# Right Tree / Right Place

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Montana Urban and Community Forestry Association
Presented at the Montana Urban Tree Summit
Billings Public Library, November 4, 2026



# Right Tree Right Place Principles

https://www.arborday.org/trees/bulletins/coordinators/resources/pdfs/004.pdf




Wrong Trees, Wrong Places

Better Choices

# Tree Selection

-

***Bring the Library with you to the Nursery with you when you shop!***



# Things to Avoid when Planting a Tree

- Overhead Utility lines
  - -Overhead powerlines (distribution lines or overhead electric lines)
  - -Service lines
  - -Streetlight wires
  - -Communication lines

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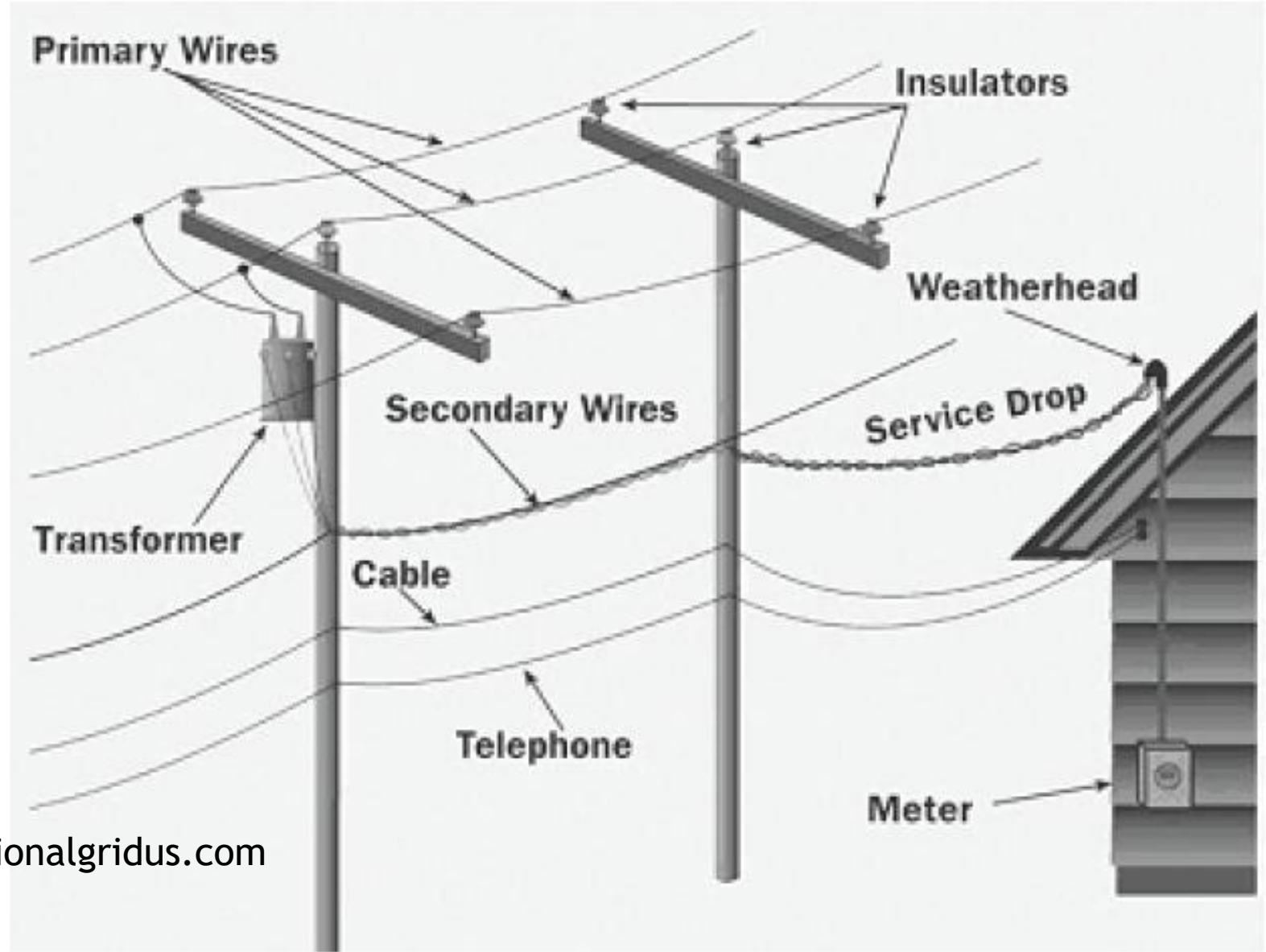
# Things to Avoid when Planting a Tree





