

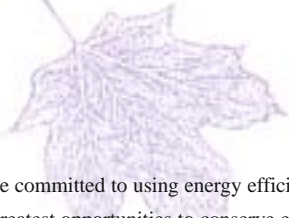
TREE PLANTING GUIDE

Planting Trees to Save Energy Naturally



*A Member of the
Constellation Energy Group*

CONSERVE ENERGY NATURALLY



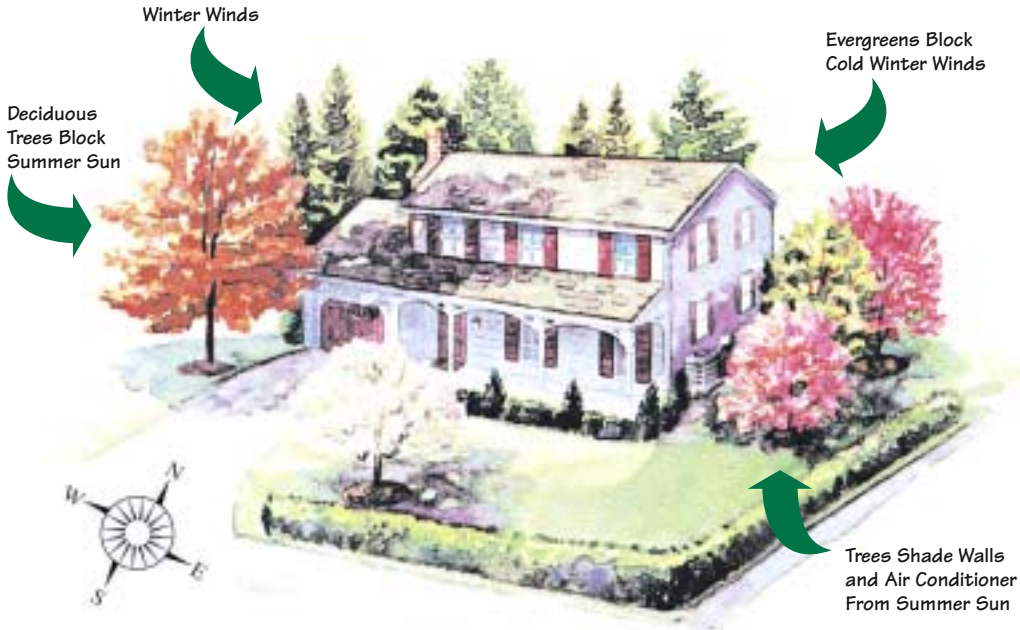
At BGE, we're committed to using energy efficiently. One of your greatest opportunities to conserve energy exists right outside your living room window. By properly selecting and planting trees and shrubs around your home, you can stop chilling winds in winter, create cooling shade in summer, and reduce your energy use year round.

And there's another advantage. By planting appropriate trees and shrubs away from utility lines, meters, and transformers, you can also reduce the cost of tree trimming

and removal required for safe maintenance of power lines, equipment, and right-of-way.

This brochure shows you how to plant trees with energy efficiency and safety in mind. By following this guide, we can all enjoy healthy, attractive, energy-saving trees that live in harmony with safe, reliable electric service.

If you have questions on planting trees to save energy naturally, contact BGE at 410-685-0123 or outside the metro area at 1-800-685-0123 and talk to your local nursery.



TREESCAPING

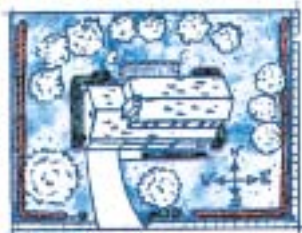
ENERGY SAVING TREES AND SHRUBS

Planting with energy conservation in mind can help you realize home energy savings in three important ways:

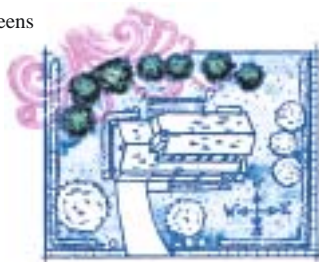
■ **Winter Windbreaks:** Four times as much energy is spent to heat homes than to cool them. The right combination of trees and shrubbery can provide a natural screening that protects your home from wind, noise, and dust.

