

What trees can be planted under electric lines?

It is preferred that trees which grow only to a maximum of 15-20 feet be planted under electric utility overhead lines. It is recommended that you check with the City of Indianola Community Development Office for other ordinances and regulations that may apply to tree planting.

The following are a few trees recommended by IMU that are suitable for planting under power lines:

- Newport Plum Purple Leaf – This tree matures at 12 to 15 feet. It is fast growing and has purple foliage with small pink flowers in the spring.
- Thundercloud Plum – Matures at 15 to 20 feet, is fast growing and has purple foliage and small pink flowers in the spring.
- Amur Maple - Matures at 15 to 20 feet tall, grows fast and has small round form. This tree has excellent red to orange fall color.

Check with your local nursery for availability

UTILITY LOCATES ARE REQUIRED AT LEAST 48 HOURS BEFORE PLANTING. CALL 811 FOR THIS FREE SERVICE.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Where do I call if I have questions or concerns?

We, at IMU, want you to feel confident in the manner in which we or a contractor working for us will be pruning the trees in your area. If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our office.



Indianola Municipal Utilities

210 West 2nd Avenue
P.O. Box 356
Indianola, IA 50125

Phone: 515-961-9444
WWW.I-M.U.COM

NOTICE OF TREE PRUNING

Electric Line Clearance

DATE OF NOTIFICATION:



Public Information

INDIANOLA MUNICIPAL UTILITIES



Electric • Telecommunications • Water

Why does IMU prune trees from around electric lines?

To provide you with safe, reliable electric service we must periodically prune trees away from electric lines. Fallen tree limbs, due to wind, ice or even age are the cause of many electric outages and can create a dangerous situation if they cause electric lines to separate from the pole. Trees near electric lines pose a danger to anyone who might climb them and unknowingly come into contact with an electric line.

Before trimming trees or bushes or any other vegetative growth that are growing on private property, the IMU Electric Department shall give the affected resident and tree owner a seven (7) business day advanced written notice of the intent to trim.

Is there any charge to me for this work?

Since the tree pruning is limited only to what is necessary for line clearance and safety, it is part of IMU's maintenance costs and is covered in the electric rates. There is no additional charge for this.

Why shouldn't I trim the tree myself?

Trimming or pruning trees near electric lines is an extremely dangerous activity. Homeowners are not authorized to trim trees affecting overhead electric lines themselves. They do have the option to hire a qualified third party contractor, at their own expense, to do the work. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to let IMU know of this request.

Why is only one side of the tree pruned?

We prune only when it is necessary for electric safety and reliability. Trees growing to the side of the electric lines are pruned along the side of the electric lines. Removing healthy, non-hazardous limbs on the other side of the tree just to balance the look may compromise the health of the tree.

Shouldn't the tree be shaped, rounded-over or sheared?

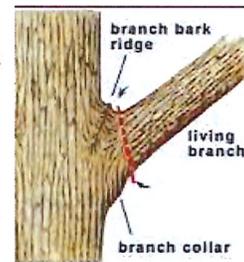
In the past, utilities across the country frequently used these methods in an attempt to solve tree/electric line conflicts. These methods are not good for the health of the tree.



Stubbed off limbs (not cut at the nodes) do not seal, allowing decay to occur. These limbs either die back or produce rapidly growing water sprouts. These water sprouts can increase the height of the tree and easily break during wind and ice storms. By using natural pruning methods, trees stay healthier and less frequent pruning is needed.

What is natural pruning?

Natural pruning simply means removing a limb at the point where it grows up from either another limb or the trunk of the tree. A cut made at this point, called a node, will seal naturally, helping to prevent decay.



How does IMU determine how much to prune?

The amount of pruning needed depends on two things—the type of electric line the tree is near and the type of tree. Our main electric lines (transmissions and distribution) need the most clearance. Tree contact with these lines is a serious safety hazard and can cause major electric service outages. Service lines, which provide service to an individual residence can withstand minor contact with trees. However, they still must have a clear path to the house.

Different Trees have different branching patterns and growth rates. Fast-growing trees like Silver Maples and Siberian Elms, have weak limbs that can split. Limbs that overhang our main lines require removal. Stronger, slower growing trees do not need to be pruned as much. Other factors that determine the amount of pruning include a tree's movement in windy conditions and its ability to be climbed.

Will IMU prune trees from around the service line to my house?

Minor pruning is done around service lines when crews are in the area pruning the main electric lines. Crews are instructed to look for branches that could damage the electric service line to the house and remove them.

For major tree work, such as removal of a tree, IMU will provide a "service drop" to disconnect the electric service line so that your contactor can safely perform the work. When the work is completed, IMU will reconnect the service line. There is no charge for this service, which is available Monday through Friday. We do ask that you make your request for a service drop at least 24 hours in advance.

What trees should I avoid planting near electric lines?

Trees that are easy to climb and fast-growing trees with weak branching patterns should not be planted near electric lines. Pines, especially White Pine, are among the easiest trees for children to climb and should not be planted where climbers are could come in contact with electric lines. Siberian Elm, Weeping Willow, and Silver Maple tend to have tight crotches that can easily split under heavy ice or snow load or during high winds.