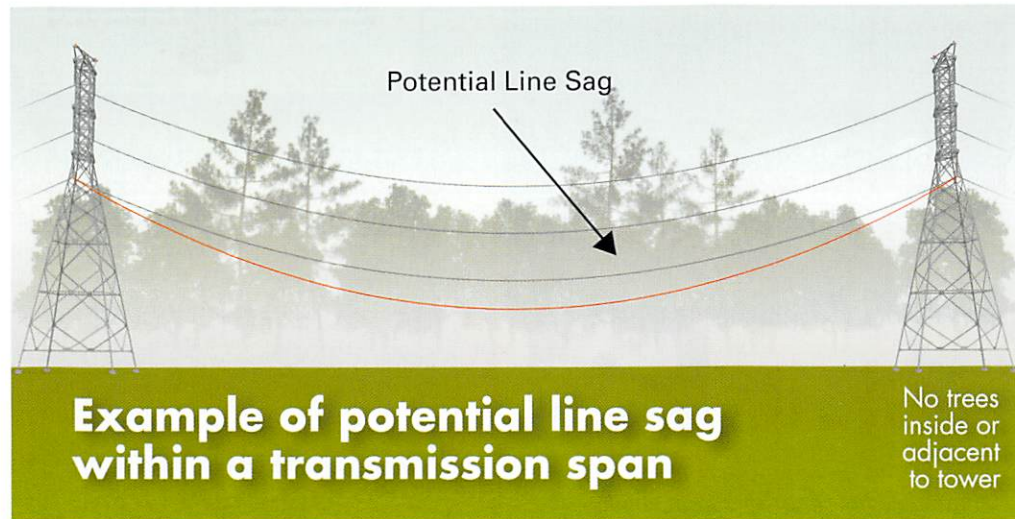


What types of utility lines are near you?

Planting restrictions for trees and other vegetation vary widely for different types of utility lines; electric transmission line and electric distribution lines.



**Alabama Power recommends that you consult your local library, tree nursery or extension service for more detailed information regarding plants for the ROW.**

Remember, when planting anything be mindful of the growth pattern and how it will affect our equipment.

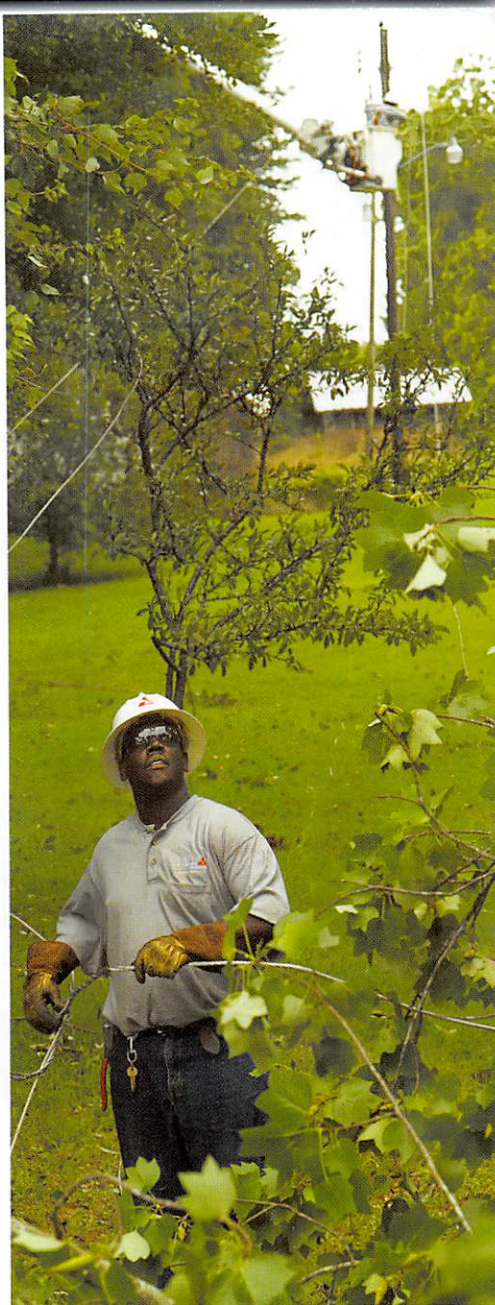
For more information, contact the organizations below.

