

Plan your landscaping

Planting trees and shrubs can provide energy savings in addition to enhancing the beauty and value of your home.

Planting evergreens can create a winter wind-break for your home, and planting trees which lose their leaves in the fall can provide shade in the summer while allowing the sun to shine through on short Alaskan winter days.

However, if you are thinking of planting, choose the appropriate tree or shrub to minimize conflicts between trees and utility lines. And remember, planting in a utility easement can make it difficult for Chugach or other utilities to gain access and to maintain their facilities. The result could mean your landscaping might need to be moved or trimmed.

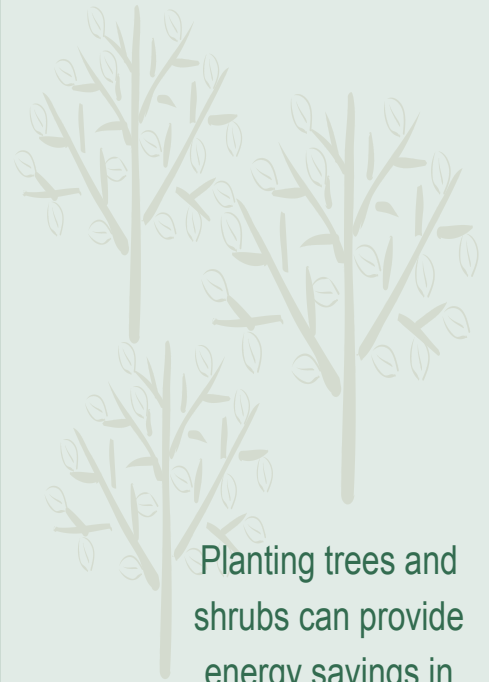
Before digging and planting where there are underground facilities, call the Locate Call Center of Alaska at 278-3121. They will coordinate locations for buried utility facilities, including Chugach's electric lines, at no charge.

Chugach is certified by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree Line USA utility. Chugach has a certified arborist on staff who is available to help customers determine what type of plants and trees should be planted near utility rights of way. For more information, call Chugach at 762-7660.

Here are a few tips on how to properly plant your new tree once you have selected the right one for a safe and conflict-free location:

- ❖ Remove vegetation and loosen the soil. The site should be a saucer-shaped area at least three times the diameter of the root ball but only as deep as the height of the root ball.
- ❖ Slope and roughen the sides of the site.
- ❖ Do not remove the container or burlap until you are ready to plant the tree because it will help to keep the root system moist.
- ❖ Remove all twine and tags from the trunk. When ready to plant, remove or cut away the container, wire basket or burlap from the root ball. Separate and spread the roots.
- ❖ Set the tree in the prepared site. The trunk flare or collar (just above the point where the roots begin to branch) must be above ground level. Planting too deeply can kill the tree.
- ❖ Use soil from the planting site as back-fill (remove large rocks and loosen the compacted soil).
- ❖ Soak the planting site thoroughly. Apply composted mulch two to four inches deep around the tree but at least six inches away from the trunk. Do not fertilize until the following spring.

Right Tree Right Place



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CHUGACH

POWERING ALASKA'S FUTURE

P.O. Box 196300
Anchorage, Alaska 99519
(907) 563-7366

www.chugachelectric.com

Zone 1

(Within 10 horizontal feet of power lines)

Maintain a clear zone beneath and adjacent to power lines of at least 10 feet on either side of the line or around any above ground equipment. This clearance is needed for overhead line maintenance and for access to transformers, pedestals and other facilities. In Zone 1, it is recommended to plant grasses, annuals and non-woody perennials.

Zone 2

(10 to 20 horizontal feet from power lines)

Plant shrubs and trees that do not exceed 20 feet in height at maturity. Many shrubs and small trees suitable for Zone 2 include:

Juniper
Bird Nest Square
Mugho Pine
Siberian Pea Shrub
Red Twig Dogwood
Honeysuckle
Lilacs

A variety of berry bushes:

Roses
Potentilla
Cotoneaster
Spirea
Forsythia
Nanking Cherry

Zone 3

(20 horizontal feet or more from power lines)

Larger trees may be planted more than 20 feet from utilities. The larger the tree, the further away it should be planted. It is important to consider the crown width as well as the tree height. Trees with large, spreading crowns need more horizontal space than those with narrow, conical crowns. Trees suitable for planting in Zone 3 include:

Less than 35 feet tall at maturity:

Amur Maple
Bristlecone Pine
Chokecherry (Canada Red)
Japanese Tree Lilac
Some Crabapples
Serviceberry

Greater than 40 feet tall at maturity:

Amur Chokecherry
Birch
Colorado Spruce
Larch
Lodgepole Pine
Scots Pine
White Spruce

