



# TREE SELECTION AND PLANTING GUIDE

FOR PLANTING WITHIN  
8M OF POWER LINES



# CHOOSE TREES CAREFULLY

Power lines and trees can get along – if you choose the right species and plant them the right distance from the lines.

By planting the right sorts of trees and shrubs near network power lines (typically within 8m), you can help avoid the risk of power outages to your neighborhood.

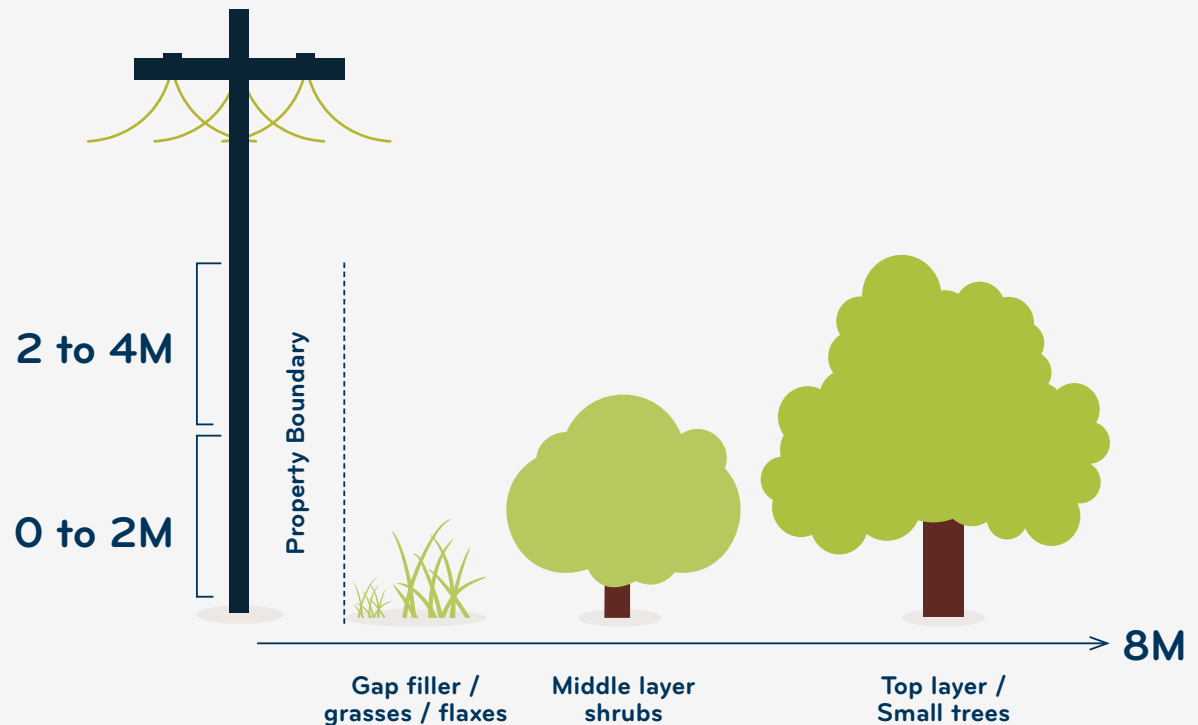
Trees and branches falling onto lines are a major cause of power outages in Auckland.

Trees must be kept clear of network power lines, as required by the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003. Under these regulations, tree owners are responsible for the costs of keeping trees trimmed and outside the growth limit zones around network power lines.

Tree owners may face penalties for failing to keep trees clear of lines and may be responsible for the costs of damage a tree causes to power lines or equipment.

For more information about the regulations and your responsibilities as a tree owner, please visit [www.vector.co.nz/treetrim](http://www.vector.co.nz/treetrim)

## EXAMPLE OF PLANTING WITHIN 8M OF POWER LINES



The Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 (Tree Regulations) imposes restrictions on tree trimming within 4m of network lines. See [www.vector.co.nz/treetrim](http://www.vector.co.nz/treetrim) for more information about the Tree Regulations.

There are some simple rules to follow whether you're planting a shelterbelt, a hedge for privacy or security, or simply want to enhance the edge of your property near network power lines.