**Alabama One Call**  
811 or 1-800-292-8525

**Alabama Power Vegetation Management Group**  
Monday - Friday | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. | 205-257-2155  
or Customer Service 1-800-245-2244  
Email: [apcvm@southernco.com](mailto:apcvm@southernco.com)



[www.alabamapower.com](http://www.alabamapower.com) | [apcvm@southernco.com](mailto:apcvm@southernco.com)



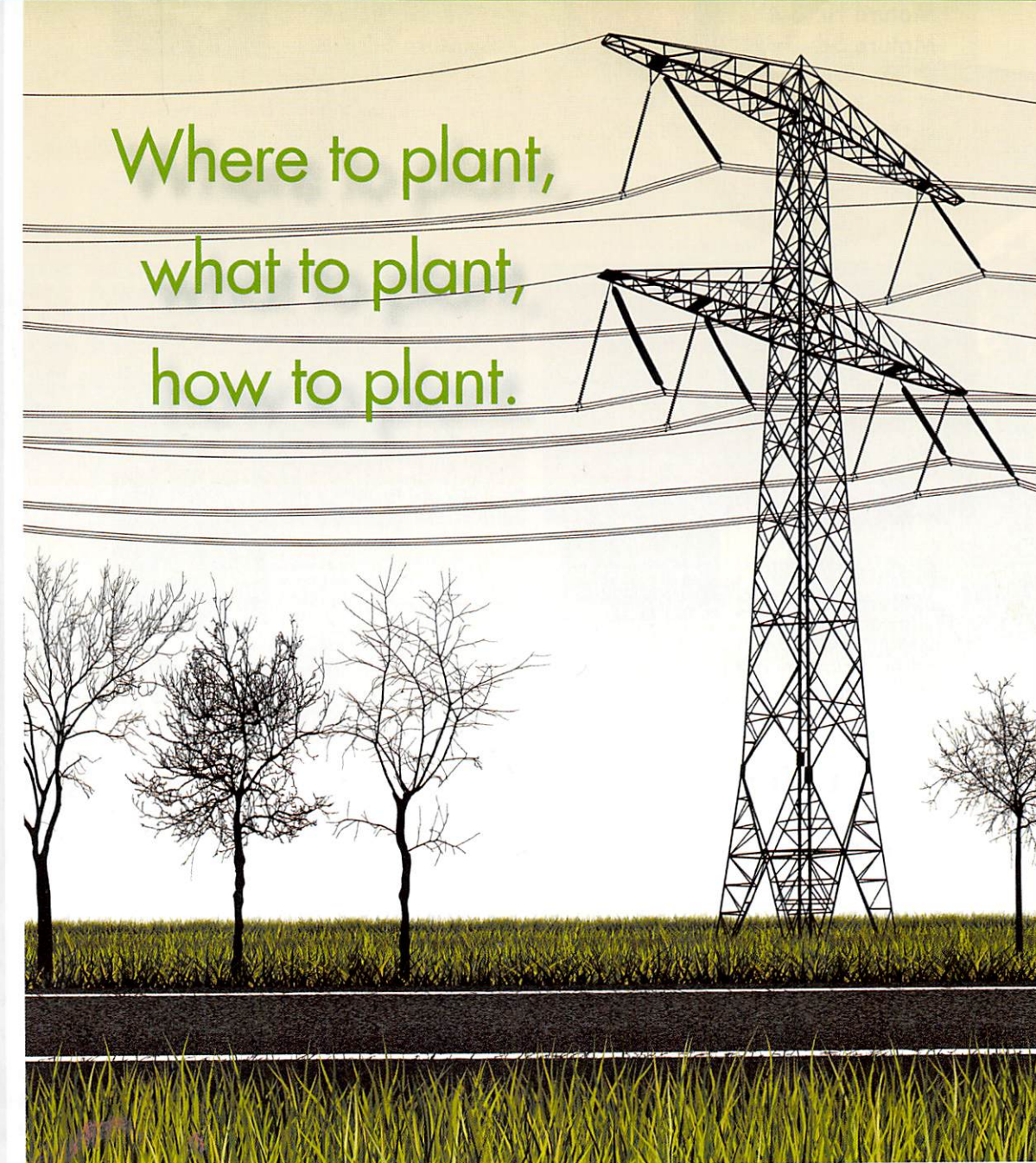
# Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place



