



Avista is proud to be a part of these professional organizations:



The right tree in the right place.

### Learn more today

We are committed to maintaining a safe, reliable electric system and improving the communities we serve. For more details about our vegetation management, visit [avistautilities.com/vegetation](http://avistautilities.com/vegetation)



Trees and shrubs can create a backdrop to enhance the beauty of any home.

They also can function as windbreaks and provide cooling shade, which can help you manage your home's energy use.

When landscaping, however, always keep in mind the location of overhead power lines and buried utilities, including natural gas lines. Branches and roots that get too close to utility equipment can cause outages and potentially create an unsafe situation.

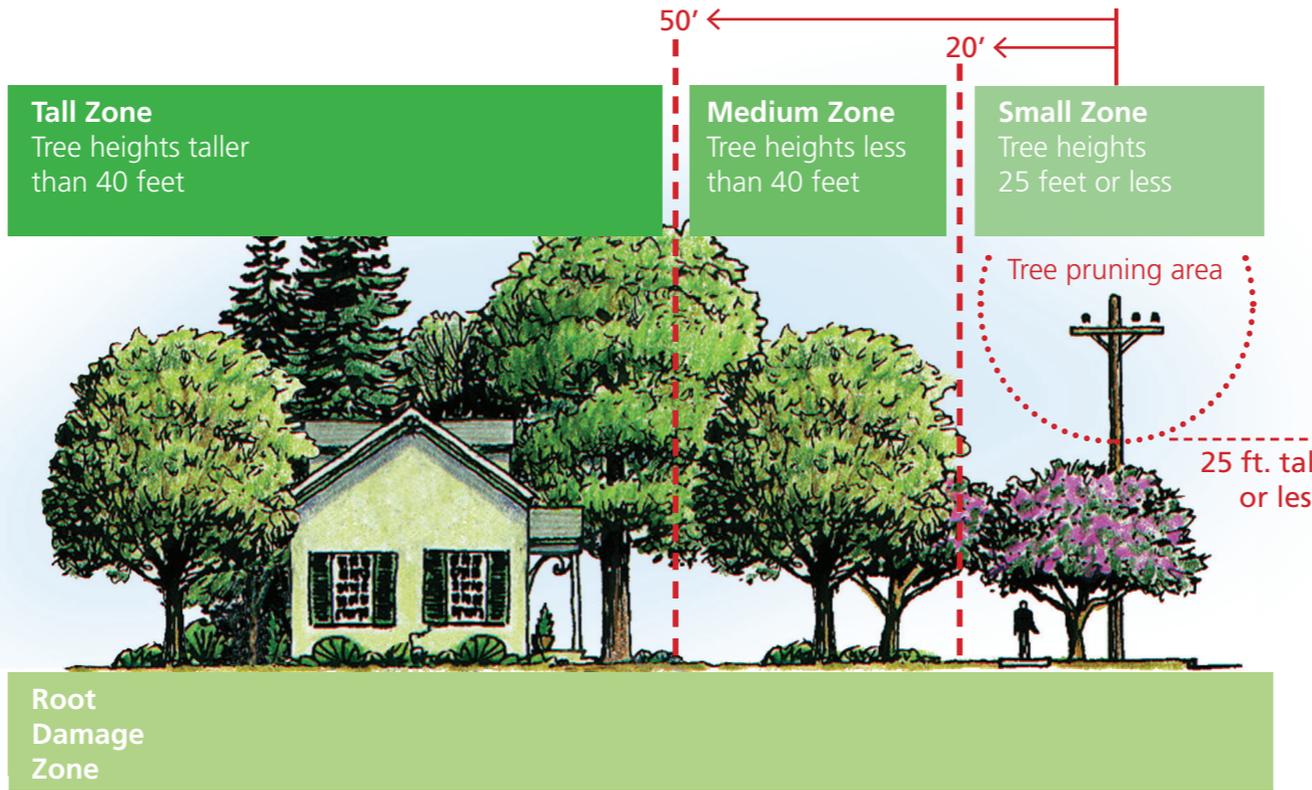
With thoughtful planning and proper tree selection, you can enjoy your landscape for years to come, without worry that your favorite trees and shrubs could become a hazard.



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

# Call before you dig.

When putting in new trees and shrubs, always call 811 two days before you dig to have your underground lines located and marked at no cost to you. Otherwise, one strike with a shovel could nick an electric or natural gas line, causing injury or death. Calling ahead not only keeps you safe, IT'S THE LAW.



## Planting near power lines

When planting anywhere near power lines, remember that your small seedling could eventually have a leafy crown that spreads 35-55 feet, and so may grow into nearby power lines. Always consult your local nursery to learn the mature size of your tree.

Planting the right tree in the right place can eliminate the need for Avista to trim or remove a tree that is too close to power lines. The right tree in the right place can also help prevent outages from branches or trees coming into contact with power lines and provide space for crews to perform maintenance or make repairs to power equipment.

Space requirements for planting near power lines fall into three zones that limit tree heights.

### Small Zone

This utility-friendly zone is only for trees and shrubs that grow no more than 25 feet tall, like a Pagoda, Kousa or Cornelian Cherry Dogwood. These are called Class I trees.

### Medium Zone

This zone is 0 to 50 feet away from a power pole and line. Here, mature trees should be no more than 40 feet tall. The extra space reduces the chance of the tree, branches or roots coming into contact with overhead or underground lines. Look for Class II trees to plant in this zone.

## Tall Zone

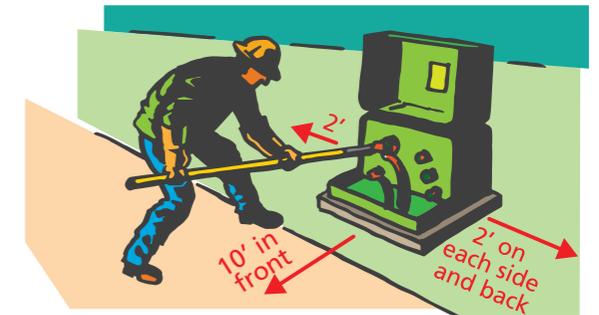
This zone is a least 50 feet or more away from a power line or pole. It is the only zone where you should plant trees that grow over 40 feet tall. These are Class III trees.

For a list of tree species that flourish in our region for the small, medium and large planting areas, check out the City of Spokane Urban Forestry Approved Street Tree List at <https://static.spokane.org/documents/urbanforestry/permits/street-tree-list-2014.pdf>.

## Planting in a root damage zone

Always avoid planting near where underground utilities are located. Tree roots will spread out at least as wide as the tree is tall. The same goes for shrubs and other vegetation. Roots can entangle, or even break, underground electric and natural gas utility lines. So be aware of your line-locate marks and never plant trees or shrubs too close by.

Treat root spacing the same as you would the crown of a tree.



## Planting near transformer boxes

If your yard has one of Avista's ground-level transformers (large green boxes), leave room for our crews to perform maintenance work. Plant your shrubs at least 10 feet away from around the front, identified by a lock, and two feet from the sides and back (see illustration).