

Tree Planting Tips



Plan Before You Plant

It is important to select the right location for your new tree. Here are some tips to help you grow healthy, beautiful trees and shrubs that live in harmony with utility equipment. FPUA suggests inspecting the planting area carefully. Select low-growing trees or shrubs when planting near overhead lines. Today's sapling may cause an electrical hazard tomorrow. When planting near overhead lines, choose only those trees that grow no taller than 15 feet in height, to avoid these problems. A fast-growing species planted in the wrong place may require drastic pruning or complete removal in years to come. If you plan to plant a tree under or close to power lines, consider the tree's height and canopy or crown spread *at maturity* before you begin. A tree needs plenty of room to grow so it won't interfere with overhead power lines.

Also, make sure you plant away from meters and transformers (those green or gray metal boxes with the locked door). A distance of 10 feet from transformers should always be maintained. Even low-growing trees or shrubs should not be planted directly under a line or too close to a pole. FPUA is not responsible for replacing shrubs it must remove to ensure safety and service reliability.

Trees and landscaping can be a significant investment. You'll want to protect your investment by keeping plants away from underground electrical equipment as well. Plan for its root spread so it won't interfere with sidewalks, driveways, and underground utilities. For your safety, call SUNSHINE at 1-800-432-4770, at least two days (excluding weekends and holidays) before you plant. A representative will come to mark underground lines or cables so you can avoid hitting them. Digging into the buried lines could cause a disruption in utility service, or even worse, result in an injury. There is no charge for this service, because it is more efficient to locate lines than to repair them.

Tree Power Program

FPUA has made an ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship. As a member of the American Public Power Association's Tree Power Program, FPUA has funded or co-funded tree planting in many locations in its service territory. FPUA's goal is to plant a tree for each of its 25,000 public power customers. As these trees grow, they capture carbon dioxide, one of the main greenhouse gases that some scientists' feel could be affecting our earth's atmosphere. FPUA is proud to be part of this nationwide effort that helps local communities meet aesthetic, energy conservation, and environmental objectives.