At Alabama Power, we are responsible for providing safe and reliable energy to our customers at the lowest cost possible. We also believe we have a corporate responsibility to provide our customers with other valuable services that may be unrelated to generating electricity.

For example, we want to help our customers make the right decisions about planting trees — where to plant, what to plant, how to plant — and anything else related to managing trees to create attractive landscapes in our communities. Distribution and Transmission rights of way (ROW) are commonplace in our communities and are the means by which we deliver energy to homes, schools, hospitals and other businesses. We hope this brochure helps with your tree planting decisions as they relate to Alabama Power ROW.

Where to plant,  
what to plant,  
how to plant.



If you would like more information, please call your local Alabama Power office or you may visit us at <http://alpwr.co/vm> or email us at [apcvm@southernco.com](mailto:apcvm@southernco.com).



## Questions To Ask Before Selecting A Tree

### Why are you planting a tree?

Do you want shade, screening, spring flowers, fall colors or simply something green?

### What will be the size of the tree at maturity?

Does the tree have room to grow in width as well as in height?

Will the tree bear any undesirable fruit or flowers? Or will it produce any large seed crops that will litter the yard?

Will the tree survive in the local climate and soil?

Is the tree strong enough to bear loads of ice and wind without breaking?

Is the tree relatively resistant to insects and disease?

Will the size of the tree complement your home's architecture? For example, some very large trees can make a ranch home small by proportion.

What effect could the tree have on utility lines both above and below the ground?

Could the tree be an inconsiderate choice? Will it shade your neighbor's roses or hang over their property?

## REMEMBER The Right Tree in the Right Place

When selecting the best place to plant your vegetation, many factors should be considered: Location to any permanent structure, like the house, power poles, driveway, outdoor lighting, overhead lines, underground utilities, pools, kids' play equipment, etc. **Questions To Ask Before Selecting A Tree** might help you think through your plan. Start by sketching your yard. Indicate all structures, both above and below ground, and any existing plants. Call 811 to locate any underground utility lines. Indicate the desired planting area. Determine the space needed for each plant; be mindful to note the mature height of each plant, as well as the crown spread. You may consult your local library, local tree nursery or extension service for more detailed information.



