



SPRING 2004

CUF LINKS

# COMMUNITY & URBAN FORESTRY

## Keeping the urban forestry community connected

*Pam Louks, Community & Urban Forestry Coordinator*

### Tree Lines grow

The National Arbor Day Foundation announced recently that Indiana's Tree Line count has grown from two to four.

Tree Line USA is a recognition program implemented by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters. The program recognizes private and public utilities across the nation that demonstrate practices that protect and enhance America's urban forests.

There are 101 Tree Lines across the nation. Utilities must meet three requirements to qualify for Tree Line recognition:

- ☞ Quality Tree Care practices must be formally adopted for pruning, trenching, and tunneling
- ☞ Annual Worker Training must be carried out and documented for Quality Tree Care
- ☞ Tree Planting and Public Education must be ongoing with at least 10 cents spent per customer.



Indiana DNR, Division of Forestry takes pride in congratulating these utilities who go that extra mile to safeguard the urban forest and keep our lights on!

According to State Forester Burney Fischer, "Tree Line USA's are progressive utilities that work with their customers to ensure reliable power and maintain the health of the urban forest. This designation does not come easily or without a strong commitment from the utilities and their arboriculture staff. I hope to see more Tree Line USA's in Indiana's future."

#### Tree Line USA Utilities 2003

- ☞ Northern Indiana Public Service Co.
- ☞ Richmond Power & Light
- ☞ Mishawaka Utilities
- ☞ Indianapolis Power & Light Company

Indiana Tree Line utilities will be honored at the Indiana Tree City/Tree Line USA Awards Conference in April and in local festivities during Arbor Month.

If you would like more information on Tree Line USA, contact National Arbor Day Foundation, Mary Yager at 402-474-5655 or find out more at their website:

<https://www.arborday.org/programs/treelineusa.html>

## Trees, power, people

*A common sense strategy to keep our power on and to maintain the positive benefits of the urban forest.*

By Nate Mathews, CINERGY Forester, Mike Baldwin, Indianapolis Power & Light Forester, Mike Maskal, American Electric Power

**E**lectric utilities agree that trees are a very important asset to homeowners and communities. Trees:

- ☒ Contribute greatly to the beauty and value of property.
- ☒ Play a large role in regulating climatic conditions and absorbing certain air pollution elements.
- ☒ Enhance our local and global environment.

**However, large and medium trees under and spreading into power lines cause problems!**

The facts are:

- ☒ **Trees are often the largest single cause of power loss.**
- ☒ **Electrocution is one of the largest causes of deaths to people working in trees.**

The same trees we value can become a source of real trouble when they come in contact with electric lines. When tree limbs grow into and come into contact with electric lines, they become hazardous and create recurring power outages. The lines must be cleared to minimize power outages.

Line clearing techniques are designed to obtain necessary clearances between tree limbs and electric wires to ensure safe and reliable power.

Some tips to remember:

- Homeowners should never trim trees near power lines or try to remove limbs that are touching power lines.

- Children should never climb trees near power lines.
- Contact your electric provider if trees are too close to power lines or if limbs are in the power lines. They will come out to check for an electrical hazard, and if one exists they will work with you to find a solution.
- Request that anyone who prunes your trees for utility clearance use appropriate pruning techniques which is called directional and/or target pruning. The tree won't look the same with this type of pruning, but it will not be topped and will be a healthier tree if it is pruned to these guidelines.
- Think about simply having the tree that is impacting the utilities removed and an appropriate size species planted in its place.

## Plan before planting

Since trees and landscaping are such a significant investment, property owners, developers, and municipalities can protect this investment by selecting plants that will not impact power lines with their height, width, or affect underground utilities.

- ☒ **Consider the space available. Check with the local utility regarding any utility easements. Usually, most utilities prohibit planting in the easement area.**
- ☒ **If you can plant under the power lines, only select low growing trees and shrubs that will reach a mature height of less than 25 feet.**
- ☒ **Plants need room to grow. How high and how wide will the trees canopy and trunk get? What will they come in contact with as they grow?**
- ☒ **If there is a chance their spread will grow over into power lines, plant them further away, select another site, or choose a species that will fit the spot-NOW and in the FUTURE.**
- ☒ **Plant trees that have the most resistance to insects, disease, and suckering issues. Plant trees that require the least maintenance.**

## Trees Recommended for under or near power lines ≤ 25 feet in height

*Please note that this is a general list and you should consult with your local utility, city forester, or DNR CUF Program for the species they recommend for your region.*

