

# TREE PLANTING TIPS

## Planting For the Future

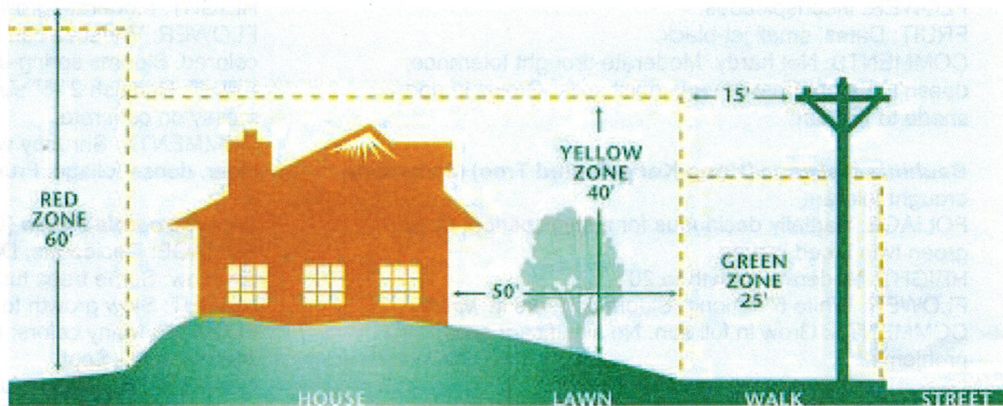
Planting the "Right Tree in the Right Place" will enhance your property value and lower the cost to maintain it. Good landscaping frames your home and uses plants compatible with overhead and underground utility lines. Low-growing trees won't reach electric lines and that will help prevent power interruptions to you and your neighbors. Planting tall-growing trees within SDG&E's rights-of-way will require trees to be pruned to maintain proper clearance from electric facilities. This could result in the tree having an unnatural appearance.

USE THIS PLANTING GUIDE BELOW TO HELP YOU PLANT THE "RIGHT TREE IN THE RIGHT PLACE"

**Red Zone:** Trees with mature heights up to 60ft or more.  
- In this zone consider the tree's mature height and crown expansion to allow room for it to flourish.

**Yellow Zone:** Trees with mature heights no taller than 40ft.  
- This zone is used to decorate your home. Select trees first, then shrubs to complement the trees. Mature trees may require trimming in this zone.

**Green Zone:** Trees with mature heights no taller than 25ft.  
- This zone should extend to a minimum of 15ft away from electric lines. Use SDG&E's Planting List.



## Planting Do's and Don'ts

1. Correct any soil drainage problems before planting.
2. Dig the hole as deep and two to three times as wide as the tree's root ball.
3. Plant the tree at the same depth it was grown in the nursery. Don't bury the portion of the trunk that meets the soil. Cut and remove any string, burlap, or wire from at least the top half of the root ball.
4. Don't add soil amendments to the backfill. Mulching the soil's surface is good, but don't put mulch against the trunk.
5. Water the tree thoroughly. Repeat every 7 to 10 days during dry periods for at least the first year. Don't fertilize at planting time. In fact, it's best not to fertilize for one year to encourage roots to grow into the soil.
6. Not all newly planted trees require staking. If you choose to stake your tree, insert the stakes into the soil outside the root ball. The ties should hold the trunk upright, but still allow it to move. You can remove the stakes as early as 90 days, but no later than 1 year after planting.

## DON'T ALLOW YOUR TREES TO BE THE CAUSE OF FIRE, INJURY, OR DEATH!

### It's the Law!

State law requires utility companies to maintain specific clearances (depending on the voltage running through the line) between electric power lines and all vegetation.

- **CPUC General Order 95, Rule 35** – Requires SDG&E to maintain minimum clearances between vegetation and high voltage power lines. To minimize repeated trimming on a tree, utilities need to achieve at least one year of clearance.
- **Public Resource Code, Section 4293** – Requires SDG&E to maintain minimum clearances, for fire prevention purposes, for those areas under the responsibility of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention.
- **Cal OSHA, Title 8, Article 37** – States that no person shall come within 6' to 16' of energized high voltage power lines, and that no boom type of lifting or hoisting equipment shall come within 10' to 20', depending on the voltage of the high voltage power lines. This also means there cannot be personnel or equipment in trees, such as Avocado or other fruit trees, six (6) feet or less from the high voltage power lines.

**SDG&E CONTRACTORS WILL TRIM TREES ON YOUR PROPERTY THAT PRESENT A HAZARD TO POWER LINES, AT NO COST TO YOU!**

For additional tree species or to speak with an SDG&E representative, contact the Vegetation Management Department at:

Phone: (858) 654-8608

Website: <http://sdge.com/safety/treesafety>



# TREE PLANTING LIST

## Trees Acceptable for Planting Under / Near Overhead Power Lines (up to 12kV)

(These trees may not be acceptable where hardware / lines sag or are low due to construction / terrain. This list not intended to be all-inclusive.)