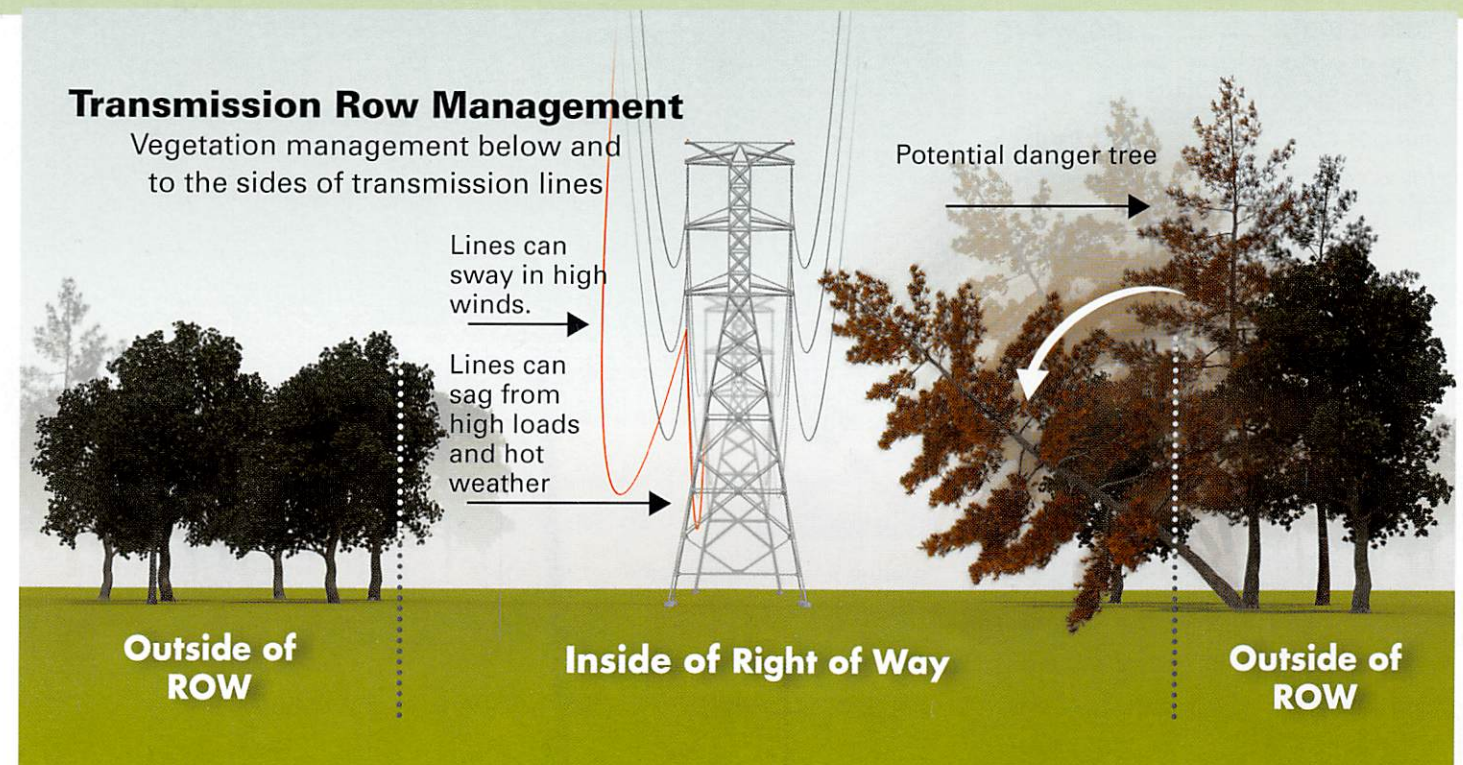
## Alabama Power Transmission ROW

Alabama Power manages vegetation on its 100,000-plus acres of transmission ROW to ensure the public safety and the reliability of its transmission system. Integrated vegetation management (IVM) is a process that balances the use of mechanical, chemical, cultural and biological treatments to establish and maintain a vegetative cover type that is compatible with the environment. Alabama Power Transmission program utilizes IVM to control growth on the ground floor as well as along the sides and adjacent to the ROW.

Greater distances are required between vegetation and transmission lines because of the higher voltages and greater movement of conductors in transmission lines (as indicated by the red lines in illustration below). If a tree makes contact with a transmission line, hazardous electric current may be injected into the ground and travel across local underground cables and pipes causing severe damage to public and private property.