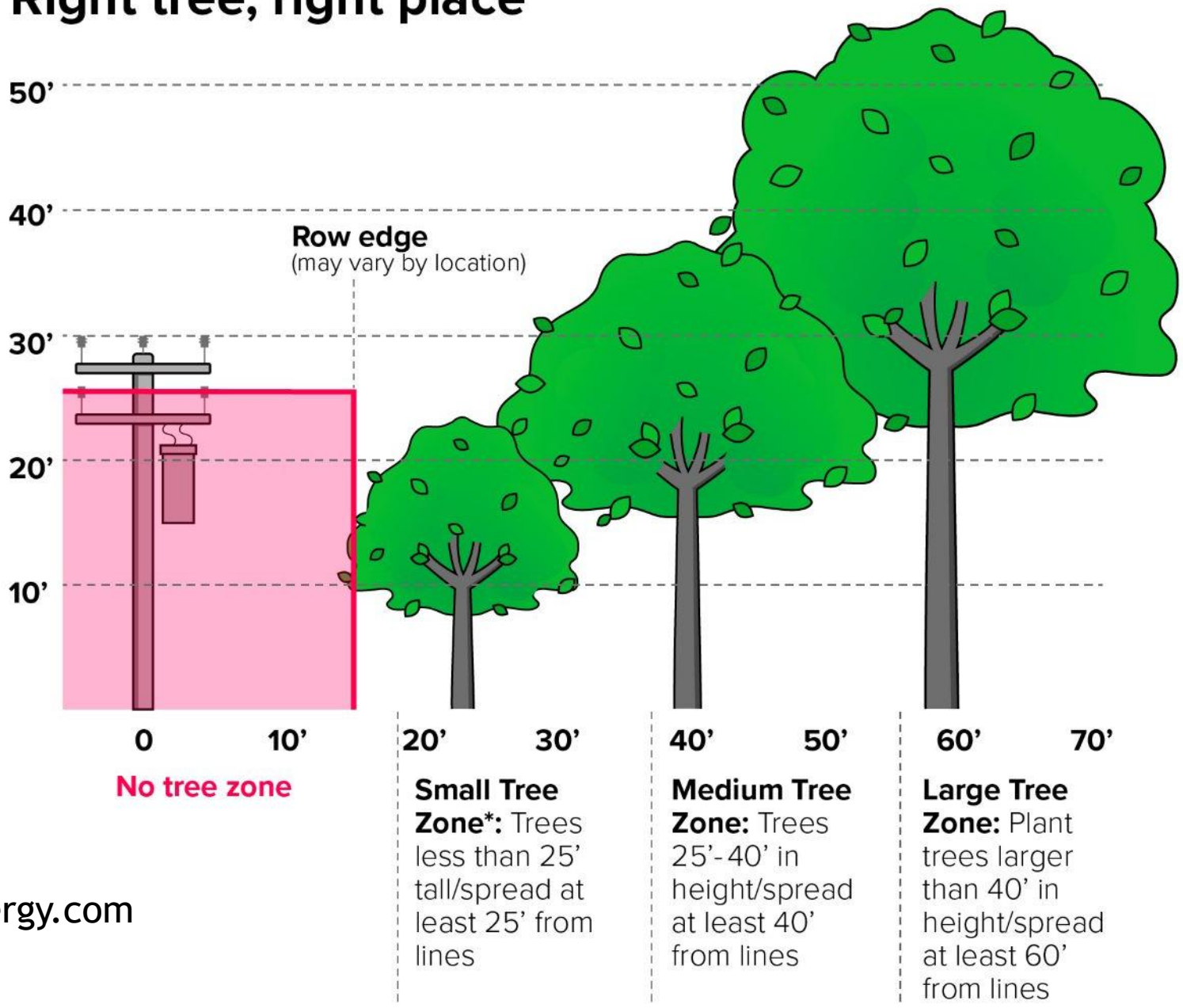
# Things to Avoid when Planting a Tree

- Overhead Utility lines




www.nationalgridus.com

# Right tree, right place




www.Entergy.com

*Even small trees planted in the small tree zone that grow past the row edge are subject to being trimmed

# Right Tree Right Place Principles



When a tree needs pruning,
as an uncertified utility arborist,
**you cannot work** within 10’
of any of these lines.  Why?



OSHA treats that distance as the minimum safe clearance needed to prevent electrocution, even if you never physically touch the line. **The danger comes from electrical arcing** — electricity can jump through the air and hit you, your tools, or your equipment.

