

Fact Sheet

ComEd Vegetation Management

ComEd understands the value of wooded communities and the pleasure trees bring to residents. We also must balance our concern for this community value with an equally important set of concerns: public safety and the reliability of transmission and distribution systems.

At ComEd, we will continue to lead and follow industry best practices and governmental regulations when performing tree and vegetation maintenance around our lines.

ComEd will continue its longstanding practice of balancing the aesthetics trees provide with adequate electrical clearance to ensure reliable service

Tree Trimming

Following the major East Coast blackout in 2003, there has been an increased focus nationally on vegetation management around transmission lines, leading state and federal authorities to encourage utilities to conduct more extensive vegetation management.

Historically, vegetation related outages account for approximately 20% of ComEd system total outages. In 2010, approximately 820,000 customers were impacted by 7,900 tree or vegetation-related outages. 87% of those customer interruptions were caused by uprooted trees or broken limbs.

ComEd's tree-trimming program enables us to establish appropriate clearance distances between trees and our lines. In 2010, ComEd spent more than \$58 million on trees and tree maintenance across northern Illinois to ensure public safety and reduce interruptions.

Distribution Clearances:

- ✓ Pruning clearances are based on:
 - Individual characteristics of each tree
 - Growth rate
 - Mature size and shape
 - Location of tree in relation to power line
 - Type of utility facility (line voltage)
 - Cycle length of 4 years
- ✓ Pruning is completed in compliance with ANSI A300 Standards (American National Standards Institute Standard Practices for Pruning)
- ✓ In some cases, ComEd will offer to remove trees that will be continual reliability and maintenance concerns. Sometimes fast growing trees directly underneath overhead conductors require such extensive pruning that removal of that tree would be advantageous.
- ✓ ComEd always considers the electric reliability impact when a customer requests tree trimming or removal. When tree removal is not possible, ComEd will advise the property

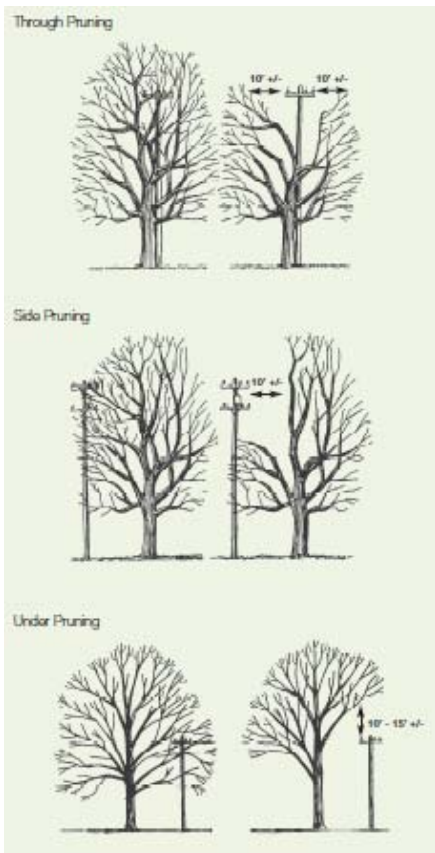
owner as to the best way to safely remove their tree. (See below for “Clear for Customers’ Removal Program.”)

What types of trees are compatible with power lines?

Trees and bushes that grow to heights less than 20 feet (for example dogwoods or crabapples), may be approved by ComEd for planting near power lines. Trees that grow more than 30 feet tall (for example maple, elm and blue spruce), should never be planted under or near power lines. At full height, these trees could contact lines and cause a power outage or create a safety issue. For more information about vegetation maintenance along power lines and ComEd’s Right Tree, Right Place program visit:

<https://www.comed.com/trees>

Location of tree, along with species and line voltage, determine the type of pruning and resulting shape.



Appendix

Clear for Customers' Removal Program

Homeowners should never hire a private tree contractor that is not line clearance qualified to work within 10 feet of energized conductors, or attempt to do this work themselves. Only line clearance arborists that meet OSHA qualifications can work within 10 feet of energized power lines. ComEd's line clearance arborists can provide that service for customers. Our fees for this service are based on the scope of work to be performed, using the rate structure of ComEd's tree trimming contractor. ComEd's line clearance services for customers or contractors who plan to remove or trim trees in proximity to energized conductors is provided in accordance with the American National Standards Institute standards (ANSI Z133.1-2006: Safety Requirements for Arboricultural Operations).

Participate in the Clear for Customers' Removal Program

The line clearance service is available by calling 1-800-Edison-1. Upon request, a representative will contact you or a contractor to arrange an inspection of the affected tree or trees. You will receive a written estimate for the work to be performed. Once you or the contractor remits payment, a line clearance representative contacts you to schedule the work. These line clearance contractors perform the work as scheduled unless inclement weather or other conditions prohibit completion.

ComEd Services

- ComEd trims your tree in accordance with American National Standards Institute standard Z133.1 - 2006 section 4.2. This typically means that ComEd's line clearance crew will remove the portion of the tree within 10 feet of the energized conductor.
- ComEd does NOT perform line clearance tree trimming for the service wires coming directly into your electric meter. ComEd will temporarily disconnect the service wire in order for the customer or the customer's contractor to perform work at the premises (5 day advance notice is required).
- All wood, branches, and other debris are left on the property. ComEd's contractors do not perform any debris removal. Municipalities also are not responsible for debris removal.

Homeowner/Contractor Responsibilities

- The individual requesting the service must own the property where the tree is to be trimmed.
- In cases involving contractors, the contractor must have the property owner's consent.
- If the local municipality has an ordinance regarding the removal of trees on private property, the homeowner or contractor must secure all necessary permits before ComEd will proceed with trimming.
- The homeowner or contractor is responsible for disposing of the wood, branches, and debris resulting from the line clearance work.
- The homeowner may hire a tree care professional if they desire to have the remainder of the tree trimmed or removed.