



Keeping the Lights On

Before you visit the nursery or local Farmers Co-op to buy trees, you probably researched what would look best, grow fast, and work in your soil. Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative also urges you to think about how planting it in the wrong location can affect the electricity in your neighborhood.

Say what? If tree limbs grow into powerlines, your safety, your power, and money are on the line. This is why MLEC adheres to a proactive vegetation management program.

Things to know about MLEC's vegetation management program:

- By helping trees and power equipment keep a safe distance from each other, MLEC is able to insure safe, affordable, reliable power.
- It is one of our largest, but most necessary, expenses.
- Our trimming practices are in accordance with the International Society of Arboriculture and the National Arbor Day Foundation recommended guidelines and standards for good tree health.
- Sprays utilized by MLEC contractors are registered with the EPA and administered by licensed applicators. (If you have a concern, please contact your local MLEC office.)
- Local media and our online platforms are used to notify residents when we will be working in their area.

Let's communicate and work together. To learn more about MLEC's vegetation management program, visit www.mlec.com or email us at power@mlec.com.

One in four power outages is caused by trees and vegetation. The number increases when factoring in storms. Maintaining a 40-foot right of way (20 feet on each side of the power line) helps that number decrease substantially.

For special situations where the property owner would like to take a more personal investment and agrees to **maintain** the right of way according to the required distance, options are available. (If interested, contact your local MLEC office as soon as possible. For 2023, the form must be signed and everything in place by **May 15, 2023.**)



“ *Josh McDonald, MLEC System Vegetation Manager*

Keeping trees and power equipment a safe distance apart, helps ensure safe, affordable, reliable power and broadband. We know homeowners are not always in favor of cutting trees and spraying, but MLEC tries to educate, communicate and partner with our members to find a balance.



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