NorthWestern Energy and other utility companies in Montana will come and disconnect and reconnect your service line to the home **for free** if you need to work on trees in your yard that are within the 10’ no-work area.

Large trees on the east and west sides provide shade that can lower cooling costs by 10 percent.

Small evergreens are useful as privacy screens. All trees serve as habitat for songbirds and wildlife.




Plant shrubs or small trees, such as dwarf fruit trees or small flowering trees, under power lines to avoid conflicts.

Large street trees improve curb appeal, increasing real estate values by 5 percent to 20 percent, as well as providing shade and cooling paved surfaces.

www.pinterest.com

# Right Tree Right Place Principles

## *SIZE AND LOCATION-Tree Ordinances*

*-No tree branch should hang lower than **14 feet over roadway***

*-No tree branch should hang lower than **8 feet over sidewalk***

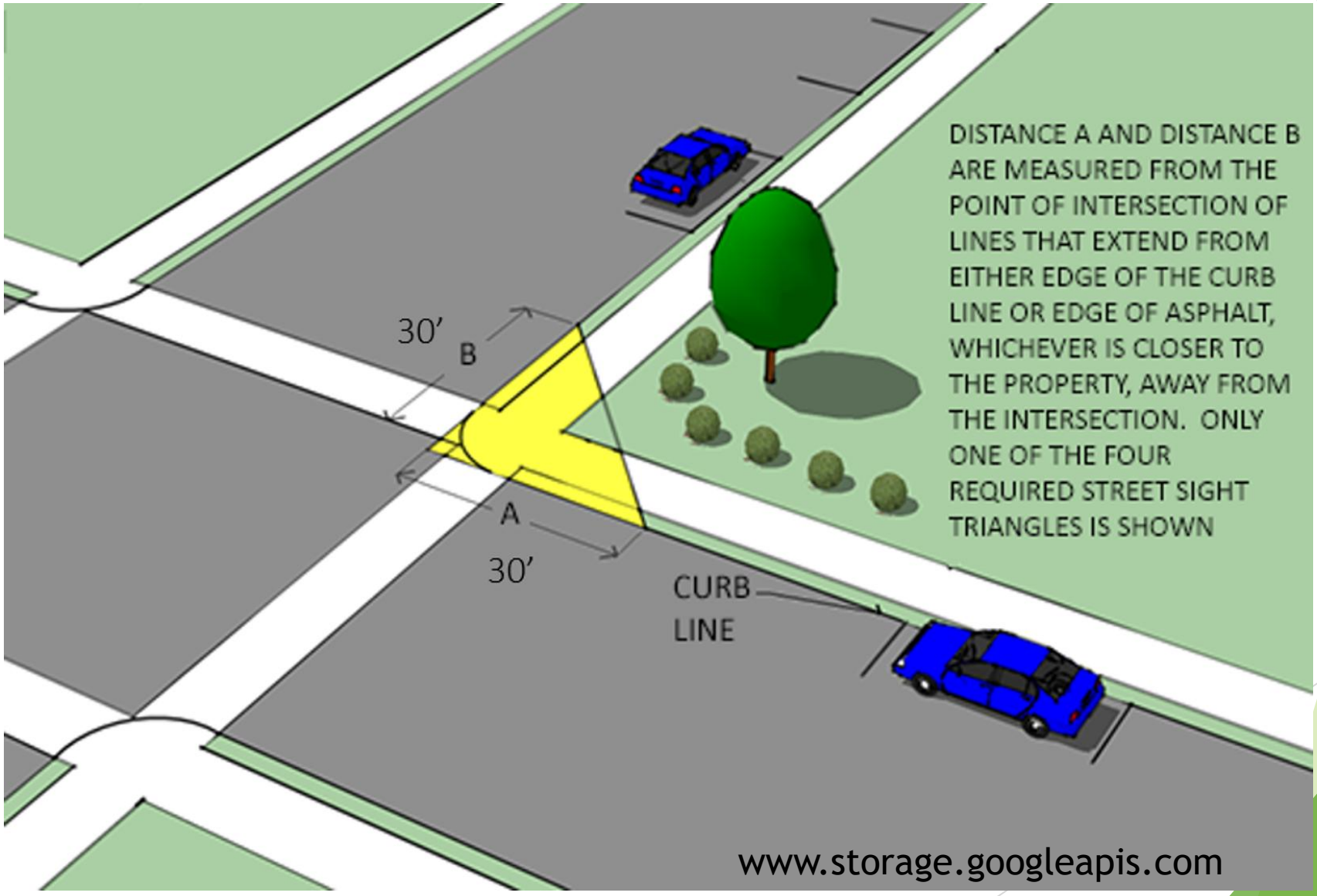
*-All trees, bushes, shrubs, and other types of foliage shall not obstruct the visual sight of street signs or the illumination of streetlights*

