

Small Native Trees to Plant under Power Lines

When trees and power lines come into conflict, trees are often the losers. Tree branches growing into or falling on power lines can pose safety issues and disrupt services. Utility companies often cut back trees that are interfering with the power lines causing trees to be disfigured and more susceptible to disease. The best way to avoid these conflicts is to plant shorter tree species. Small native trees will remain below the lines and require little maintenance after they become established. Below is a list of native species that will remain short throughout their life spans.

Small Native Trees for Power Lines				
Scientific Name	Common Name	Height	Light	Notes
<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	Ohio Buckeye	15-25'	Sun to shade	Yellow flowers in early spring attract spring butterflies
<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	Red Buckeye	10-15'	Sun to shade	Red, tube-shaped flowers attract hummingbirds
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Serviceberry	10-20'	Shade to pt shade	White flowers in March/April before trees leaf out
<i>Asimina triloba</i>	Pawpaw	20-30'	Shade to pt shade	Thicket forming. Host plant to zebra swallowtail butterfly.
<i>Bumelia lanuginosa</i>	Gum Bumellia	15-25'	Pt shade	Creamy white flowers attract many species of insects
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	Blue Beech	15-20'	Sun to shade	Horizontal branches spread out wider than tall
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Redbud	10-20'	Sun to pt shade	Pink flowers March/April, Prefers well-drained soil
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	Fringetree	10-20'	Sun to pt shade	Fragrant creamy-white flowers April/May
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Pagoda Dogwood	10-15'	Shade to pt shade	Blue berries eaten by birds in summer
<i>Cornus drummondii</i>	Rough-leaved Dogwood	10-15'	Sun to shade	Thicket forming. may cut back to reduce height. Host plant to spring azure butterfly.
<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering Dogwood	15-20'	Shade to pt shade	Host plant to spring azure butterfly.
<i>Crataegus viridis</i>	Green Hawthorn	15-25'	Sun	Orange clusters of fruits a favorite food of birds
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Witchazel	8-12'	Pt shade	Yellow fragrant flowers October/November
<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	Ironwood	15-25'	Sun to shade	Narrow, upright small tree
<i>Prunus americana</i>	Wild Plum	10-15'	Sun to pt shade	Host for red-spotted purple, tiger swallowtail, and spring azure butterfly
<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	Wafer Ash	10-15'	Sun to pt shade	Multi-stem shrub. Larval food plant for giant swallowtail butterfly
<i>Rhamnus caroliniana</i>	Carolina Buckthorn	10-15'	Pt shade	Berries eaten by birds in late summer
<i>Rhus glabra</i>	Smooth Sumac	10-15'	Sun	Thicket forming ; may cut back to reduce height
<i>Sapindus drummondii</i>	Western Soapberry	10-20'	Pt shade	White flw. clusters June/July; berries eaten by birds
<i>Viburnum rufidulum</i>	Southern Black Haw	10-15'	Sun to shade	White flower clusters May/June