



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Avoiding Tree & Utility Conflicts

Right Tree, Right Place

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Many of us probably heard growing up that we should avoid trouble. Pretty good advice, and it's also good advice when it comes to planting trees.

Trees and utility line conflicts are the subject of “vigorous” debate all over the world, frankly. And it's not going away anytime soon. If you like watching TV, or streaming videos, or cold drinks from your fridge, you're going to continue to have to deal with this issue. Is there a way to avoid the problem in the first place? Well, the Arbor Day Foundation has a good saying that can help us as we move forward. “Right tree, right place” is a good place to start. Many of the tree conflicts we have now are simply due to the fact that 30 or 50 or 75 years ago, large trees were planted under or near power lines, which guaranteed a conflict at some time in the future. Utility companies are responsible for making sure power is not interrupted by tree or branch failures, or branches contacting power lines. Most of us know the inconvenience, and even the danger of losing power suddenly. Well, power companies know that trees are the #1 cause of power outages, and since they're responsible for keeping our communities functioning, the wrong tree planted in the wrong place will always require pruning. How about we reduce or eliminate future conflicts by planting the right tree in the right place today.

Municipalities, utility companies, and private property owners need to work together to find a solution. If you have a power line over your tree lawn, planting a tree that will grow to a mature height of 80 feet is obviously going to be a problem in the future. We may have to compromise by planting a smaller variety of tree that simply won't become a problem in the first place. Now for arborists and citizens who love big trees, that may sound distressing, but it doesn't have to be. It's an opportunity to think out of the box. There's nothing that says that a private property owner can't plant a larger variety of tree on their side of a sidewalk (if you have them), where a larger variety of tree can have the necessary space to grow and thrive. It could be the best of both worlds. All it takes is a little cooperation.

In new home developments, putting utility lines underground is also an option to avoid conflicts. There is innovative technology available to ensure there won't be root conflicts below ground.

Very few of us want to return to the days when most activity stopped after dusk. If we think creatively and cooperatively, future generations might not be having this discussion. A good comprehensive index of Ohio trees is available for free at <http://forestry.ohiodnr.gov/trees>.

Remember: Right Tree, Right Place.

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ABOUT US: The mission of the Ohio Chapter International Society of Arboriculture is to advance responsible tree care practices through research, technology, and education while promoting the benefits of trees. Visit us at: www.ohiochapterisa.org.

Over 1,000 Ohio Professionals Ready to Help!

There are over 1,000 qualified tree experts in the state of Ohio that have been designated by the International Society of Arboriculture as Certified Arborists. These tree care professionals have experienced rapid growth over the past decade and there is a significant amount of knowledge required to perform at the highest level. To find a qualified professional in your area, visit www.Trees4Ohio.org.

INTERVIEW AN ISA CERTIFIED ARBORIST: Please contact the Ohio Chapter ISA if you are interested in interviewing a local certified arborist.