Where should you plant? For energy efficiency in the winter, plant rows of shrubs and evergreens on the north and west sides of your home. Pine, spruce, and hemlock make good windbreak trees. Privet, yews, and hollies make good screening and hedging shrubs.

■ **Year-Round Comfort:** Low trees and shrubs planted close to your home reduce wind currents and create “dead air” space that helps reduce heat loss in the winter and buffers your home from hot outside air in the summer.



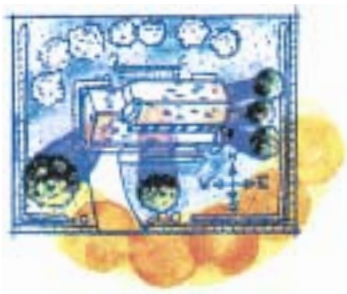
*Sustain Year-Round Comfort
with Low Shrubs/Foundation Planting*



Block Winter Winds

■ **Summer Shade:** Proper shading can help you reduce your summer-cooling costs. Well-selected, well-planted deciduous trees (those with seasonal leaves) can provide summer shade and allow incoming solar heat in the winter.

Where should you plant? To shade your house from the early-to-mid-morning summer sun, plant deciduous trees on the east and south east sides of your home. If your house gets alot of hot afternoon sunlight, plant shade trees on the southwest side. And don't forget to shade your air conditioner or heat pump.



Enhance Summer Shade

TIPS FOR TOWNHOUSE COMMUNITIES

Although this booklet is designed primarily for people living in detached, single-family homes, much of this information also is relevant for townhouse communities. If you live in such a community, consider these tips when planting:

- Shade your heat pump by planting deciduous trees to reduce your summer-cooling costs.
- Select tree varieties that have narrow, upright crowns when planting trees where space is limited.
- Work with your neighbors and community association to develop an overall planting plan to realize other long-term savings.

For further information, talk to your local nursery or call BGE at 410-685-0123 or 1-800-685-0123 and ask for the Forestry Management Unit, or go to www.bge.com.

WHERE TO PLANT?



THINK AHEAD BEFORE YOU PLANT

The wrong tree planted in the wrong place could cause multiple problems in the years to come, including damaging property and endangering lives. That's why it's important to plan ahead when planting.

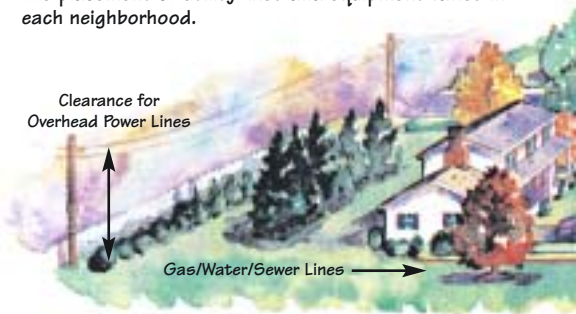
The key to growing a safe, healthy, long-lived tree is to fit it to the site, give its roots and crown plenty of room to grow, and take care of it as it matures.

So before you plant, ask yourself: What and where are the closest obstacles to growth above and below ground? The answer should limit the size of the tree you select. Remember, when you choose a tree or shrub, find out how tall and wide it will grow before you plant it. Then choose a place that offers enough space for it to reach its mature height and width.

PLANT AWAY FROM POWER LINES

Large trees growing under power lines are a safety hazard, cause power outages, and cost a lot to maintain. If you plan to landscape near overhead electric lines or ground-level transformers, follow these tips:

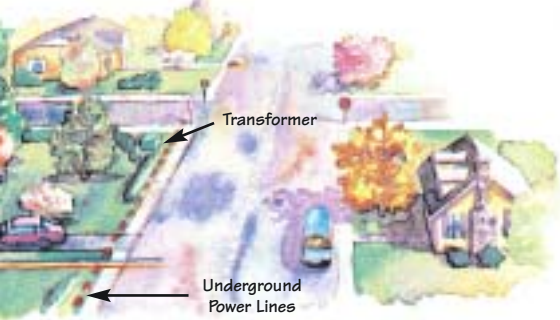
The placement of utility lines and equipment varies in each neighborhood.



