

# VEGETATION MANAGEMENT:

## Why it matters to you

**B**efore you visit the nursery or local Farmers Co-op to buy trees, you probably researched what would look best, grow fast and work in your soil. Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative also urges you to think about how planting it in the wrong location can affect the electricity in your neighborhood.

Say what? If tree limbs grow into power lines, your safety, power and money are on the line. This is why MLEC adheres to a proactive vegetation management program.

### KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON

ONE IN FOUR POWER OUTAGES IS CAUSED BY TREES AND VEGETATION. THE NUMBER INCREASES WHEN YOU FACTOR IN STORMS. MAINTAINING A 40-FOOT RIGHT-OF-WAY (20 FEET ON EACH SIDE OF THE POWER LINE) HELPS THAT NUMBER DECREASE SUBSTANTIALLY.



### THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT MLEC'S VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM:

- By keeping trees and power equipment a safe distance from each other, MLEC is able to ensure safe, affordable, reliable power.
- It is one of our largest — but most necessary — expenses.
- Our trimming practices are in accordance with guidelines and standards for good tree health recommended by the International Society of Arboriculture and the National Arbor Day Foundation.
- Sprays utilized by MLEC contractors are registered with the Environmental Protection Agency and administered by licensed applicators. (If you have a concern, please contact your local MLEC office.)
- Local media and our online platforms are used to notify residents when we will be working in their area.

Let's communicate and work together. To learn more about MLEC's vegetation management program, visit [www.mlec.com](http://www.mlec.com) or email us at [power@mlec.com](mailto:power@mlec.com).