*Consider the mature height and width of trees before purchase.*

<u>Common name</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>	<u>Cultivars</u>
Choke Cherry;	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Shubert, Canada Red
Cherry Hybrids;	<i>Prunus</i> hybrids,	Snow Goose
Cherry Oriental;	<i>Prunus serrulata</i>	Amanogawa
Crabapple, Flowering;	<i>Malus</i> species and hybrids-Choose low suckering, low maintenance, and disease resistant varieties	
Dogwood, Gray;	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Cuyahoga, Ottawa
Dogwood, Kousa;	<i>Cornus kousa</i>	many
Dogwood, Kousa hybrids;	<i>Cornus kousa x florida</i>	Celestial, Constellation
Hawthorn, Cockspur;	<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i>	Intermis, Vaughn
Hawthorn, Dotted;	<i>Crataegus punctata</i>	Ohio Pioneer
Hawthorn, English;	<i>Crataegus laevigata</i>	Crimson Cloud
Hawthorn, Green;	<i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i>	Winter King
Lilac, Japanese Tree;	<i>Syringa reticulata</i>	Ivory Silk, Regent, Summer Snow
Magnolia, hybrid;	<i>Magnolia</i> hybrids	Galaxy
Magnolia Star;	<i>Magnolia stellata</i>	cultivars rare
Maple, Amur;	<i>Acer ginnala</i>	Beethoven, Mozart
Maple, Paperbark;	<i>Acer griseum</i>	cultivars rare
Maple, Tatarian;	<i>Acer tataricum</i>	"
Maple, Trident;	<i>Acer buergeranum</i>	"
Pear, Callery;	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> , Cultivars:	Jack, Jill
Redbud, Eastern;	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	many
Serviceberry;	<i>Amelanchier</i> species and hybrids	many

### Small evergreens for screens

*Cultivars listed are 10-20 ft. tall at maturity. Only select low-growing evergreens for planting under power lines.*

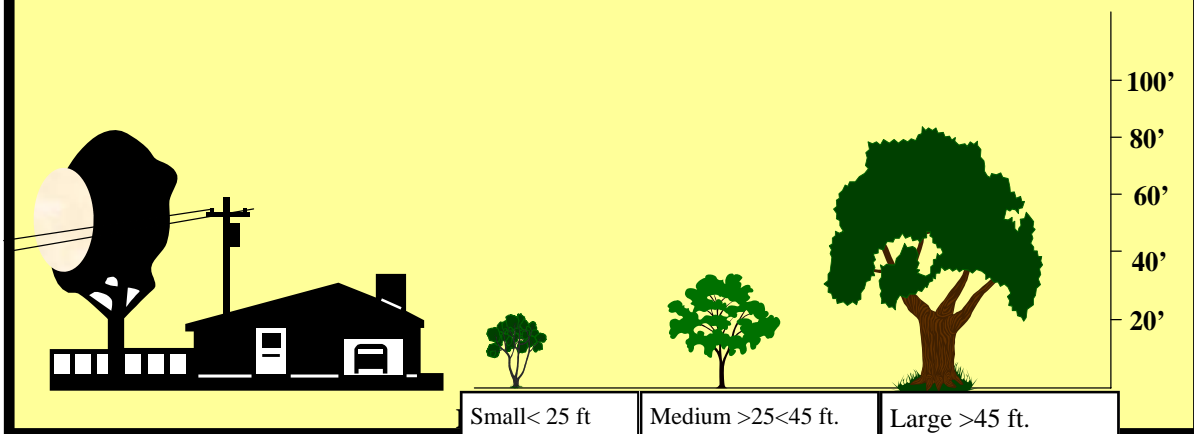
Arborvitae, American;	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	Elegantissima', 'Emerald', 'Techny'
Juniper, Chinese;	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i>	Keteleen', 'Spartan', 'Spearmint'
Juniper, Rocky Mountain;	<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>	Gray Gleam', 'Mofettii', 'Moonglow'
Redcedar, Eastern;	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	'Emerald Sentinel', 'Hillii', Hillspire'

Many of the species listed have cultivated varieties that are insect and disease resistant, low on maintenance, and can tolerate a variety of stresses. A good reference for selecting trees and finding cultivars is ***Landscape Tree Factsheets, Including Evergreens for Screens***. It is available from Penn State University for \$30.00. Phone: 814-865-3281, Web site for ordering:

<http://pubs.cas.edu/Pubs/agrs56.html>

## What's up?

- **Don't plant trees with a mature height of 25 feet or more under power lines!**
- **Select species that will fit in their spot when they grow up...when they are mature.**



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For more information about urban forestry management or the CUF program:

IDNR, Community & Urban Forestry (CUF)  
6515 E. 82nd Street, Suite 204  
Indianapolis, IN 46250

Phone: 317-915-9390  
E-M-inurbfor@indy.net

Website for Division of Forestry:  
[www.state.in.us/dnr/forestry](http://www.state.in.us/dnr/forestry)

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