- Use the height rules to determine which types of plants are best for your situation
- Native species are often the best to plant because they are used to our local conditions
- Exotic species (non-native) especially trees are faster growing and need more care. If not maintained they will become hazardous.
- A mix of height and types work best – with flaxes and grasses planted near network lines, followed by shrubs and trees further away.
- Mixing species fills gaps, reduces maintenance (especially weeds) and provides wildlife habitat
- Slower growing species are best – you can buy larger grades to get a hedge effect quicker
- Fast growing species such as Eucalyptus, Pines and Poplars are unsuitable as they grow rapidly and can require two cuts per year
- Fast growing species may also need to be removed and can become hazards by shedding limbs and bark

## PLANT SMART AROUND POWER LINES:

- Buy smart – use our table of species or buy plants with similar growth habits
- If in doubt ask your local nursery for help – let them know where you live to help with suitable species selection
- Our species list is a guide only. It is made up of hardy, adaptable, easy to grow and buy species that are also good for wildlife from bees to birds.
- **And remember, before planting a tree, look up and look out for power lines.**

## SUITABLE TREES AND OTHER VEGETATION FOR PLANTING UNDER OR NEAR POWER LINES (WITHIN 8M)

| Botanical name          | Common name                                 | Height x Width                       | Native | Exotic |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| <b>Gap fillers</b>      |   | <b>Grasses/flaxes/smaller plants</b> |        |        |
| Apodasmia similis       | Oioi, jointed rush                          | 1.5m x 1m                            | x      |        |
| Astelia trinervia       | Kauri grass                                 | 2m x 2m                              | x      |        |
| Cortaderia splendens    | Coastal toetoe                              | 2.5m x 2.5m                          | x      |        |
| Machaerina sinclairii   | Tuhara                                      | 1m x 1.5m                            | x      |        |
| Phormium cookianum      | Coastal flax (Wharariki)                    | 1.5m x 2m                            | x      |        |
| Phormium tenax          | Harakeke                                    | 3m x 3m                              | x      |        |
| Azalea                  | Most varieties                              | 1.5m x 1m                            |        |        |
| Hemerocallis            | Day lilies (most cultivars except H. fulva) | 1m x 1.5m                            |        | x      |
| Hydrangea               | Most varieties                              | 1.5m x 1.5m                          |        | x      |
| Leucospermum            | Most varieties                              | 1.5m x 1.5m                          |        | x      |
| Pieris                  | Lily of the valley shrub                    | 1.5m x 1m                            |        | x      |
| <b>The Middle Layer</b> |   | <b>Shrubs</b>                        |        |        |
| Coprosma lucida         | Shining karamu                              | 3m x 2m                              | x      |        |
| Corokia cotoneaster     | Kumerahou                                   | 2m x 1.5m                            | x      |        |
| Leucopogon fasciculatus | Mingimingi                                  | 2m x 1.5m                            | x      |        |
| Pomaderris kumeraho     | Kumerahou                                   | 2mx1.5m                              | x      |        |
| Macropiper excelsum     | Kawakawa                                    | 2m x 1.5m                            | x      |        |
| Solanum laciniatum      | Poroporo                                    | 3m x 4m                              | x      |        |
| Camellia                | Most varieties                              | 3m x 1.5m                            |        | x      |
| Feijoa                  | Most varieties                              | 3m x 2m                              |        | x      |
| Hibiscus                | Most varieties                              | 2.5m x 1.5m                          |        | x      |
| Michelia figo           | Port wine magnolia                          | 3m x 2.5m                            |        | x      |
| Malus floribunda        | Crabapple                                   | 3m x 2.5m                            |        | x      |
| Choisa ternata          | Mexican orange blossom                      | 2m x 1.5m                            |        | x      |
| <b>The Top layer</b>    |   | <b>Small Trees</b>                   |        |        |
| Coprosma repens         | Mirror plant, taupata                       | 4m x 2m                              | x      |        |
| Hebe stricta            | Koromiko                                    | 4m x 2.5m                            | x      |        |
| Olearia furfuracea      | Akepiro                                     | 4m x 2m                              | x      |        |
| Pseudopanax lessonii    | Coastal five finger, houpara                | 4m x 2m                              | x      |        |
| Pittosporum tenuifolium | Pittosporum mountain green                  | 4m x 2m                              | x      |        |
| Callistemon             | Bottlebrush (most cultivars)                | 4.5m x 1.5m                          |        | x      |
| Grevillea               | Various cultivars small tree and shrub size | To 4m x 2.5m                         |        | x      |
| Protea                  | Most varieties                              | 3m x 1.5m                            |        | x      |
| Telopea                 | Waratahs - Most varieties                   | 3m x 2m                              |        | x      |
| Viburnum tinus lucidum  | Laurustinus                                 | 4m x 1.5m                            |        | x      |