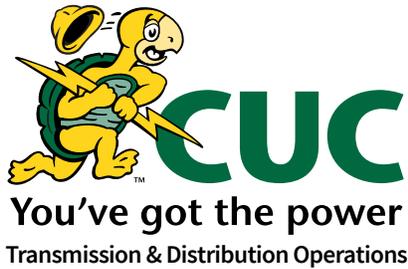


Caribbean Utilities Company, Ltd.

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# Vegetation Management

Tree Planting and Maintenance Guide around  
Power Lines for Homeowners



# Trees

form an integral part of Grand Cayman's landscape but they can pose a threat to our **safety** if they grow too close to **power lines**



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At CUC, nothing is more important than keeping our customers and the community safe.

It is our mission to provide a safe and reliable electricity service.

Our ability to do so is affected by the growth of trees that could pose a danger to property, life and limbs.

The **Electricity Law (2008 Revised)**, **Section 22** requires landowners to maintain their trees around power lines. It gives CUC *“the right to trim or remove trees or other vegetation that obstruct or interfere with the installation, maintenance or working of the power line or when it constitutes an unacceptable source of danger.”*



# What can customers do?

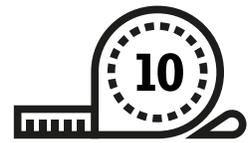
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Trees on your property must be kept clear of power lines and the homeowner or landowner is responsible for this.

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For safety reasons, it is recommended that tree branches be cut before they grow within the standard clearance of **10 feet** from the power lines and **30 feet** from the higher voltage transmission lines.



If the trees are closer than the clearances, or the cutting may cause any branches to fall onto power lines, **DO NOT CUT THEM YOURSELF**. Contact CUC for assistance.

If trees are growing in close proximity to power lines and poles but are outside the clearance area, contact qualified landscapers to trim the branches.

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If you are planting a tree, look up and note the location of power lines. Keeping trees away from power lines means that in the event the trees blow over or branches become loose, they are much less likely to hit a power line and ‘knock-out’ the power.

This also keeps debris farther away from the lines and poles, which will ‘speed-up’ our restoration efforts.

