



October 26, 2022

Town of Stratham
10 Bunker Hill Ave
Stratham, NH 03885

Dear Officials,

This letter is part of a proactive effort to reach out to town and state officials within Unitil service territory about planting the right tree in the right place. Enclosed is a suggested list of small trees and shrubs recommended for planting under power lines. Most of the recommended plants do not exceed 20' in height at maturity and the ones that do exceed 20' can be managed with infrequent pruning.

We hope that commercial and residential customers will consider where power lines are located on properties and plan landscaping designs accordingly. It is not uncommon to find trees that grow to excessive heights at maturity planted directly under power lines following construction. While they are not immediate hazards at the time of planting, these trees eventually become perpetual maintenance issues, potential safety concerns, and occasionally issues of public relations.

Our hope is to increase awareness of the problem and to plan ahead. By planting the right tree in the right place we can avoid future tree conflicts with wires and allow for the unimpeded growth, health, and beauty of a tree that is appropriate for the site.

More information about our Forestry Department can be found at <https://unitil.com/safety-preparedness/tree-pruning>.

Sincerely,

Christopher Moultroup
Manager- Forestry Operations



Recommended Small Trees/Shrubs for Planting Under Overhead Utility Lines

Selections Recommended for USDA Planting Zones 5 or Below

Suitable to be planted under Utility lines (generally do not exceed 20' in mature height or may need infrequent crown reduction)

*for more information, please visit the Morton Arboretum and/or Arbor Day Foundation websites

