



# UNDERSTANDING VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Protecting your community while providing safe, reliable power is our highest priority. To ensure the safe operation and maintenance of our transmission facilities, AltaLink has a long-term vegetation management plan for the areas on and adjacent to our [rights-of-way](#).

## MINIMIZING FIRE RISK WHILE KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON

We have a responsibility to properly manage our rights-of-way to minimize the risk of fires. We have worked with experts at Alberta Wildfire to identify areas within our service territory that are at a high risk of fire. These areas are a priority for us to monitor and manage vegetation growth, and we take proactive measures to reduce the risk of fire.

Proper management of our rights-of-way reduces the risk of power outages so your lights stay on. A tree making contact with a line can lead to an interruption in power for entire communities. Keeping the lines clear means keeping the lights on.

## VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND EASEMENTS

Vegetation management near our transmission lines includes removing or trimming [danger trees](#), [hazard trees](#), shrubs or undergrowth along the rights-of-way and [Vegetation Control Easements \(VCE\)](#).

AltaLink will not remove vegetation located on private property beyond the right-of-way boundary without the approval of the landowner.

We will contact affected landowners to discuss if a right-of-way or easement is required and discuss which trees may need to be trimmed or removed. AltaLink offers fair market value for any land that it acquires for its rights-of-way on private property. This will be discussed on an individual basis.

## WHAT YOU MAY SEE OR HEAR

Surveying crews will stake, paint or flag boundaries of the VCE and right-of-way to identify potential trees for removal. These markings are meant to provide a visual representation of planned vegetation management for the area. The final decision will be determined after a field verification is completed by our crews.

Depending on where you are in relation to an AltaLink transmission line during activities, you may hear noise and see crews, signs and machinery such as mulching tractors, logging equipment or saws. Occasionally, vegetation debris may be safely burned in a controlled setting, so you may see or smell smoke. We will notify your community ahead of time before this type of work takes place.

## DEFINITIONS

**Right-of-way:** A right-of-way (ROW) is a strip of land required for the construction, maintenance and safe operation of a transmission line. A ROW refers to the physical space in which a transmission line is located and includes areas on either side of the transmission line structures and the conductors, which are the wires that carry the electricity.

**Danger trees:** A danger tree is a healthy tree that is tall enough to have the potential to fall and make contact or flashover with the line.

**Hazard trees:** A hazard tree is a defective tree that is an imminent risk of falling or flashover on the line.

**Vegetation Control Easement (VCE):** A Vegetation Control Easement (VCE) is a strip of land on Crown land along the edge of right-of-way that allows AltaLink to remove danger trees and hazard trees.

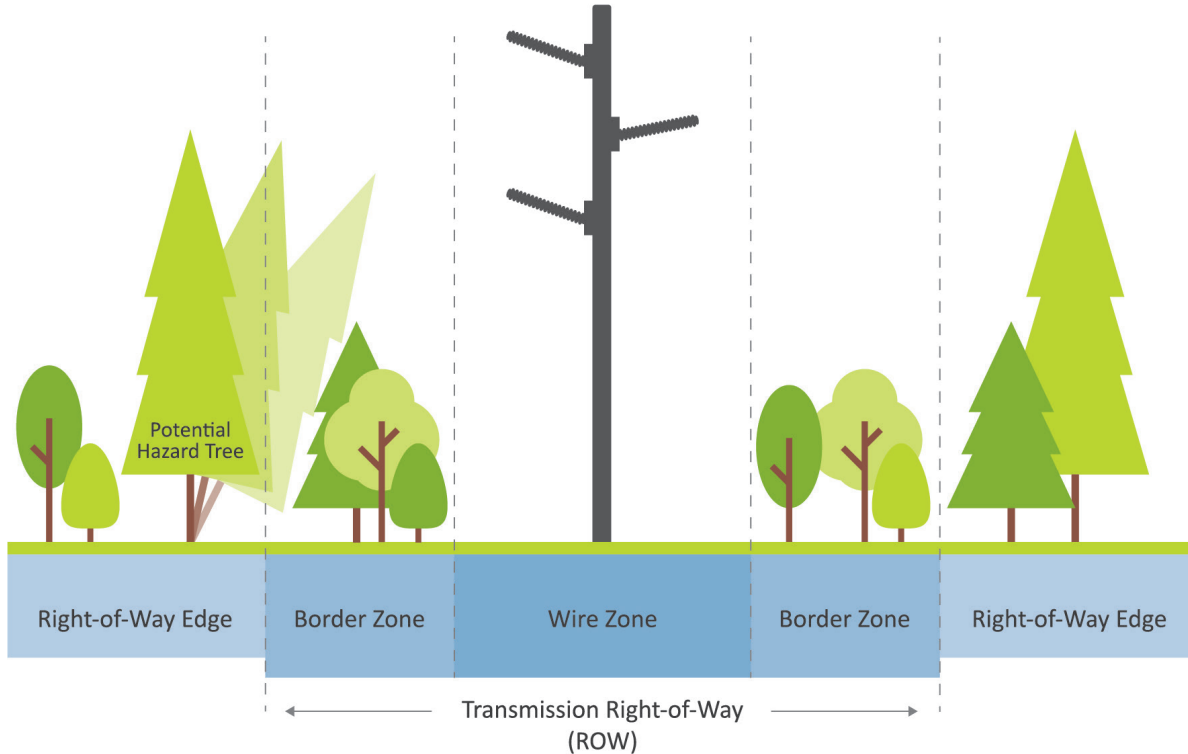
## COMPATIBLE AND NON-COMPATIBLE VEGETATION SPECIES

AltaLink has identified types of trees, shrubs and other plants that are safe to grow near our transmission lines (compatible) and those that are potentially dangerous to grow near our transmission lines (non-compatible).

This is not a complete list, but is meant to generally illustrate the types of vegetation that are safe to be in or near our rights-of-way. Due to factors such as structure height, transmission line voltage, and width of right-of-way, safe heights for vegetation near transmission lines is determined on a case-by-case basis.

### Compatible species

Wire zone		Border zone		Right-of-way edge
Beaked hazelnut	Mugo pine	Beaked hazelnut	Low bush cranberry	Black spruce
Buckbrush	Shrubby cinquefoil	Black spruce	Mugo pine	Chokecherry
Buffalo berry	Swamp/bog birch	Buckbrush	Shrubby cinquefoil	Pin cherry
Common blueberry	Wild gooseberry	Buffalo berry	Swamp/bog birch	Saskatoon
Dogwood	Wild raspberry	Common blueberry	Wild gooseberry	
Honeysuckle	Wild rhubarb	Dogwood	Wild raspberry	
Labrador tea	Wild rose	Honeysuckle	Wild rhubarb	
Low bush cranberry		Labrador tea	Wild rose	



### Non-compatible species

Deciduous trees		Coniferous trees	Other plants
Poplar	Ash	Spruce	Prohibited noxious weeds
Birch	Elm	Pine	Noxious weeds
Alder	Willow*	Tamarack	Invasive plants
Maple		Douglas fir	

\* Some varieties of willow, such as laurel leaf willow, are non-compatible for AltaLink's transmission lines due to factors including how quickly they grow. Other varieties, such as wolf willow, may be considered compatible in specific areas. Willows are assessed on a case-by-case basis to ensure safety.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about vegetation management at AltaLink, please contact us at:

Phone: 1-877-380-0303

Email: [Landowner.Advocate@AltaLink.ca](mailto:Landowner.Advocate@AltaLink.ca)