

Why does Progress Energy Florida remove trees?

Growth is part of the landscape in Florida. Just as we need to build new roads and schools to stay ahead of growth, we also must plan to ensure the electric system we depend on is as reliable tomorrow as it is today. Florida's growing energy demands are driving the need for new transmission lines to ensure a continuous, reliable supply of electricity for the region and the state.

- No one – not property owners nor Progress Energy Florida – enjoys removing trees. Our priority is to strike a balance between the natural beauty of Florida and our state- and federally-mandated responsibility to provide safe, reliable electricity to the more than 1.6 million homes and businesses that depend on us 24 hours a day.
- Well-maintained rights of way help speed storm restoration. They allow easier access for personnel and vehicles during hurricanes or other storms. By maintaining access to our equipment, we can get our customers' power restored more efficiently and safely.
- Trees are a leading cause of power outages. Pruning and clearing help prevent outages. Electricity is too important for our customers to risk service interruptions or problems with power quality due to interference from trees or other plants.
- Progress Energy Florida has been recognized as a Tree Line USA utility since 2006 by The National Arbor Day Foundation. The Tree Line USA designation acknowledges the effectiveness of the company's comprehensive vegetation-management program that respects the environment while managing our electric business.
- Progress Energy Florida typically purchases easements from property owners for our transmission lines to keep the rights of way clear, to ensure our crews can work safely and our equipment is protected.
 - The easements allow us to mow, prune or remove plants and trees that may interfere with our ability to deliver safe, reliable power.
 - Easements allow crews to perform maintenance and restoration of transmission equipment, and they allow Progress Energy to build new equipment to meet the future energy demands of the state.
 - Even when property changes hands, Progress Energy continues to maintain the transmission easements.
- Sometimes public and private entities plant trees in the easements that impede our ability to use these critical assets. Trees that reach a height of 12 feet or more at maturity are not allowed in transmission rights of way, which complies with state law.
- Progress Energy uses a technique called "directional pruning," which helps maintain the health of a tree. This technique was developed by the National Arborist Association, approved by the American National Standard Institute (ANSI), and adopted by the utility industry as its standard. It is endorsed and promoted by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the International Society of Arboriculture.
- In some cases, low-growing shrubs, bushes, hedges, flowers, grasses or other vegetation may be planted within Progress Energy Florida rights of way if they do not interfere with the company's access or maintenance requirements. **Before you plant landscaping, consult with a Progress Energy forester for specific recommendations by calling 800-700-8744.**
- Trees may be planted outside Progress Energy's rights of way, but trees that grow to a height that can endanger the transmission line will be removed or pruned.

A Progress Energy Florida transmission forester can answer additional questions you may have. Call (800) 700-8744 to request a transmission forester to contact you. You can also find more information online at www.progress-energy.com/plantsmart.