RIGHT TREE RIGHT PLACE

GTC Trees & Electrical Safety Seminar
Bill Haws, GPC Utility
Arborist Sr
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OVERVIEW:

- Observations of common mistakes
- Tree species/site selection
- Overhead utility considerations
- Harmon Street Project case study (cultivating partnerships)
Potential consequences of poor planting choices:

- Newly planted trees fail to establish & flourish (waste of time and resources)
- Increased maintenance costs
- Trees don’t reach full growth potential
- Cracked foundations, curbs, drives, & sidewalks
- Sight line issues; driving & pedestrian hazards
- Power outages: impacts to safety & service reliability
Right Tree, Right Place?

‘If you fail to plan, you plan to fail’

(Common parking lot plantings)
Live Oaks Planted Under 3-Phase Primary Lines
New Live oak planted directly under 3-phase lines, close to pole & transformer
Palms (Tiki torch?)
What came first?
The power lines or the tree?
Wrong Tree Wrong Place!
Trees & Utilities:
Think Safety + Service Reliability
Planting Guide

Plant the right tree in the right place

Tall Zone (3) - This zone is for trees that grow no taller than 40 feet and includes your lawn area. Landscaping should decorate or frame your home instead of hiding it from sight. Select trees first, then plant shrubs to complement the trees. Trees that grow no more than 40 feet in height are recommended for areas adjacent to the low zone to avoid branches that overhang power lines or trees that could break into the lines during severe storms.

Medium Zone (2) - This zone is for trees that will not exceed 25 feet in height in the area adjacent to the utility Right-of-Way. Tall Island trees in this zone will be pruned by the utility company to grow away from the lines. In some cases, trees may be considered for removal by the utility company.

Low Zone (1) - These are plant species that will not exceed 25 feet in height in the area adjacent to the utility Right-of-Way. Tall Island trees in this zone will be pruned by the utility company to grow away from the lines. In some cases, trees may be considered for removal by the utility company.

Utility Right-of-Way - The minimum clearance distance determined by the local utility company must be kept clear of trees, shrubs, and vines to provide safe access for utility workers and to avoid damage to landscaping when maintenance or repairs are needed. It is important to note that high-voltage transmission lines require a larger clearance zone. A utility representative can assist in determining if a high-voltage line is located on the right-of-way adjacent to customers’ property. Call Residential Customer Service at 1.888.660.5890 to get further information.

georgiapower.com/trees
Choosing the best planting location

Research and planning are essential before planting a tree. Good intentions can often turn into disappointments and lead to serious problems. Cracked foundations, driveways and sidewalks, dropped power, and power outages are commonly the result of a misplaced tree.

Trees can be used to promote energy savings. Deciduous trees planted on the south and southwest sides of your home will provide shade. Evergreens planted to the north and northwest shelter winter winds.

Begin by sketching your yard. Indicate all structures, above and below ground utilities, and existing plants. Identify the area where you want to plant new trees. Determine the space needed for each tree’s mature height and canopy spread by consulting with your local nursery, extension service, or library.

Avoid planting large growing trees in confined areas and under or nearly overhead utility wires. Trees and shrubs must not be planted over underground distribution lines or within 10 feet of the front or 3 feet from the sides of transformers for underground utilities.

Mulch should spread over an area at least twice the size of the planting hole.

Most new trees do not need to be staked. Stakes and guy ropes are used to prevent the tree from falling over as a result of root ball-dug-up in high winds. A small tree must be able to move in the wind and flex from its base for proper development. You should not add fertilizers or do any pruning except for the removal of dead or dying branches for the first growing season.

Questions to ask before selecting a tree

Why are you planting the tree? Do you want shade, screening, spring flowers, fall color or simply something green?

What will be the size of the tree at maturity? Does the tree have room to grow in width as well as in height?

Will the tree form an upright, round or spreading crown?

Will the tree bear any undesirable fruit or flowers? Or will it produce any large seed crops that will litter the yard?

Will the tree survive in the local climate and soil?

Is the tree strong enough to bear loads of ice and wind without breakage?

Is the tree relatively resistant to insects and disease?

Will the size of the tree complement your home’s architecture? For example, some very large trees can make a ranch house look out of proportion.

What effect could the tree have on utility lines both above and below the ground?

Could the tree be an inconsiderate choice? Will it shade your neighbor’s roses or hang over on their property?
### Planting Zones