*-trees planted **>35' from corners***



# Things to Avoid when Planting a Tree

## -Visibility triangles



# Things to Avoid when Planting a Tree

- Underground utilities

  -These facilities provide heat, lights, sewer, water, communications and other services

- **Before you dig, call**
- **Mark the planting site in white**
- **When marked look for Paint, whiskers or flags**

https://gopherstateonecall.org/

# Things to Avoid when Planting a Tree

- Underground utilities –look for clues
  - -Paint, whiskers or flags
  - -Meters and mounted utility boxes
  - -Signs
  - -Manhole covers
  - -Other utility covers
  - -Storm drains
  - -Pedestals, posts and bollards
  - -Transformers and mounted utility boxes
  - -Hydrants, shut-off valves, and standpipes
  - -Traffic signals and streetlights
  - -“Candy cane” pipes





https://gopherstateonecall.org/







# Things to Avoid when Planting a Tree

- Underground utilities including water lines





https://gopherstateonecall.org/

## Color Code for Marking Underground Utilities

| | |
|---|---|
| WHITE | Area of Proposed Excavation |
| PINK | Temporary Survey Markings |
| RED | Electric |
| YELLOW | Gas, Oil, Steam, Propane |
| ORANGE | Communication, CATV, Fiber |
| BLUE | Water |
| PURPLE | Reclaimed Water, Irrigation |
| GREEN | Sewer |

# Things to Avoid when Planting a Tree

- Underground utilities
- How far do I need to stay away?

## Gas and Propane Lines

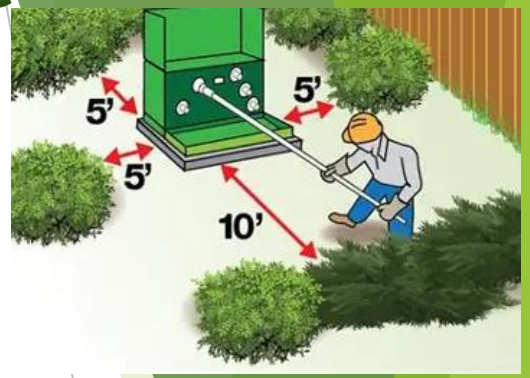
Plant at least 10-25 feet away from the flag markers that indicate underground gas lines. This is critical because gas leaks from root damage can cause fire or explosion hazards.

**My observation: This is never done!**

NorthWestern Energy.com  gardenfly.com

# Things to Avoid when Planting a Tree

- Underground utilities
- How far do I need to stay away?




## Green Utility Boxes in Utility Easements

Most utilities recommend keeping at least 3-5 feet from the front and sides of a green utility box, and 5-10 feet from the entrance, to ensure safe access for maintenance crews

Don't plant in the utility easement.

**My observation: This is often not done!**

Gardenfly.com

# Things to Avoid when Planting a Tree

- Underground utilities
- How far do I need to stay away?

**Other Underground Utilities (water, sewer, telecom, internet)**

While not as dangerous as gas, roots can still damage these lines. A safe practice is 2–3 feet clearance from the marked conduit, plus avoiding the direct path of the line.

**-In Townsend, the City wants me to plant 5-10 feet from water shut off valves.**

https://ask.extension.org/

# Things to Avoid when Planting a Tree

- Underground utilities
- How far do I need to stay away?

**Septic systems, including tanks and drain fields**

A general rule is to plant trees at least as far from the drainfield as the tree's mature height — minimum 20 ft for small trees, 50 ft+ for large or aggressive species

**My observation: Seldom done to that extent**

# Things to Avoid when Planting a Tree

- Underground utilities
- How far do I need to stay away?

## Irrigation Lines and Heads?

Irrigation lines, like other buried utilities, can be damaged by roots seeking moisture. Damage can cause leaks, blockages, and costly repairs. Even though irrigation lines are often private and not marked by 811, they still require careful planning.