Common Name	Scientific Name	Zone	Mature Height	Mature Spread	Comments	Native	Shade Tolerance	Salt Tolerance
Deciduous Trees/Shrubs								
Arowood Viburnum	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	3	6-10'	6-12'	Valued for its durability and utility in the landscape. Ornamental features include white, flat-topped flowers in late spring, pink-blue fruits in September, and wine-red fall color. The native shrub makes a great screen, informal hedge, and is useful in groupings and masses, or as filler in the border.	Native	full sun, partial sun/shade	Tolerant
Sergents Crabapple	<i>Malus sargentii</i>	4	6-10'	6-12'	In spring, pink buds open to a profusion of fragrant, white flower clusters. The persistent, 1.5-inch red fruits attractive birds and other wildlife. The foliage is dark green, turns yellow in the fall, and contrasts nicely with the red fruit. An excellent choice for the shrub border, in mass, or near patios.		full sun	
Common Lilac	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	3	8-12'	6-10'	Old-fashioned, long-lived, and well-loved lilac best known for its fragrant flowers. It is extremely hardy and thrives with little care which make it a lovely shrub for a specimen planting, in masses, screens, hedges, or mixed in shrub borders. The May blooming flowers are typically purple to lilac but cultivars also come in magenta, pink and white.		full sun	Tolerant
Rose-of-Sharon	<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>	5	8-12'	6-10'	Upright, narrow shrub or small tree valued for its mid-summer to late season prolific blooms. A wide range of flower colors vary by cultivar. Plants are late to leaf out in the spring.		full sun, partial sun/shade	Tolerant
Shadblow Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	3	10-20'	10-20'	Large deciduous shrub or small tree, with many colony-forming erect stems is often found growing in swampy, wet sites in eastern North America. In yards and landscapes in the Midwest, Canada serviceberry is best suited for wet sites. It has white blooms in early spring followed by oval green leaves and edible red fruit, attractive to birds, in mid to late summer. The fall color is orange-red.	Native	full sun, partial sun/shade	Tolerant
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	4	8-10'	6-8'	Yellow flowers in spring followed by ornamental red berries. Foliage has a spicy fragrance.	Native	full sun, partial sun/shade	
Kwanzan Cherry	<i>Prunus serrulata 'Kwanzan'</i>	5	15-20'	15-20'	The most widely available cultivar. It has dark, pink, double flowers and produces them in great abundance. Good fall color.		full sun	Tolerant
Star Magnolia	<i>Magnolia stellata</i>	4	15-20'	10-15'	Small, compact ornamental tree grown for its early spring flowers. Opening in early spring before the leaves unfold, the flowers are clusters of white petals sometimes touched with pink. Star magnolia is best planted in a sheltered location such as near a patio, an entryway, or in a shrub border.		full sun, partial sun/shade	Intolerant
Common Witchhazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	3	15-25'	15-20'	The yellow, strap-like flowers of this native shrub are among the last blooms to appear in fall, but are often hidden by the leaves. Common witchhazel is a large shrub with a picturesque irregular branching habit that naturally grows along woodland edges. The large, rounded, dark green leaves often hang onto the winter branches. The fruit capsules mature a year after flowering, splitting open to expel seeds that are attractive to birds. Tolerant of road salt and clay soil, this is a great specimen plant, or for naturalized landscape.	Native	full sun, partial shade/shade, full shade	Tolerant
Japanese Maple	<i>Acer palmatum</i>	5	15-25'	15-35'	Varying in size from large shrub to small tree, Japanese maple is a species with many variations. Many cultivars are available with different characteristics such as finely dissected leaves and weeping branches.		partial sun/shade	Intolerant
Paperbark Maple	<i>Acer griseum</i>	5	20-30'	10-30'	This attractive small- to medium-sized ornamental tree is excellent for a small area or for adding structure to a mixed perennial garden. Paper-barked maple is a great plant for four seasons: Winter and spring are highlighted with cinnamon-colored, exfoliating bark that is accentuated by light snow, while summer brings delicate leaves with a bluish cast that can turn bronze in fall. Fall color is not consistent from year to year.		full sun, partial sun/shade	Moderately tolerant
Kousa Dogwood	<i>Cornus kousa</i>	4	20-30'	20-30'	Excellent small specimen tree. Two outstanding characteristics are the four-petaled, white flowers that appear above the foliage in June and reddish-purple fall color.		full sun, partial sun/shade	Intolerant
American Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	4	20-30'	25-35'	In April and May, many neighborhoods are brightened by the purplish-pink flowers lining the dark branches of redbuds before their leaves open. Evolved in the understorey and along wood edges of forests, it works especially well among evergreens that contrast with its color and shelter it from intense sunlight.	Native	full sun, partial sun/shade	Intolerant
Washington Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i>	3	25-30'	20-25'	Washington hawthorn is one of the commonly planted hawthorn species. It has the typical white flowers, followed by red fruit that persist into winter.	Native	full sun, partial sun/shade	Intolerant
Evergreen Trees/Shrubs								
Common Boxwood	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	5	3-4'	3-4'	Broadly rounded evergreen shrub or small tree. Native to Europe, Asia and Africa found in open woodlands and rocky hillsides. A popular ornamental evergreen used as hedges, borders and topiary.		full sun, partial shade/shade, full shade	Tolerant
Dwarf Alberta Spruce	<i>Picea glauca 'Conica'</i>	2	6-8'	4-5'	This popular garden conifer is native to Canada and the northwestern United States. Good for small spaces.	Native	full sun, partial sun/shade	Intolerant
Catawba Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron catawbiense</i>	4	6-10'	6-10'	A large-leaved, evergreen shrub reaching 6 to 10 feet high with large, lilac-purple flowers borne in clusters (russes) in mid-to late spring. Excellent for shade gardens or in a sheltered site.	Native	partial sun/shade, full shade	
Meserve Holly	<i>Ilex x meserveae</i>	5	6-10'	varies by cultivar	The Meserve hollies are hybrids that do well in northern climates. Dark, lustrous blue-green leaves are evergreen and spiny. Like all hollies, there are separate male and female plants and both must be planted for the female plant to produce the showy fruit.		full sun, partial sun/shade	
Mountain Laurel	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	4	7-15'	7-15'	This broadleaf evergreen bears attractive pink to deep rose flowers beginning in May or June. This shrub is considered both an evergreen shrub and a flowering shrub. It keeps its foliage year-round and blooms in a profusion of spring flowers.	Native	full sun, partial sun/shade	
Bosnian Pine	<i>Pinus leucodermis, P. Helveticii</i>	4	6-12'	6-8'	Compact form develops into a broad pyramid at maturity. Their spread is usually less than half their height, ideal for use as a specimen or for screening.		full sun	Tolerant
Emerald Arborvitae	<i>Thuja occidentalis 'Emerald Green'</i>	3	10-15'	3-4'	An extremely common evergreen tree or shrub, used often as a specimen, in hedges, or for privacy.	Native	full sun, partial sun/shade	Tolerant
Mugo Pine	<i>Pinus mugo</i>	3	5-20'	5-20'	Mugo pine is a small to large-sized, strubby pine adapted for the home landscape. Plants vary in height, texture, and year-round color. Needles remain on plant for up to 5 years.		full sun, partial sun/shade	