

## **Tree Planting Considerations from PGE**

*Portland General Electric provides the following information about selecting and planting trees.*

### **Tree Planting Checklist**

The right tree adds beauty and value to your home and minimizes maintenance. Before choosing a tree, consider the following checklist:

#### **Selection**

Why are you planting the tree? (shade, attract wildlife, screen, flowers, color)

Will the tree add to your property value?

#### **Space**

What is the height of the tree at maturity?

What is the shape of the tree: upright, rounded or spreading?

#### **Placement**

Can the tree mature without crowding buildings and other plants?

Will the roots uplift sidewalks or driveways or damage foundations?

Will the tree block visibility in driveways or intersections?

What are the future uses of the site?

Will the tree overhang a neighbor's property?

#### **Growing conditions**

Will the tree survive local climate and soil conditions? Does it require shade or sun? A wet or dry spot?

Is there enough soil area to give the tree the nutrients it needs to survive?

Is the tree's wood strong enough to endure ice and wind without breaking?

#### **Maintenance**

Is the tree susceptible to disease or insects?

Will the tree require frequent spraying?

If near a deck or patio, does the tree drop fruit or seeds?

#### **Utility considerations**

Can the tree mature without growing into overhead power lines?

Are you making sure to plant the tree away from underground lines or transformer boxes?

### **Tree Location**

You don't want a tree to overwhelm your yard, buckle the sidewalk or interfere with utility lines.

#### **Parking strip under power lines**

Near the parking strip; stick with small trees (20-35 feet). They are generally compatible with overhead power lines. Also consider the shape or spread of the tree; a species with a spreading crown is better suited to a wider parking strip.

#### **Frontyards**

Small to medium sized trees are appropriate here, depending on the size of your front/side yards. Medium sized trees (35-50 feet), require large private lawn areas. Plant trees with

spreading crowns at least 25 feet away from wires, sidewalks and buildings; plant trees with columnar or pyramidal forms at least 10 feet away.

### **Back yard**

In the backyard, any size tree is okay — depending on the size of your yard. Large trees (50+ feet) require a large yard. Remember, trees with spreading crowns should be at least 25 feet away from wires, sidewalks and buildings; trees with columnar or pyramidal forms should be at least 10 feet away.

### **Tree Selection**

Portland General Electric provides an online guide to trees that are compatible with parking strips and areas near overhead utility lines. These “small” trees mature to 20-35 feet — about the height of a two-story house. This list is by no means comprehensive, but PGE recommends these trees because they are attractive, available locally, require little maintenance and have no serious insect or disease problems. Go to the **PGE website** and search “**Tree Selection Guide**”.

Another resource for selecting street trees is a handbook published by Metro, “Trees for Green Streets: An Illustrated Guide.” It highlights species of trees that do the best job of reducing the amount and rate of stormwater runoff entering the piped stormwater system. See the **Metro website** for ordering information.