**My observation: 3’ from lines 5’ from heads**

plantopiahub.com and Treeland Nursery

# Things to Avoid when Planting a Tree

- Signs
- When trees grow up they can block critical traffic signs



# Right Tree Right Place Principles

## *SIZE AND LOCATION*

***Colorado blue spruce right of sidewalk. Maximum size 60' tall and 30' wide. Already being pruned to access sidewalk. Should be removed sooner than later to save money or pruned 8' high!***



# Right Tree Right Place Principles

## *SIZE AND LOCATION*





***Colorado blue spruce between 2 driveways. Maximum size 60' tall and 30' wide. Should have planted Columnar blue spruce. Max size 35' tall and 8' wide.***

# Things to Know when Planting Trees

- **Ultimate size**

Colorado Blue Spruce
Morton Arboretum:
Mature height 30-60’
Mature width 10-20’
Cashman Nursery:
50’T x 20’W
I have seen many trees >60’ tall and >30’ wide including this one in my yard!
33’ wide! 39” dbh



# Things to Avoid when Planting a Tree

## -Planting the Wrong Tree

Example 60” DBH
White Poplar in
7’ wide boulevard.
All cottonwoods are not suited for boulevard plantings-better for parks and shelterbelts.
All have underground stems which grow everywhere.



# Things to Avoid when Planting a Tree

## -Planting the Wrong Tree

Example: American elm

In 4’ wide boulevard.

Elms get 60-80’ tall,

up to 5’ in diameter

at breast height (DBH),

so are not suited for

narrow boulevard

plantings.



# Things to Know when Planting a Tree

- **Ultimate size**

Wichita Blue Juniper-
Canyon Creek Nursery:
18’ T x 6’ W
Monrovia: 10-15’ T x 4-6’W

Better choice?
Medora Juniper
10-12’ T x 2-4” W
-probably still won’t fit



Wichita blue junipers in Townsend -close to 20’ tall and over 15’ wide!



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# More Wichita Blue junipers in Townsend- “they were so pretty when they were small”



# Things to Know when Planting a Tree

- **Ultimate size**

Spring Snow Crabapples
Missouri Botanical Garden
25’ T x 15-20’ W
Cashman Nursery
25’T x 15” W

21 yr old trees in front of Broadwater County Courthouse 18” dbh
30+’T x 25’W



# Landscape Design

***People do not keep trees and shrubs pruned-so they outgrow beds-like these Pfitzer junipers – National Gardening Assn. 5'-7' ft tall x 8'-10' wide. Compact varieties available! Cheaper to rip out and replant !***



# Landscape Design




Firewise Landscaping: The Basics | Forestry | USU

# Things to Know when Planting a Tree- Insurance Problems



# Landscape Design

*This 4-6' wide foundation bed installed by a landscape pro is not wide enough*

*– 'Wichita Blue' Juniper 10-15' tall; 8-10' wide. Major pruning needed; won't look good.*

*-'Hot Wings' Tatarian maple, multistem, 15-25' tall; 13-15' wide: height selection is fine, stems already against siding; major pruning needed to keep it in place.*



# Things to Know when Planting a Tree- Selecting Adapted Species, Ecotype, or Cultivar

-Aspens

-Limber pine

-Paper birch

-DED American Elm



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# Things to Know when Planting a Tree- Desirable Species

| Boulevard Friendly |
| --- |
| ‘Sucker Punch’ and Amur Chokecherry |
| American Elm (DED resistant cultivars) (in boulevards five feet wide and wider) |
| Hackberry |
| Lindens |
| Japanese Lilac Tree |
| Accolade Elm |
| Honey Locust |
| Norway maple cultivars (Helena, Debra, and Emerald Lustre) |
| Sensation Boxelder |
| Kentucky Coffeetree |
| Tatarian Maple |
| Winterberry Euonymus |
| American Yellowwood |

# Things to Know when Planting a Tree- Desirable Species

| Parks Friendly |
| --- |
| Ohio Buckeye |
| Burr Oak and other hybrids |
| Horse Chestnut |
| Crabapples (fireblight resistant) |
| Small spruces: Columnar Blue Spruce |
| Douglas Fir |
| Large Pines: Ponderosa, Austrian, and Scotch |
| Large Spruces: Colorado Blue, Black Hills, Engelmann, or White |
| Black Walnut |
| Hawthorn |
| Plum |
| Paper Birch |
| Catalpa |
| Wichita Blue, Medora, and other upright Junipers |
| Apple |
| Small Pines: Tanenbaum Mugo Pine |

# Things to Know when Planting a Tree- Undesirable Species

| Undesirable Species |
| --- |
| Green ash and other EAB susceptible species of ash |
| Cottonwood/ Poplars |
| Russian Olive |
| Willow species |
| |
| Siberian Elm |
| Boxelder female |
| Silver Maple |