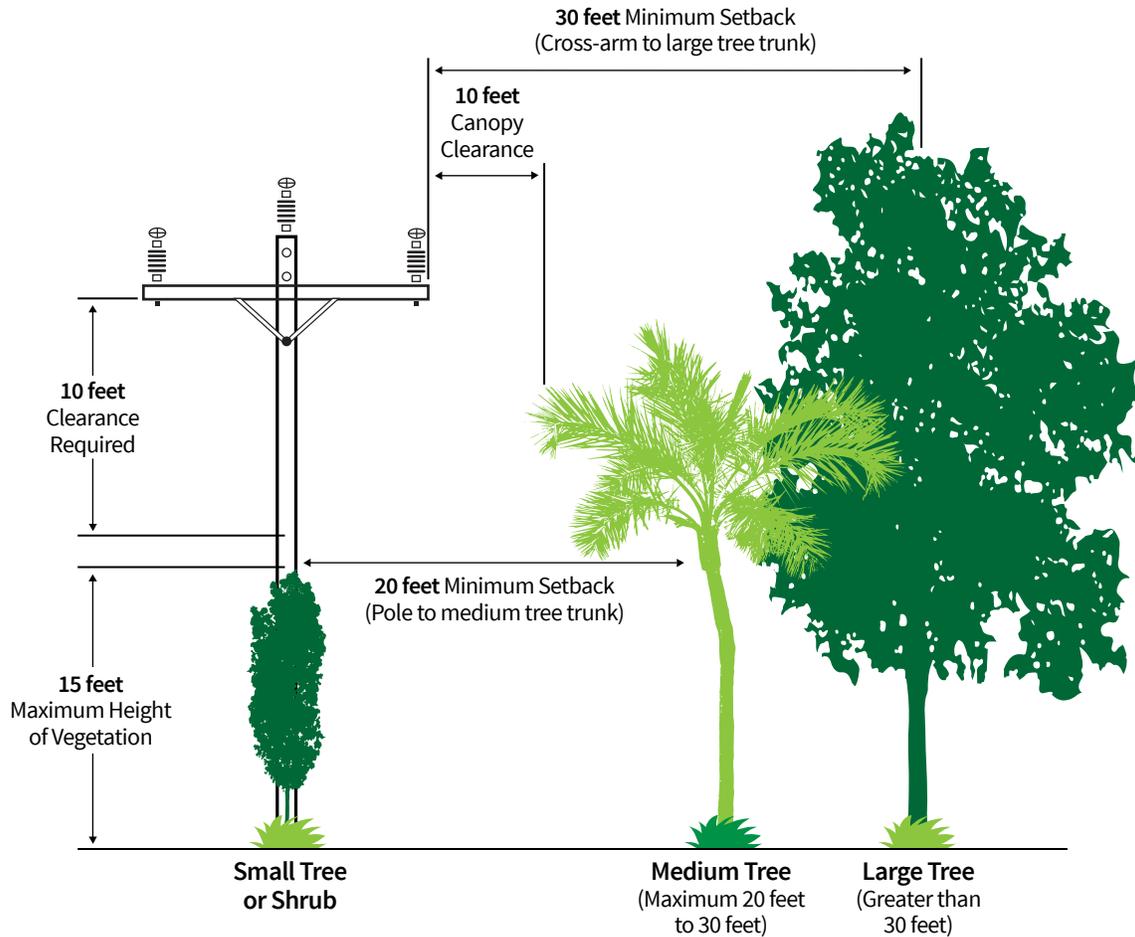


**Plant the  
right tree  
in the  
right place**



# Minimum Clearance

## Suggested clearances for planting near Overhead Power Lines



**Small trees or shrubs** planted near or underneath poles or power lines should maintain a clearance of 10 feet from the power lines (from the top of the tree).

**Small trees or shrubs** should be planted at least 4 feet from the base of the poles and the guy wire anchors.

**Medium-sized trees** (20 feet to 30 feet) and **large-sized trees** (30 feet and greater) should have a minimum setback of 20 feet and 30 feet respectively from the poles and overhead power lines.

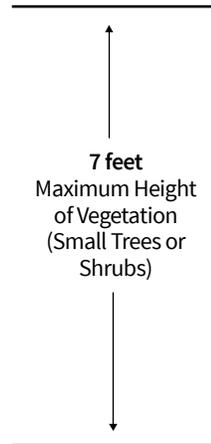
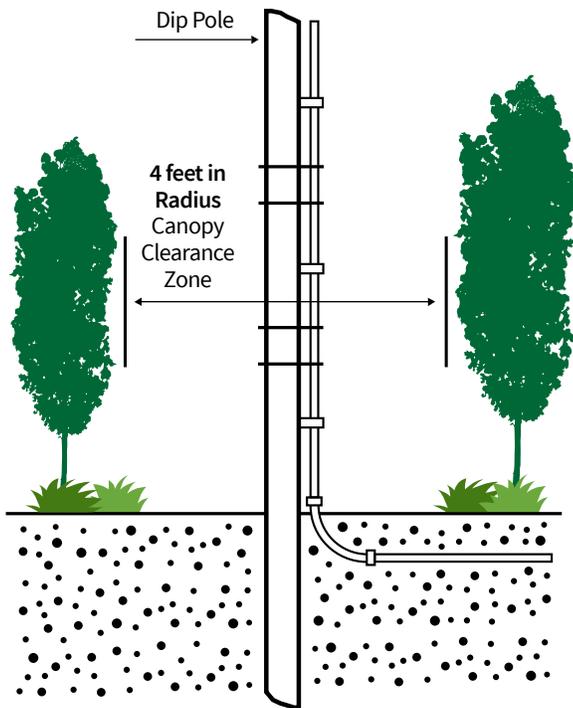
**Large-sized trees** that are identified as hazardous and dangerous regardless of size, should have a minimum setback of 30 feet. **All hazardous trees within the setback area will be recommended for removal.**

**Note:** Coconut trees and certain species of Palm trees are considered hazardous if planted within the minimum setback.



