

An illustration of two wooden utility poles connected by two black power lines. The background is a solid teal color. The ground is a light green color. There are some stylized green bushes on the left and right sides. The title is centered at the top in white text.

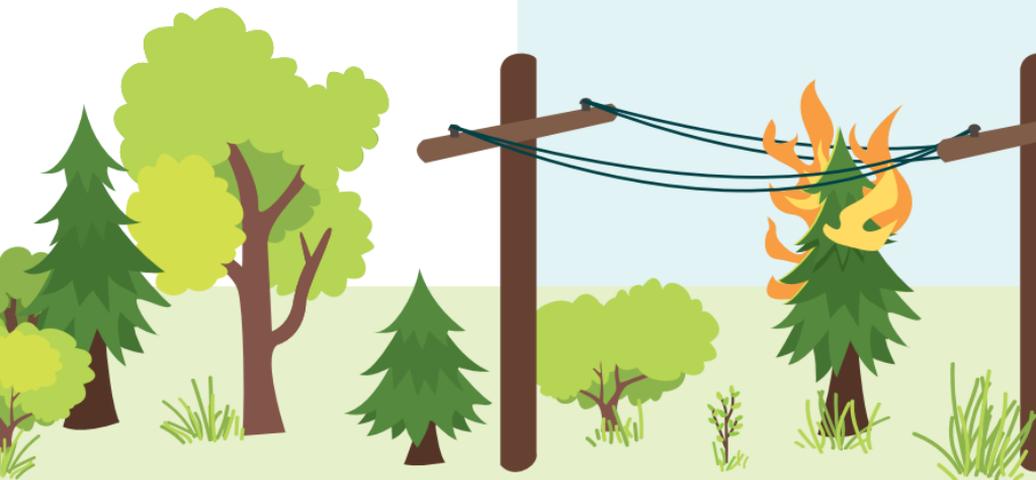
*Keeping power lines clear of trees for **safe** and **reliable** power*

- A right-of-way around power lines which is clear of trees helps ensure public safety, prevents power outages and protects the reliability of electricity supply.
- In case of a forest fire, a right-of-way which is clear of trees acts as a firebreak, protecting property, critical infrastructure, forest, and the power line.
- A right-of-way which is clear of trees allows emergency teams to quickly access and restore the lines in case of power failure.

Keeping power lines clear of trees and branches means safe and reliable power

While a beautiful part of our landscape, trees and power lines don't mix. Trees can grow into electrical equipment or fall across power lines interrupting energy supply to homes, schools, businesses and hospitals.

Along with the risk of wide-spread power outages, trees contacting or coming close to power lines can cause fatalities or serious injuries, start fires (including forest fires), and can damage homes and property. To prevent these hazards, the areas around power lines are kept clear of tall growing trees.



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During construction of a power line, heavy equipment is used to clear trees. Once constructed, in order to maintain reliable service, Manitoba Hydro carefully manages removal and trimming of trees along 90,000 km of power lines, called rights-of-way.

The goal is to eliminate only the tall growing trees that interfere with the safe operation of power lines. Manitoba Hydro uses integrated vegetation management to create stable, low-growing plant communities by selecting the appropriate plant control method for each area. These methods include manual cutting, mechanical mowing/mulching, and herbicide applications.

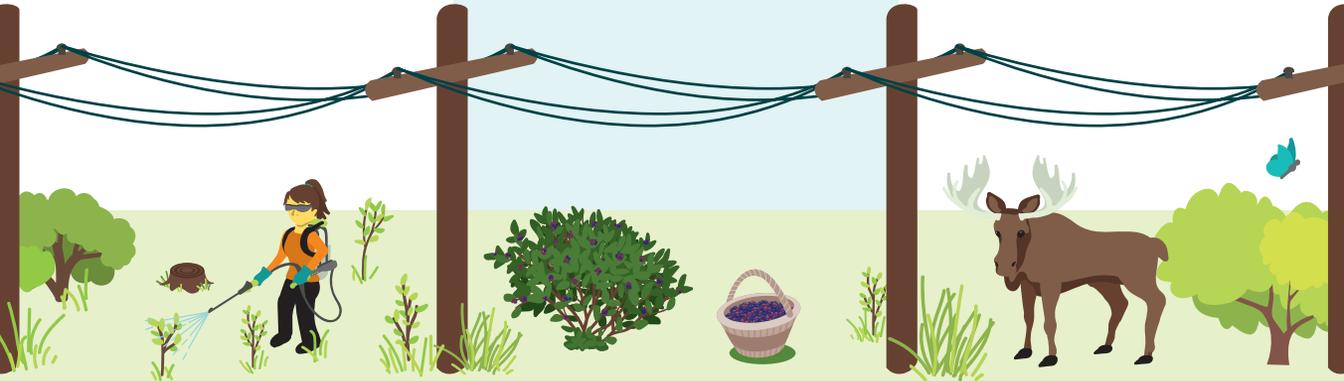


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Herbicides used by Manitoba Hydro are approved by Health Canada to target specific vegetation without damaging the environment or posing a risk to human health. Because herbicides can target trees when they are small, it prevents the greater physical disruption of clearing larger trees with heavy machinery. Herbicides are not used in wetlands or to clear forest for new construction.

Plants growing under or beside power lines may be important to communities for food, medicinal, spiritual, cultural, and recreational reasons. Manitoba Hydro has heard concerns about herbicide usage in these areas. In most cases, vegetation management can be adjusted to address concerns for specific areas.

Unlike mowing, which promotes the rapid spread of tall, suckering tree species, long-term studies have shown that selective use of herbicides to target these trees promotes low growing shrubs, grasses, and other groundcover. These low growing plants are beneficial for wildlife like birds, moose, small animals, bees, and butterflies.





If you have any questions about our
vegetation management program,
please contact Manitoba Hydro
in Winnipeg: **204-480-5900**
or toll-free: **1-888-624-9376**.