### Transmission Row Management

Vegetation management below and to the sides of transmission lines



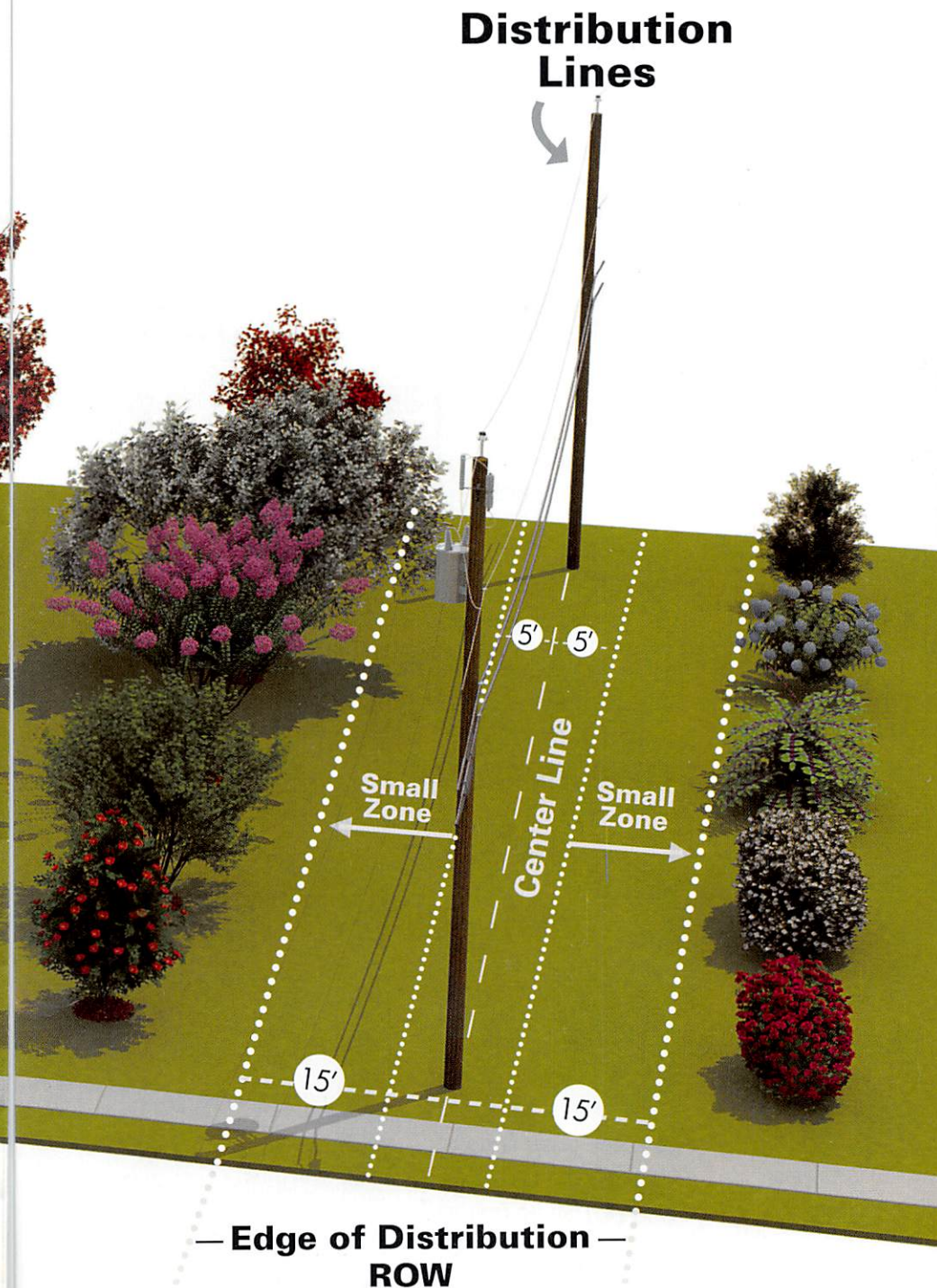
Alabama Power manages transmission differently than distribution lines. Within the APC transmission right of way (ROW), trees are limited to a mature height of 10 feet. This includes the area below transmission lines, inside or near the towers, all the way to the full extent of the transmission ROW boundary. We limit plant heights because transmission lines can sway in high winds and sag from heavy loads or hot weather.

Beyond the APC ROW boundary there are no height restrictions, except when "danger trees" are a threat to our transmission lines. A **danger tree** is any tree or part of a tree that could fall within 5 feet of a conductor. For more information on plant selection or questions about ROW boundary, please contact APC Vegetation Management Services at 800-245-2244 or [apcvm@southernco.com](mailto:apcvm@southernco.com).



