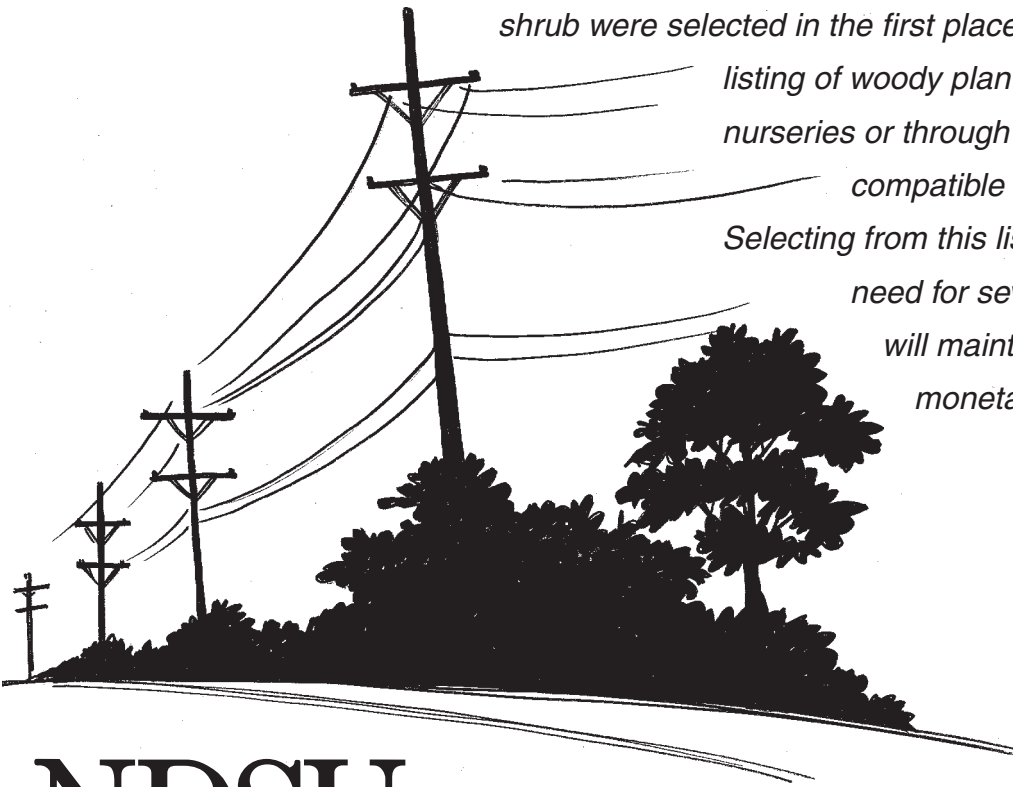


Power Line Compatible Tree and Shrub Selections

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Everyone loves large, stately, picturesque trees, but the nicest species can become a problem if planted under, or too near, overhead power lines. Eventually they will need severe pruning, which, even in the hands of experts, can lead to disfigurement. Ultimately, the trees are removed and conspicuous space is left in the landscape setting, decreasing property value.

This would be unnecessary if the proper species of tree or shrub were selected in the first place. What follows is a partial listing of woody plants that are available at local nurseries or through mail catalogs which will be compatible with overhead power lines. Selecting from this list will greatly reduce the need for severe pruning later on and will maintain the aesthetic and monetary value of the property.



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Amur Maple (<i>Acer ginnala</i>) (T)	Ht. 15-18'	Red - orange fall color
Tatarian Maple (<i>Acer tataricum</i>)	Ht. 20-25'	Tolerant of alkaline soils
Serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier spp.</i>) (T)	Ht. 20-25'	White flowers; fruit/fall color red
Siberian Peashrub (S) (<i>Caragana arborescens</i>)	Ht. 10-15'	Yellow spring flowers
Gray Dogwood (<i>C. racemosa</i>) (S)	Ht. 6-10'	White flowers/fruit; red pedicels
Redoiser Dogwood (<i>C. sericea</i>) (S)	Ht. 8-10'	Red twig coloration
Hawthorns (<i>Crataegus spp.</i>) (T)	Ht. 15-20'	Good flowers & fruit
Russian Olive (T) (<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>)	Ht. 15-20'	Sweet scent, silvery foliage
Forsythia (<i>Forsythia spp.</i>) (S)	Ht. 8-10'	Early yellow flowers
Rocky Mt. Juniper (T) (<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>)	Ht. 15-20'	Blue-green foliage
Freedom Honeysuckle (S) (<i>Lonicera 'Freedom'</i>)	Ht. 8-10'	Flowers/fruit; resistant to aphid
Amur Maackia (T) (<i>Maackia amurensis</i>)	Ht. 12-20'	White summer flowers
Thunderchild Crabapple (T) (<i>Malus 'Thunderchild'</i>)	Ht. 12-20'	Pink flowers; fruits sparingly
Spring Snow Crabapple (<i>Malus 'Spring Snow'</i>) (T) Flowering Crab Species	Ht. 20-25'	White flowers; sterile
Mugo Pine (<i>Pinus mugo</i>)	Ht. 12-15'	Dense, wide spreading form
Japanese Tree Lilac (<i>Syringa reticulata</i>) (T)	Ht. 15-20'	Creamy white flowers in June
Lilacs (S) (<i>Syringa X prestoniae</i>)		All non-suckering
'Miss Canada'	Ht. 6-8'	Bright pink flowers
Donald Wyman		Purple flowers
Minuet		Purple flowers
'Miss Kim'		
Siberian Arborvitae (T) (<i>Thuja occidentalis 'Wareana'</i>)	Ht. 15-25'	Winter hardy, foliage tinged blue
Viburnum (<i>V. spp.</i>): (S)	Ht. 6-12'	Showy all year 'round

(S) = Shrub form; (T) = Tree form

Trees Incompatible With Power Lines

Ash • Birch

Black Walnut • Corktree

Cottonwood • Elm

Hackberry • Honeylocust

Kentucky Coffeetree

Larch • Linden

Maples – Silver, Red,
Norway, Boxelder, Sugar

Oak • Ohio Buckeye

Pine and Spruce

Poplar • Willow

These trees must usually be topped as they mature, destroying their natural shape and beauty. This could result in the immediate death of the tree, a flush of growth that is open to attack by insects and diseases, and reduction in root development, with eventual tree death. They also eventually pose a safety hazard. Trees that are not topped usually need strong directional pruning to avoid the wires, destroying their aesthetic qualities. Avoid planting them near power lines!

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