central Virginia Electric Cooperative
P. O. Box 247
Lovingston, VA 22949
800-367-2832
www.mycvec.com

CVEC Right-of-Way Maintenance

We will soon be working in your neighborhood ... clearing the lines to "keep the lights on"!

CVEC clears the corridor beneath and around its power lines to keep the lights on and to keep your family and your line crews safe and sound. This practice is known as right-of-way (or ROW) management.

You will likely see ROW crews once every five years in your neighborhood, trimming mature trees or removing young saplings so they will not grow into the wire zone of the distribution power lines.

The co-op utilizes an **Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM)** program to maintain the ROW. IVM is defined by the EPA as "the practice of promoting desirable, stable, low-growing plant communities ---that will resist invasion by tall-growing species --- through the use of appropriate, environmentally sound, and cost-effective control methods." Adopting IVM on ROW can:

» Improve transmission reliability
» Reduce vegetation management costs
» Reduce utility customers' costs
» Improve native plant and songbird habitat
» Provide other ecological benefits (IE: reduce runoff, control invasive species, etc.) 🔴

Controlling Tree Growth **BELOW** the Power Line

CVEC maintains right-of-ways through the following methods:

1. Bush Hogging & Chainsaw Work

➲ About every five years, we may pass through with a tractor and bush hog to knock down saplings and reduce the vegetation to a height where repair crews will be able to reach that section of the power line corridor. This practice is effective, but never finished. The tree roots remain, issuing "suckers" that grow quickly into trees.

➲ Where mature trees are present, CVEC may find it necessary to trim and/or lower the overall height of the tree. This will allow five years of growth for the tree and ensure reliable service for you and your neighbors.

2. Self Maintenance

➲ If you use your land in agricultural production or some other activity that keeps growth down in the ROW corridor, then CVEC will bypass that section and move on.

➲ Hunt groups and nature enthusiasts often use a right-of way to create a specific habitat for songbirds, butterflies, wild turkeys, quail, and deer. If you have an area of land beneath the power line that you think would be suitable for such a habitat -- or for planting a food plot, keeping a raspberry patch or grazing goats, a good time to start that project would be immediately after CVEC has cleared the ROW.

3. Habitat Conversion

➲ Where possible, CVEC will be working to convert the ROW from a corridor dominated by trees to one that features low-growing shrubs and native plants, creating a meadow environment.

➲ CVEC utilizes an herbicide that is spot-sprayed on the green leaves of each sapling in the ROW. This inhibits the tree's natural enzymes, preventing additional growth and reducing the root system. When new plant growth begins, the ROW habitat conversion is underway. 🔴
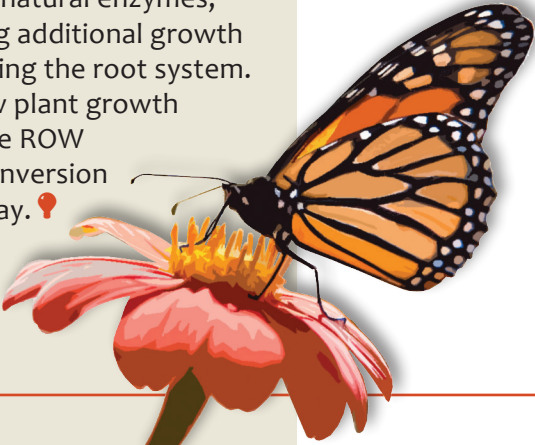
For more info, visit www.mycvec.com

Controlling Tree Growth **BESIDE** the Power Line

➲ Trees bordering the right-of-way corridor will develop lateral branch growth toward the power lines and into the ROW. If left uncontrolled, branches can cause power outages and make it difficult for repair crews to work during restoration efforts. Momentary contact with the power line will cause a temporary fault, resulting in a power "blink" that resets your clocks.

➲ CVEC controls lateral tree growth by "side-walling" on a twenty-year cycle through a number of methods.

➲ Traditionally, side-walling is performed with mechanical cutters that move along the right-of-way. Manual trimming is impractical and is both time consuming and dangerous.

➲ A second method is aerial trimming, performed by a helicopter that follows the tree line and trims the lateral branch growth with rotary blades. This method is very effective, particularly in the mountains and over areas with surface water. 🔴

Controlling **Yard Tree** Growth

Remember to look up when you are planting trees in your yard. If you select a planting location that will allow the tree to grow up and into a power line, it would be wise to consider a different location.

If you have a yard tree that needs to be trimmed because it is approaching the power line or may fall into a power line, then there are several options:

1. If the tree is approaching or threatening a single-phase or three-phase power line that delivers power to you and your neighbors, CVEC will trim the tree to allow five years of growth before additional trimming is necessary. If you decide to trim or cut down a tree in your yard, give us a call. CVEC will temporarily drop the service line to your home if it will help you or the aborist working on the tree.

2. If trimming is not a suitable solution and you choose to have the tree removed at CVEC's suggestion, then you would qualify for the CVEC **Tree Replacement Program.**

Yard Tree Replacement

This is a special program for for removing yard trees that are growing up and into CVEC power lines and that would otherwise require trimming to prevent power outages and safety hazards.

Call CVEC to determine if there's a tree in your yard that qualifies. If it does, CVEC will cut down the tree, chip the brush, and provide a suitable replacement tree (Dogwood, Redbud, or Crepe Myrtle) to be planted away from the ROW. 🔴