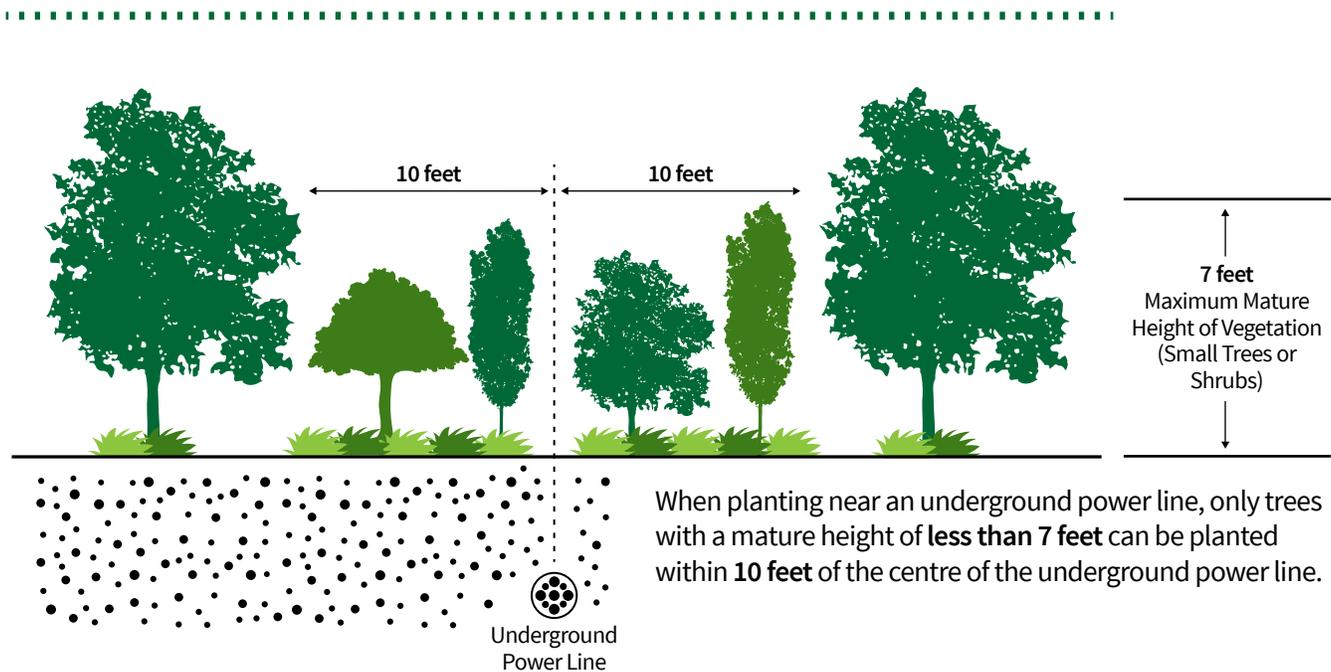
# Minimum Clearance

## Suggested clearances for planting near Underground Power Lines



The **dip pole** for an underground power line must be cleared at all times at a radius of **4 feet**.

Vegetation around the base of the dip pole and all pole anchors must be cleared at a **radius of 4 feet**. The clearing must be done manually with a machete or chainsaw depending on the type of vegetation to be removed.