THINK BEFORE YOU PLANT

Look Up: Are power lines overhead?

- If planting trees under or close to power lines, make sure they will not grow taller than 25 feet.
- If planting a tree that grows any taller than 25 feet, make sure it is at least 20 feet away from the pole. Refer to the diagram on page 6.
- If the overhead lines are high voltage (usually on steel structures or double wood poles), contact BGE at 410-685-0123 or 1-800-685-0123 and ask for the



Forestry Management Unit before attempting to plant on these high voltage right-of-ways.

Look Down: Are power lines underground?

- Call MISS UTILITY, 1-800-257-7777, at least two days before you plan to dig.
- Keep trees and shrubs at least 3 feet away from underground lines.

Look Around: Do you have a big green metal box in your yard?

If so, it could be a BGE transformer.

- Never plant in front of the transformer doors, but if you want to plant around it, consider mature plant size to always maintain a 2-foot clearance from its sides.
- Never use probes to water or fertilize shrubs around transformers.

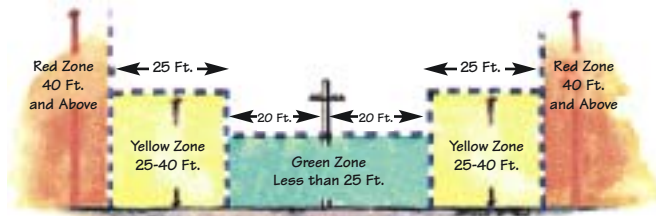
Remember: For your safety, call MISS UTILITY 1-800-257-7777 before you dig. For more information about which trees to plant and where, see pages 6 and 7 of this brochure.

PLANTING-ZONE CONCEPT

RIGHT PLANT + PLACE = SUCCESS & SAVINGS

It's important to make sure your tree fits its site and won't interfere with power lines. For safety and service reliability, BGE must keep clear the "wire zone" located at the top of each pole. Any tree that grows higher than 25 feet is not suitable for areas near power lines.

Use this planting-zone guide and talk to your local nursery to select the right trees for your yard.



Red Zone: For trees that grow more than 40 feet tall. DO NOT PLANT NEAR POWER LINES. These trees are recommended for large open areas without overhead or underground restrictions to allow for their height, width, and large root systems.

Ornamental

(Flowering)

American Linden -

Redmond, Legend

Common Horse Chestnut

Little Leaf Linden -

Greenspire, Glenleven

Scholartree

Shade

Ash - White, Green

Blackgum

Birch

Dawn Redwood

Ginko (male only)

Honeylocust - *Skyline, Mordine, Shademaster*

Maple - Red, Norway,

Silver, Sugar

Oaks - White, Red,

Willow, Pin

Poplars

Sycamore

Sweetgum

Zelkova

Evergreen

Blue Atlas Cedar

White Pine

Spruce - Norway,

Serbian



Yellow Zone: For trees that grow 25 to 40 feet tall. DO NOT PLANT THESE TREES UNDER POWER LINES. Instead, plant them in intermediate areas near homes where above-and-below-ground growing space will allow for their mature height, width, and root system.

Ornamental
(Flowering)

Scholar tree - *Regent*,
Princeton Upright
Golden Rain Tree
Red Horsechestnut -
Brioti
Flowering Cherry -
Kwanzan, Sargent,
Higan

Shade

European Hornbeam
Hedge Maple
Honeylocust -
Imperial
Sawtooth Oak



Evergreen

American Holly
Eastern Hemlock
False Cypress
Leyland Cypress
Limber Pine
Spruce -
Blue, White
Japanese Black Pine
Eastern Red Cedar

• Choose only crabapple varieties with good to excellent resistance to scab and blight disease. Ask your local nursery for details. For a detailed list of compatible species, check www.bge.com.

