
TREES AND ELECTRICITY DON'T MIX

We love trees, but they don't mix well with electricity. Here's a guide to choosing the right trees and shrubs for the right place so you can continue to enjoy them as they grow while keeping you and your family safe.

Trees growing near or through power lines are a major safety hazard and can cause power cuts. If you touch a tree which is touching a power line, the result could be an electric shock or even death. Branches can break and fall onto lines, especially during high winds and storms, putting public safety and property at risk as well as interrupting power supply.

That's why Aurora Energy recommends you avoid planting trees under or near power lines and underground cables. However, if you do decide to plant a tree anywhere near power lines or cables, please choose your tree carefully.

We've listed some small growing trees and shrubs under 4 metres tall that may be suitable. For further advice on low-growing plants, contact the Otago Regional Council, your local Amenities' Society or plant nursery.



FOR ANY QUESTIONS GET IN TOUCH

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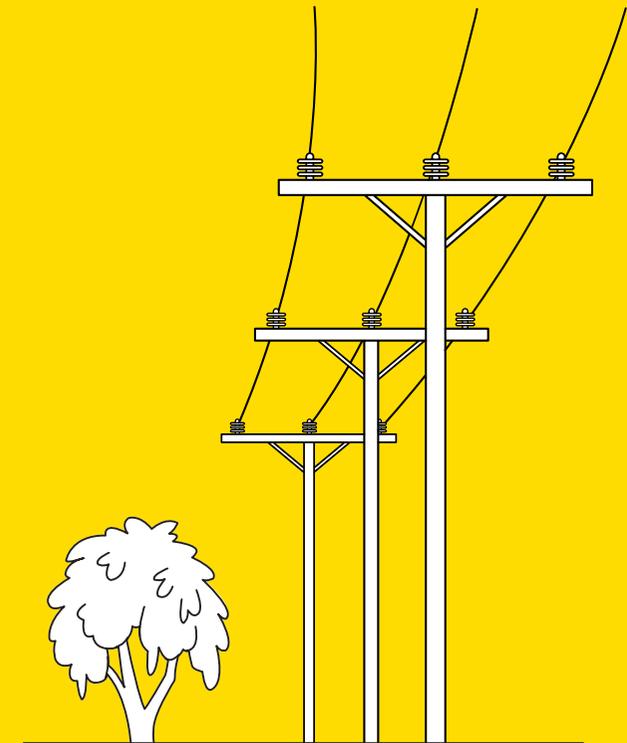
Under the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003, the tree owner is responsible for keeping their trees clear of overhead power lines.

For more information about your responsibilities as a tree owner, read our guide *Keeping trees away from power lines* available on www.auroraenergy.co.nz

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

RIGHT TREE, RIGHT PLACE

Your guide on what to plant under or near power lines.



PLANTING GUIDE UNDER OR NEAR POWERLINES

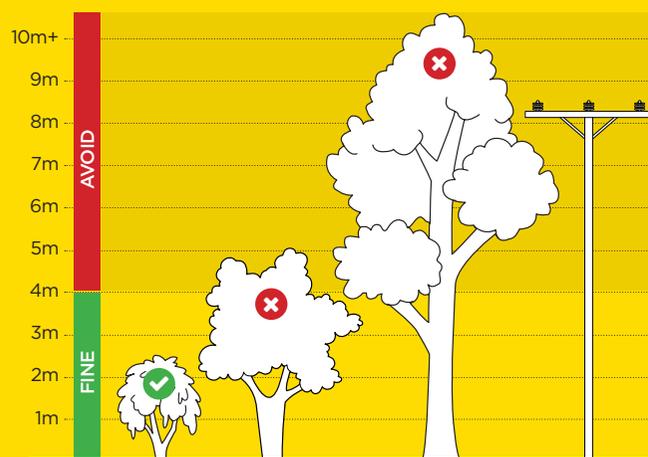
These trees and plants are suitable for planting under or near overhead power lines as they are least likely to grow high or wide enough to cause problems. Local conditions vary, and it is still possible that your trees and plants may need to be trimmed and managed so that they remain a safe distance from power lines. Remember, even when trees appear to be well clear of power lines, they can still pose a threat to the power supply in severe weather.