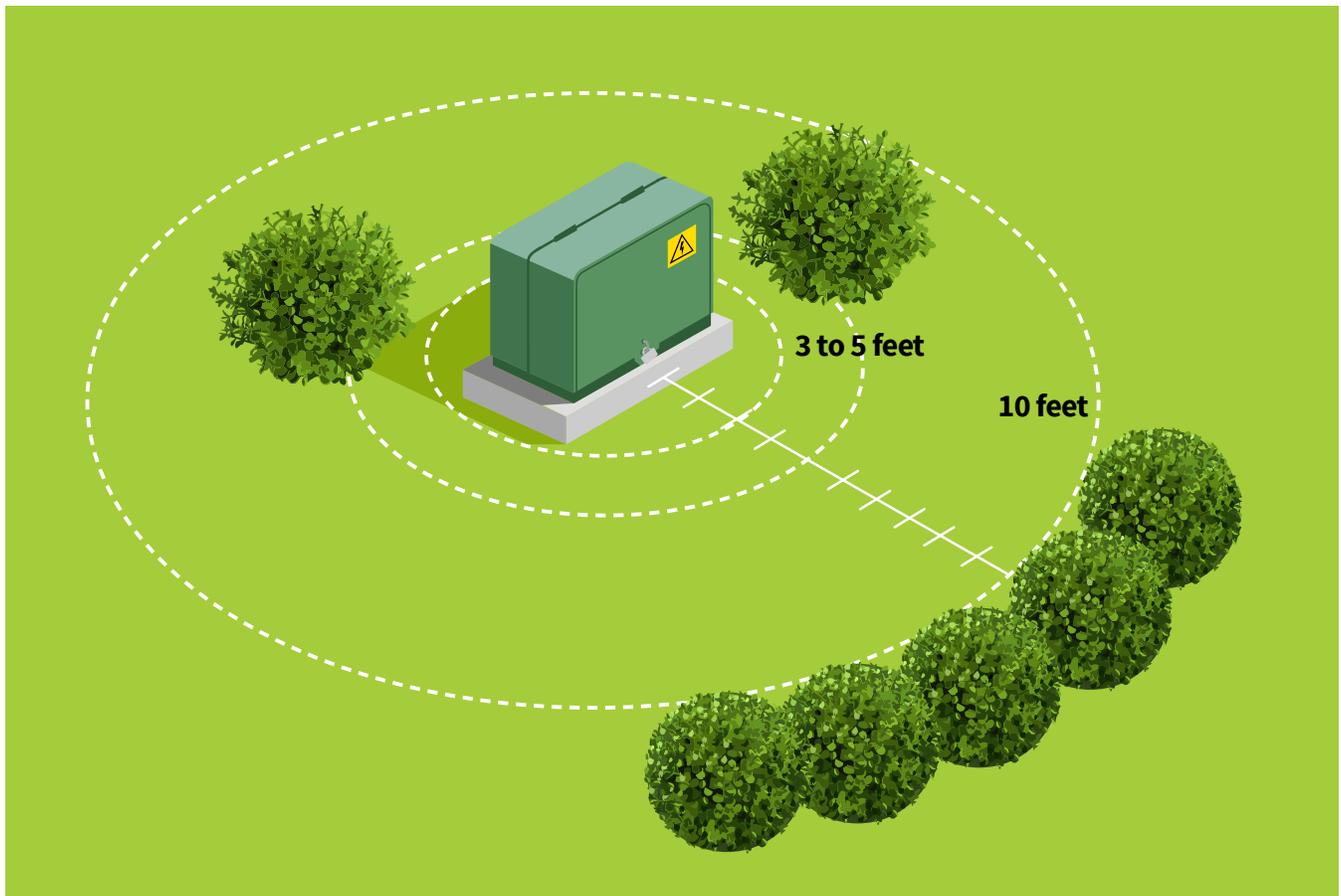


When planting near an underground power line, only trees with a mature height of **less than 7 feet** can be planted within **10 feet** of the centre of the underground power line.



# Minimum Clearance

Suggested clearances for planting near Padmount Transformers



Stay well away from **Padmount Transformers** and **Transformer Cabinets**. They are **green** in colour.

Areas around **Padmount Transformers** and **Transformer Cabinets** should be clear at all times to allow maintenance and repairs, especially in times of emergency.

A clearance zone of **10 feet in the front** and **3 feet to 5 feet on the sides and back** should be free from any **vegetation** or other permanent fixtures (fences, walls, etc.). Avoid trenching near or around the concrete base of the padmount transformer or transformer cabinet.



# Your Questions Answered

 **Why is it necessary to clear vegetation near power lines?**

 It is primarily for the customers' safety while ensuring that trees and other vegetation do not cause disruptions to the electricity service. If vegetation gets too close to power lines, power could be lost, expensive household electrical items may be damaged or the power line could fall to the ground and injure or electrocute someone or cause a fire. This is very important during high winds or hurricanes.

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 **Whose responsibility is it for ensuring vegetation is clear of power lines?**

 Homeowners or landowners are responsible for ensuring trees on their property are kept at a safe distance from power lines. If branches are within 10 feet of our power lines, please contact CUC immediately. Landscapers can be used to clear vegetation which is 10 feet or more from power lines.

Failure to maintain the minimum required distance of 10 feet between the trees and power lines shall result in the provision of a notice in accordance with the Electricity Law and the imposition of a fee for the necessary tree trimming or removal of trees.

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 **How can I report 'hazardous' trees?**

 Trees that encroach on power lines within the 10 feet clearance zone are considered as 'hazardous' trees. These should be reported immediately:

- E-mail [service@cuc.ky](mailto:service@cuc.ky)
- Call CUC's Customer Service Team at **949-5200**
- Complete the online Job Request Form on CUC's website at [www.cuc-cayman.com](http://www.cuc-cayman.com) (click on the "Customer Service" tab on the Home Page and navigate to the "Tree Trimming" section)

# Your Questions Answered

 **How long does it take for a tree trimming job to be completed?**

 CUC and its contractors use a risk-based approach when prioritizing tree trimming jobs. Emergency jobs will be done as soon as possible; high risk jobs are done within 7 to 21 days on average; and medium risk jobs usually take 30 days.

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 **How are the trees trimmed?**

 CUC's contractors use tree trimming techniques known as "directional" or "lateral" pruning, which is proven to be the best method for the long-term health of the trees. This technique is used to remove only those limbs that have the potential to grow into and interfere with the power lines.

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 **What about historical or sentimental trees, do they need to be trimmed?**

 Yes. All vegetation must be kept at a safe distance from power lines but there are ways this can be done while preserving the amenity of significant trees or streetscapes.

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 **What should I do if I am not happy with the proposed trimming of trees on my property or in my neighbourhood?**

 If it is not deemed an emergency case, you will be contacted for permission to trim trees prior to any work being done. In addition, you can contact CUC's Customer Service Team at [service@cuc.ky](mailto:service@cuc.ky) or call **949-5200** if you are not happy with the proposed tree trimming plan or if you are not pleased with the work after it has been completed.