For more detailed information regarding Alabama Power Transmission Vegetation Management Program, including information on what can be planted on a transmission line ROW, please contact Alabama Power Vegetation Management Services and ask to speak to someone in Transmission Vegetation Management.

# Landscaping With Trees



- Plant only small plants near the distribution lines.
- Small trees that produce fruit or nuts attract birds and other wildlife.
- Small trees can be planted to create hedges for privacy or to screen undesirable views.
- Small flowering trees add interest and beauty to landscapes. Many species attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

## Recommended Planting

### Small, Medium, Tall Zone

Common Name	Scientific Name
Azalea	<i>Rhododendron spp.</i>
Beautyberry	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>
Boxwood, Common	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>
Forsythia	<i>Forsythia spp.</i>
Gardenia	<i>Gardenia jasminoides</i>
Holly, Chinese	<i>Ilex cornuta</i>
Hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea spp.</i>
Indian Hawthorn	<i>Raphiolepis indica</i>
Knockout Rose	<i>Rosa 'Radrazz'</i>
Nandina	<i>Nandina domestica</i>
Olive, Tea	<i>Osmanthus fortunea spp.</i>

### Medium, Tall Zone

Common Name	Scientific Name
Apricot, Japanese	<i>Prunus mume</i>
Bottlebrush Buckeye	<i>Aesulus parviflora</i>
Camellia	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>
Crape Myrtle	<i>Camellia spp.</i>
Crabapple	<i>Lagerstroemia spp.</i>
Fringe Tree	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>
Dogwood	<i>Cornus spp.</i>
Firethorn, Formosa	<i>Pyracantha koidsumii</i>
Holly, Burford	<i>Ilex cornuta "Burford"</i>
Holly, Nellie R. Stevens	<i>Ilex x 'Nellie R. Stevens'</i>
Holly, Yaupon	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>
Maple, Japanese	<i>Acer palmatum</i>
Olive, Fragrant	<i>Osmanthus fragrans</i>
Pomegranate	<i>Punica spp.</i>
Seviceberry	<i>Amelanchier spp.</i>
Viburnum	<i>Viburnum spp.</i>
Waxmyrtle	<i>Myrica spp.</i>
Weeping Yaupon	<i>Ilex vomitoria 'Pendula'</i>
Winged Euonymus	<i>Euonymus alatus</i>
Witchhazel	<i>Hamamelis spp.</i>

\* Mature Ht = Mature height | Mature Sd = Mature spread

**Knockout Rose**  
*Rosa 'Radrazz'*



Mature Ht: 3-4'  
Mature Sd: 3-4'

Flowers vary, mostly red or pink. Very showy color. Tough plant.

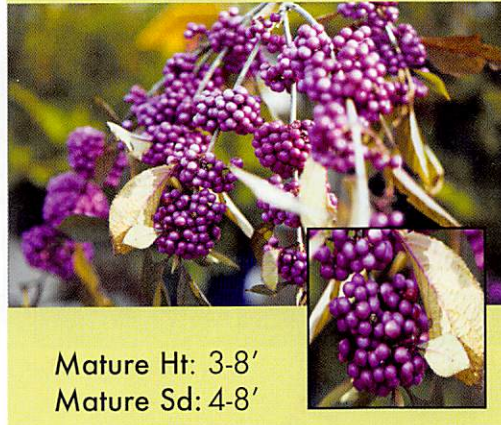
**Gardenia**  
*Gardenia jasminoides*



Mature Ht: 4-8'  
Mature Sd: 4-8'

Flowers vary, mostly white. Used as screen or hedge. Dark leaves provide contrast.

**Beautyberry**  
*Callicarpa americana*



Mature Ht: 3-8'  
Mature Sd: 4-8'

A hardy native species with showy berries. Desired for aesthetics and wildlife.

**Camellia**  
*Camellia japonica*



Mature Ht: 7-12'  
Mature Sd: 5-10'

Flower colors vary, can be 2-5" across. Planted as screen, border, specimen or container.