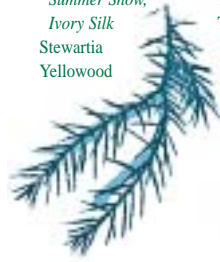
Green Zone: For trees that grow less than 25 feet tall. THESE TREES ARE APPROPRIATE FOR PLANTING UNDER OR NEAR POWER LINES.

Ornamental
(Flowering)

Crabapple*
Crepe Myrtle
Dogwood
Franklinia
Goldenchain - *Vossii*
Japanese Snowbell
Japanese Tree Lilac -
Summer Snow,
Ivory Silk
Stewartia
Yellowood

Shade

American Hornbeam
Amur Maple - *Flame*
Japanese Maple -
Bloodgood,
Burgundy Lace,
Ozakazuki
Paperbark Maple
Trident Maple
Truncatum Maple -
Norwegian Sunset,
Pacific Sunset



Evergreen

Arborvitae - *Nigra*
Techy
Chineses Juniper -
Robusta Green,
Spartan
Nellie R. Stevens Holly

Hedges & Screens
(6-15 feet tall)
Privet - *Ibodium*,
California
Leatherleaf
Viburnum
Yews - *Hicksii*,
Hatfield
Hollies - Japanese,
Chinese, Blue

HOW TO PLANT A TREE?

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

The second best time is now.

-Anonymous



Because compacted soil is common in many communities today, it might be easier for you to find the right site than the right soil for planting a tree. If your soil is hard to dig in, it is compacted. The best way to improve this soil is to increase the width of the hole you dig to three times the width of the rootball of the tree you are planting.

Here are some more tips to follow to ensure the tree you plant remains healthy throughout its life.

TREE-PLANTING STEPS

- Keep your tree watered, protecting it from the sun until you're ready to plant.
- Dig a hole three times the rootball's diameter but not as deep.
- If your tree is in a container, remove it, then gently separate and straighten circling roots and cut any that are tangled.
- If your tree is in a wire basket or tied with burlap, go on to the next step. Do not remove the wire basket or burlap.





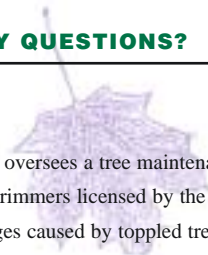
- “Plant Proud:” set tree on solid ground – not on loose soil – in center of the hole, so that the rootball’s top sits 2 inches above the ground level.
- Make sure tree is straight and fill hole halfway with soil.
- At this point, if your tree is in a wire basket or tied with burlap, fold it back or remove it from the top of the rootball.
- Check tree, making sure it’s straight, and use your hands to firm up the soil. **Do not** stomp with your feet as you finish filling hole to the level of the ground.

- Form a shallow basin around the tree and fill it at least three times with water.
- Mulch the area with 3 inches of shredded bark or wood chips, keeping mulch away from the trunk.
- Take care of your tree. Water it weekly. Don’t hit it with the lawn mower or weed eater. Ask a professional nursery for further care instructions of your tree.



ANY QUESTIONS?

MAINTENANCE PROGRAM



BGE oversees a tree maintenance program by qualified tree trimmers licensed by the state to prevent power outages caused by toppled trees and fallen limbs.

Although it is a necessary measure, trimming may permanently change the tree's shape. You can prevent problems by selecting appropriate trees or shrubs to plant near utility lines, meters, and transformers.

If you have questions on planting the appropriate trees and shrubs on your property, contact BGE at 410-685-0123 or outside the metro area at 1-800-685-0123 and ask for the Forestry Management Unit or talk to your local nursery.

For more information about BGE's vegetation and right-of-way management program, go to www.bge.com.

The estimation of energy savings contained in this booklet are based on actual experiences, standard industry practice, computer models, and/or customer-billing records, but are not guaranteed.

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