



# Vegetation for Transmission Rights of Way

Eversource manages nearly 2,300 miles of transmission rights of way in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Building and maintaining a safe, reliable transmission system that has a minimal impact on the environment is one of our key goals. That's why we use best management practices when clearing and maintaining vegetation in these rights of way or power line corridors.

**As a property owner, you take great pride and enjoyment in your home and yard. However, some plant species may not be compatible with the construction, operation and maintenance of Eversource's transmission system.**

Federal, regional and electric industry standards require minimum safety clearances so that vegetation doesn't come too close to or contact high-voltage overhead transmission lines. If the vegetation located in the transmission rights of way is not compatible with the safe operation of the system, it can result in widespread electric power outages or unsafe conditions for electric system workers and the public.

This handout is designed to assist in the selection of the correct vegetation that is acceptable to plant within or along a transmission right of way. Please remember that this information is only a guide; any vegetation located within, or along the immediate edge of, the right of way may not be able to remain. During maintenance, construction or emergencies it may be necessary to remove certain plantings so that Eversource can access the transmission system and make repairs.

There are many plants that are acceptable for planting within the "Wire and Border Zones" (see diagram on reverse page) of a transmission right of way. To allow for access, inspection and maintenance of the transmission facilities, new plantings should not be placed directly under lines or be within 10 feet of a structure or supporting wire.

Acceptable vegetation that may be planted or remain within the right of way depends on the transmission facilities present, the number of lines, location of the lines, width of the right of way, the topography and other environmental factors. Generally, grasses, flowers, ferns, low-growing shrubs and trees under 15 feet in height at maturity may be in the right of way. If the right of way is wide enough and the location of the lines centered, small shrubs and trees under 25 feet in height at maturity may be permissible in the Border Zone.

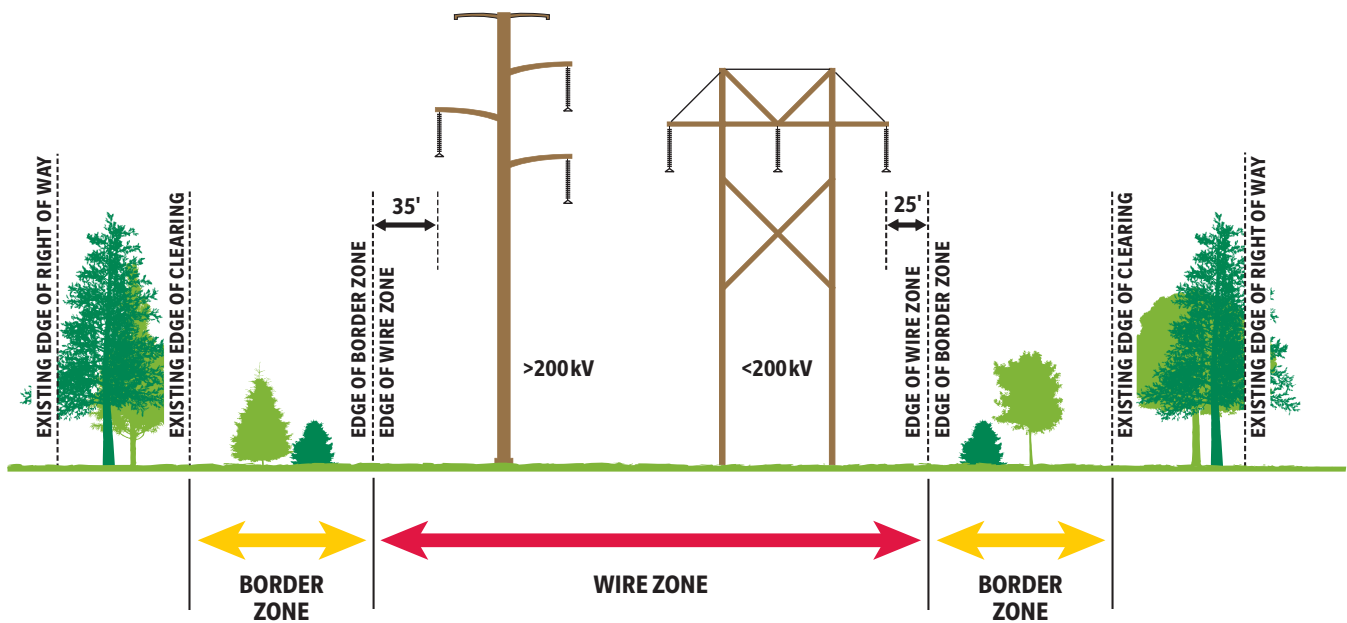
Vegetation that is compatible may still need to be removed during construction or maintenance activities, or in the event of emergency restoration or repair. Please note that each property is unique, and plantings may need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

When purchasing plants to place in a transmission right of way over your property, please review the description that comes with the plant. Pay close attention to the mature height of the plant, or check with a knowledgeable person at the store for plant growth characteristics. There are many varieties of the same plant species that may have very different full-growth heights. Vegetation management specialists from Eversource are also available to answer questions about planting within the right of way.

*(continued)*

## The Wire and Border Zones

When evaluating whether or not a plant is suitable for the location, please refer to the diagram below. The “Wire Zone” (in red) is the area under the transmission wires. The “Border Zone” (in yellow) is the area between the outer edge of the Wire Zone and the edge of the clearing. (Note: In some cases, the edge of the clearing may also be the edge of the right of way.) Plantings may need to be removed if they are considered to be hazardous and could become an issue for system reliability, safety, maintenance or construction.



**We're There When You Need Us.  
For More Information:**

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