**Hydrangea**  
*Hydrangea spp.*



Mature Ht: 6-10'  
Mature Sd: 6-10'

Popular for its showy flowers. Multiple varieties of color for your choice.

**Tall Zone**

Common Name	Scientific Name
Baldcypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>
Blackgum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>
Red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
Southern Magnolia	<i>Magnolia spp.</i>
Sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>
Chestnut Oak	<i>Quercus prinus</i>
Live Oak	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>
Nuttall Oak	<i>Quercus nuttallii</i>
Pin Oak	<i>Quercus palustris</i>
Post Oak	<i>Quercus stellata</i>
Shumard Oak	<i>Quercus shumardii</i>
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
Willow Oak	<i>Quercus phellos</i>

**Tea Olive**  
*Osmanthus heterophyllus*



Mature Ht: 8-15'  
Mature Sd: 10-18'

Used in hedges, border or buffer plants. Flowers are not particularly showy, but very fragrant.

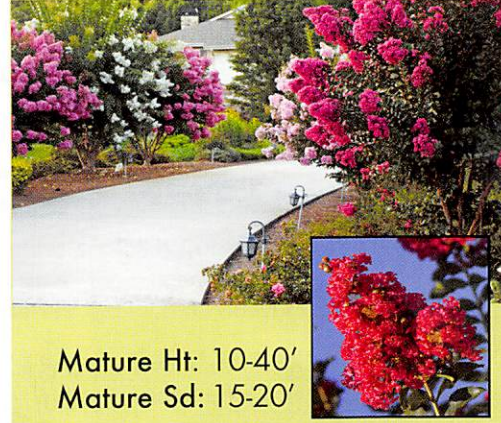
**Waxmyrtle**  
*Myrica cerifera*



Mature Ht: 15-25'  
Mature Sd: 20-25'

Native and easily grown tree. Leaves are fragrant. Once established, it is low-maintenance.

**Crape Myrtle**  
*Lagerstroemia spp.*



Mature Ht: 10-40'  
Mature Sd: 15-20'

Popular tree planted for its showy summer flowers and fall leaves. Able to withstand repeated topplings.

**Maple, Japanese**  
*Acer palmatum*



Mature Ht: 15-25'  
Mature Sd: 15-25'

Usually found as a specimen tree. Known for its showy fall color and varying leaf texture. Bark is prone to sun scald.

**Kousa Dogwood**  
*Cornus kousa*



Mature Ht: 15-25'  
Mature Sd: 15-25'

Resistant to anthracnose, but still prefers shade. Exfoliating bark with showy flowers that persist longer than *C. florida*.



Customers are asked to call Alabama 811 before digging in an area with underground utilities. Within two business days of notice, a utility representative will locate and mark any buried lines.

**This is a FREE service**

**For more information visit:**  
[www.al811.com](http://www.al811.com)

**Plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines**

**Small Zone:**

Plants in this zone are less than 10 feet in height. Remember, plants directly under power lines should be minimized to provide safe access for utility workers (and to avoid damage to landscaping when maintenance or repairs are needed). Plants should be placed further than 5 feet from centerline in this zone.

**Medium Zone:**

Plants in this zone are typically planted farther than 15 feet away from the center of the distribution line. Low growing ornamental trees that do not exceed a mature height of 20 feet can be considered in this zone. **Remember that no plant should be placed within 15 feet of poles or structures.** Also, consideration should be made as to how the plant could impact structures in the future, i.e. vines around guy wire anchors.

**Tall Zone:**

Careful consideration should be given to trees planted adjacent to distribution line rights of way. Remember, when you plant a tree, it may appear a long way from the power lines but as it grows to maturity the crown of the tree will likely spread 20-30 feet in every direction from where the hole is dug. For this reason, we recommend shade trees in this zone be planted at least 30 feet from the center of the distribution line.

**Transformers For Underground Utilities**

We need room to work safely around our underground transformers.

**Please keep vegetation and other structures 10 feet away from all sides.**

Obstructions may be damaged or removed during service restoration or maintenance. This is a good reminder to consider the mature spread of desired plants when planning your landscape.