BEFORE PLANTING A TREE. LOOK UP, LOOK OUT FOR POWER LINES

Before planting trees, look up and make sure there are no overhead power lines. If there are, check the tree will be at least 4 metres away from the overhead lines when fully grown. If the tree could grow within 4 metres of the power lines, choose a different variety or an alternative planting location.

Remember that the roots of the tree also need to be kept at least 0.5 metre away from underground cables, so check their location before you plant your tree.

Check before you dig. Underground power cables can be deadly. Before digging on your property, you should check the location of any buried cables before you start. Be extra careful when doing major gardening, driving stakes or posts into the ground, building a fence, or other types of digging and construction.



Height in metres

✓ NATIVE

Botanical Name	Common Name	Mature height (m)
<i>Astelia solandri</i>	Kowharawhara	2.0
<i>Clianthus puniceus</i>	Kaka beak	2.0
<i>Cordyline Karo Kiri</i>	Dwarf cabbage tree	2.0
<i>Cortaderia</i> spp	Toe toe	2.5
<i>Hebe</i> spp	Hebe	2.5
<i>Leucopogon fasciculatus</i>	Mingimingi	2.0
<i>Lophomyrtus</i> spp	NZ myrtle	2.0
<i>Olearia arborescens</i>	Common tree daisy	3.5
<i>Olearia cheesemanii</i>	Tree daisy	2.0
<i>Olearia cheesemanii</i>	Streamside tree daisy	3.5
<i>Phormium cookianum</i>	Mountain flax, wharariki	1.6
<i>Pimelea longifolia</i>	Taranga	1.5
<i>Pimelea prostrata</i>	NZ daphne	0.5
<i>Plagianthus divaricatus</i>	Marsh ribbonwood	2.0
<i>Pseudowintera colorata</i>	Horopito, pepper tree	3.0
<i>Sophora prostrata</i>	Dwarf kowhai	1.8

✗ SERIAL OFFENDERS

Trees that are fast growing, big or shed branches cause the most headaches near power lines. Always avoid planting large tree species like gum, pine, poplar, macrocarpa, cabbage tree and beech in the vicinity of power lines.

✓ EXOTIC

Botanical Name	Common Name	Mature height (m)
<i>Acer palmatum</i>	Japanese maple	1.5
<i>Camellia</i> spp	Camellia	2.0
<i>Ceanothus</i> spp	Californian lilac	3.5
<i>Corylus avellana</i> 'Contorta'	Corkscrew hazel	3.0
<i>Daphne</i> spp	Daphne	2.0
<i>Escallonia</i> sp	Apple blossom	2.5
<i>Gardenia augusta</i>	Common gardenia	1.5
Ginkgo 'Jade Butterflies'	Butterfly ginkgo	3.0
<i>Grevillea aquifolium</i>	Holly grevillea	3.5
<i>Grevillea australis</i>	Alpine grevillea	1.8
<i>Grevillea caleyii</i>	Fern leaf grevillea	3.0
<i>Grevillea hookeriana</i>	Black toothbrushes	2.4
<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>	Mop head hydrangea	2.5
<i>Lavandula</i> spp	Lavender	1.5
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Little Richard	3.5
<i>Magnolia stellata</i>	Star magnolia	3.5
<i>Malus golden hornet</i>	Yellow crab-apple	3.0
<i>Malus gorgeous</i>	Fruiting crab-apple	3.0
<i>Pieris</i> spp	Lily of the Valley shrub	1.8
<i>Pyrus salicifolia</i> 'Pendula'	Weeping pear	3.0
<i>Salix caprea</i> 'Pendula'	Weeping pussy willow	2.5
<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>	Waratah	3.0
<i>Viburnum acerifolia</i>	Possum-haw	3.0
<i>Viburnum dilatatum</i>	Linden viburnum	3.0