### ***Phoenix roebelenii* (Pigmy Date Palm)**

FOLIAGE: Evergreen. Fronds medium-green 3' long.  
HEIGHT: Slow growth 6'-12'.  
FLOWER: inconspicuous.  
FRUIT: Dates, small jet-black.  
COMMENTS: Not hardy. Moderate drought tolerance, doesn't tolerate frost or very moist soils. Grows in part shade to full sun.

### ***Bauhinia blakeana* (Hong Kong Orchid Tree)** Moderately drought tolerant

FOLIAGE: Partially deciduous for a short period. Gray-green twin lobed leaves.  
HEIGHT: Moderate growth to 20'.  
FLOWER: White 5"-6" long. Bloom appears in winter.  
COMMENTS: Grow in full sun. No significant pest problems.

### ***Cassia leptophylla* (Gold Medallion Tree)** Drought tolerant

FOLIAGE: Semi-evergreen, medium green, pinnately compound leaves.  
HEIGHT: Fast growth to 20'-25'.  
FLOWER/FRUIT: Deep yellow. Blooms July - Aug. 16" long seedpods present a litter problem.  
COMMENTS: Grow in full sun. No significant pests.

### ***Cercis occidentalis* (Western Redbud)** Drought tolerant

FOLIAGE: Deciduous. Leaves are round & medium green.

HEIGHT: Moderate growth to 20'.

FLOWER: Magenta. Blooms March - April.

COMMENTS: Grows in full sun or part shade. Needs a well-drained soil. Calif. native

### ***Dodonaea viscosa* 'Purpurea' (Purple Hopbush)** Drought tolerant

FOLIAGE: Evergreen. Willow-like bronzy/purple and green leaves. Foliage a deeper purple in full sun, more green in shade.

HEIGHT: Fast growing to 12'-15'.

FLOWER: Insignificant.

COMMENTS: Tolerates any soil, wind and heat.

### ***Eriobotrya deflexa* (Bronze Loquat)** Moderately drought tolerant

FOLIAGE: Evergreen. Large leathery leaves. Bronze new growth turns med. green.

HEIGHT: Moderate to fast growth to 25'.

FLOWER: Creamy white, fragrant. Blooms Dec. - March.

COMMENTS: Grow in full sun or partial shade.

### ***Punica granatum* (Pomegranate)** Tolerates heat-cold, drought

FOLIAGE: Deciduous. Leaves glossy green-bright yellow.

HEIGHT: Moderate growth to 20'.

FLOWER: Varieties can be orange, pink, yellow, cream colored. Blooms spring-early summer.

FRUIT: Reddish 2"-5" sized, sweet-tart like flavor. Can be messy on concrete.

COMMENTS: Shrubby when young, multi-trunked when older, dense foliage. Fruit made into jams, jellies, juices.

### ***Lagerstroemia indica* (Crape Myrtle)** Drought tolerant

FOLIAGE: Deciduous. Deep glossy green leaves, fall color is yellow. Some trees turn orange or red.

HEIGHT: Slow growth to 10'-25'.

FLOWER: Many colors: white, pink, red, purple, etc.

Blooms July - Sept.

COMMENTS: Grow in full sun. Trees have a problem with mildew in the mild climate areas of County.

### ***Magnolia grandiflora* 'Little Gem' (Little Gem Magnolia)** Moderately drought tolerant

FOLIAGE: Evergreen. Dark green glossy, rusty beneath.

HEIGHT: Slow growth to 15'-20'.

FLOWER: White 5"-6", blooms summer - fall.

COMMENTS: Best in full sun.

### ***Pittosporum phillyraeoides* (Willow Pittosporum)**

Drought tolerant

FOLIAGE: Evergreen. Leaves medium green.

HEIGHT: Slow growth to 20'.

FLOWER: Light yellow. Blooms winter - spring. Fragrant.

COMMENTS: No significant pests. Best in full sun.

### ***Raphiolepis indica* 'Majestic Beauty' (Indian Hawthorn)** Drought tolerant

FOLIAGE: Evergreen. Dark green, large leaves 4" long.

HEIGHT: Moderate growth to 15'.

FLOWER: Light pink, fragrant. Blooms late fall - late spring.

COMMENTS: Grow in full sun to light shade. Tolerates many soil types.

### ***Rhus lancea* (African Sumac)** Drought tolerant

FOLIAGE: Evergreen. Leaves dark green.

HEIGHT: Slow growing to 25'.

FLOWER: Inconspicuous.

FRUIT: Yellow or red, pea sized, berry like. Can be messy on concrete.

COMMENTS: Trees have an open, graceful, weeping shape. Tolerates heat, arid conditions, drought, & poor soil.

**REMEMBER TO ALWAYS PLANT THE "RIGHT TREE IN THE RIGHT PLACE"**