#### Recommended plantings near power lines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
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<th>Botanical Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apricot, Japanese</td>
<td>Prunus mume</td>
<td>Holly, Myrtle</td>
<td>Ilex myrtifolia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azalea</td>
<td>Rhododendron spp.</td>
<td>Holly, Ilex</td>
<td>Ilex vomitoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottlebrush Buckeye</td>
<td>Azalea pumila</td>
<td>Hydrangea</td>
<td>Hydrangea spp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boxwood, Common</td>
<td>Buxus sempervirens</td>
<td>Ilex, Common</td>
<td>Syringa vulgaris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterbur, Common</td>
<td>Cephalanthus occidentalis</td>
<td>Magnolia, Saucer</td>
<td>Magnolia x soulangeana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camellia</td>
<td>Camellia ssp.</td>
<td>Magnolia, Star</td>
<td>Magnolia stellata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaste Tree</td>
<td>Vitex agnus castus</td>
<td>Myrtle, Japanese</td>
<td>Acer palmatum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Fringe-Flower</td>
<td>Lysimachia clethroides</td>
<td>Olive, Fragrant</td>
<td>Osmanthus fragrans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fringe Tree, Chinese</td>
<td>Fraxinus chinensis</td>
<td>Olive, Holy Tea</td>
<td>Osmanthus heterophyllis</td>
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<td>Dogwood</td>
<td>Cornus spp.</td>
<td>Pomegranite</td>
<td>Punica granatum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dogwood, Cornusflexure</td>
<td>Cornus flexosus</td>
<td>Serviceberry</td>
<td>Amelanchier spp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firethorn, Forestia</td>
<td>Pyracantha koidzunii</td>
<td>Smokebush</td>
<td>Cotinus coggygria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firethorn, Ixandra</td>
<td>Pyracantha coccinea 'Ilandei'</td>
<td>Snowbell Tree</td>
<td>Styrax spp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flowering Crabapple</td>
<td>Malus spp.</td>
<td>Sparkleberry Tree</td>
<td>Yucca albovariegata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forsythia</td>
<td>Forsythia spp.</td>
<td>Ternstroemia, Jada Jara</td>
<td>Ternstroemia gymnanthera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly, Brilliant</td>
<td>Ilex x aquifolium 'Brilliant'</td>
<td>Viburnum</td>
<td>Viburnum spp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly, Cassinum Dahoon</td>
<td>Ilex cassine</td>
<td>Waxmyrtle</td>
<td>Myrica spp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly, Emily Brans</td>
<td>Ilex x Emily Brans</td>
<td>Winterberry, Common</td>
<td>Ilex verticillata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly, Santa Cruz</td>
<td>Ilex x alternata</td>
<td>Korean Yew, Southern</td>
<td>Podocarpus macrophyllus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly, Listeria</td>
<td>Ilex litchiifolia</td>
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</table>

Distribution lines feed electricity to homes and businesses. This recommended planting list is intended for use near our distribution rights-of-way only.

Georgia Power Company understands the desire of property owners to maintain plantings on the premises of their properties located within Georgia Power Company's service areas. However, the provisions of applicable state or federal laws and regulations restrict the planting of certain species of trees and shrubs near distribution lines. The provisions for plantings on lots in this guide may be modified or amended, in whole or in part, at any time and from time to time by Georgia Power Company, in its sole discretion. Current and future rules, regulations and policies of Georgia Power Company may also be applicable to such plantings or prohibited plantings. To prevent such policies and restrictions, property owners are advised to consult with Georgia Power Company to determine the feasibility of plantings in question. For more information, please contact Georgia Power Company at 1-800-438-4319.

No rights to maintain any planting will result from reliance on this guide.
Consider **ALL** Site Variables **BEFORE** Selecting Species

- Size of planting space (above & below ground)
- Soil type, drainage
- Exposure to sunlight
- Proximity & height of adjacent buildings
- Presence of utilities (below & above ground)
- Distance to street intersections (sight line)
- Proximity of hardscape, sidewalks, pedestrian traffic, etc...
Know Your Species & Cultivars

- Mature height/width (plan for *future* size)
- Hardiness Zone
- Tolerances (soil, light, heat, salt, drought, drainage, susceptibility to breakage etc...)
- Resistance to insects/disease
- Pruning/maintenance requirements
- Growth/branch habit, rooting habit, fruit production, foliage, blooms, etc...
- Seasonal color interest (i.e. blooms, fall color)
‘Chinese Snowball’ Viburnum
‘Zhou Zhou’ std Lorapetalum
Chinese Fringetree
‘Cherokee Princess’ Dogwood

‘Cherokee Brave’ Dogwood
‘Tonto’ Crapemyrtle

‘Tuskegee’ Crapemyrtle
Harmon Streetscape Project

Description:
Cooperative project between the City of Savannah (COS), Savannah Tree Foundation (STF), and Georgia Power Company (GPC) to improve/beautify the streetscape on the Harmon Street corridor between E Gwinnett Street and E Anderson Street for the benefit of the community.

• Narrow 2-3’ treelawns in close proximity to buildings & streets
• Overhead 3 phase primary electric distribution lines
• Inappropriate tree species for site. Primarily sweetgum trees. High maintenance trees prone to failure, heaving sidewalks & curbs, etc.….  
• Win, win, win! Opportunity for collaboration to effect positive change in the community, with positive PR for all partners
A total of 28 undesirable trees targeted for removal (primarily sweetgum trees)

GPC removed trees in cooperation with the City of Savannah (COS)

COS removed debris & ground stumps

COS prepared sites for replanting & selected more site appropriate trees (single stem crapemyrtles)

New trees planted in cooperation with Savannah Tree Foundation and COS Mayor’s Youth Council

STF coordinated all volunteers, including the Savannah Youth Council, which offered the additional opportunity to educate kids about trees!

Local news media ran the story on the evening news
Harmon Streetscape Project (Before)
Tree Removal Phase
Planting Phase
Harmon Streetscape Project
Harmon Streetscape Project
Harmon Streetscape Project
Harmon Streetscape Project
The Harmon Street Project was a successful, collaborative, multi-agency right tree, right place project because all involved could ‘see the forest for the trees’ and recognize the long range benefits to the community.
Project Takeaway Message

We all share common ground! Communicate and work together to find it! We can discover opportunities for education, collaboration, and partnerships that benefit all involved and the communities we serve.
GPC Arborist Territories

Distribution Utility Arborist Territories

Transmission Arborist Territories
Thank You!

Questions?