

Things To Know Before You Plant

April 24 is Arbor Day in Texas. We at Lamar Electric Cooperative encourage you to plant a tree—or an entire grove. Trees add beauty to your yard, help clean the air and provide welcome shade in the summer.

If you decide to celebrate the day by planting a tree, make sure you keep a few things in mind:

- Think about the mature height of the tree. That sapling you are putting in the ground today will become taller and broader before you know it. Make sure its limbs, trunk or roots will not interfere with roofs or damage foundations.

- Look up before you plant. If you see electric lines overhead, think about another planting spot. Trees that grow close to power lines can lead to outages and line loss, which costs your co-op—and you by extension—money.



- Remember to allow for at least 10 feet of clearance around power lines.

- Call before you dig. Don't stick a shovel into the ground until you dial 811, the national clearinghouse for underground utility lines. Even a simple digging job such as tree planting can damage utility lines, disrupt vital

services to an entire neighborhood or cause injuries. Not to mention, if your digging damages underground utility lines, it could result in expensive fines and repair costs that you would have to bear. There is no charge for the 811 service.

- Plant deciduous trees (ones that lose their leaves in the fall) on the south and west sides of your home. That will let in the winter sunlight that helps warm your house on cold days and block the sun in the summer that can make your cooling system work overtime.

- If you have a mature tree that has grown too close to power lines, don't try to trim it yourself. Please call us at (903) 784-4303 and let us know. Our tree experts know how to work safely around electric lines, and they have the specialized equipment that will help keep them safe.

Cool Your Home from the Top Down

While the weather is still cool, make a change that will save you some money this summer.

A secret for keeping your house cooler this summer—and preventing your air conditioner from working harder than it has to—is to cool off your attic.

With the sun beating down on your roof all day, the temperature in the attic can reach 150 degrees or higher when it's pushing 100 degrees outdoors—far hotter than inside the rest of your home. A super-hot attic can make the rest of your home feel hotter, too, and force your air conditioner to run longer and harder.

It would be a waste of money to air-condition an empty attic. Instead,

reduce the temperature upstairs by installing an exhaust fan that's controlled by a thermostat. It will help push the hot air out.

The thermostat signals the fan to switch on when the attic reaches a set temperature. The fan works with your attic's vents to increase circulation. Once the attic cools, the fan stops.

The thermostat is key to saving energy. If you don't already have an attic exhaust fan, the investment is worth it. You can save up to 30 percent on your cooling bills by reducing the heat in your attic.

For the fan to do the best job, your attic should have soffit vents at the base of the attic overhang to draw air up from the outside and not from

inside the house. If your attic does not have an overhang, the vents should be located on an opposite wall (or gable) from the fan.

If you have the money for a more major investment, consider adding insulation to the attic floor or having a radiant barrier system installed. The radiant barriers deflect solar energy before it has a chance to heat up the attic space, resulting in dramatic savings.

The downside of this option is the initial expense. However, a portion of that cost can be recovered via a federal tax credit. In addition, the energy savings should quickly add up so that the system pays for itself in a matter of months.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

LAMAR ELECTRIC CO-OP ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, May 9

Look for details in the next issue.



LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1485 North Main St.
P.O. Box 580 • Paris, TX 75461
Phone (903) 784-4303

For general information and outages after hours, call (903) 784-4303 local or 1-800-782-9010 toll-free

Operating in Lamar, Red River, Delta and Fannin counties

Find us on the web at www.lamarelectric.coop

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YOUR "LOCAL PAGES"

This section of *Texas Co-op Power* magazine is produced by LEC each month to provide you with information about current events, safety, special programs and other activities of the cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the local office.

MEMBER BENEFITS:

- Level billing
- Automated meter reading
- Free bank draft service
- Visa, Discover and MasterCard accepted

Spring Has Sprung

Warmer Weather Ushers in Storm Season

Spring storms in Texas often pack a wicked punch and can leave your house without electricity. Are you prepared?

Here are some things to keep in mind:

- Keep these numbers handy: (903) 784-4303 or 1-800-782-9010. They are Lamar Electric Cooperative's outage numbers. If the lights go off during a storm, or anytime, call us to report it.

- If you have a special medical condition that requires electrically powered equipment, it is essential that you inform your cooperative so we can add you to our registry. We will make every effort to restore your power quickly.

- Remember, if you have cordless telephones, they will not work without power. Have at least one phone that does not require electricity so you can call for help.

- Turn off all electrical appliances except a porch light. That way, when

the power is restored, a power surge won't trip your breakers or damage your items. The porch light is an easy signal for co-op linemen that your power is back on.

- Use caution if using candles or lanterns for light. You don't want to start a fire. Your best bet is to have a flashlight or electric lamp and a supply of fresh batteries handy.

- If you have a portable generator and feel the need to use it, please be careful. Only use the generator outdoors in a well-ventilated area. Never hook the generator directly to your home's wiring. Doing so could cause a "backfeed" onto power lines that could injure or even kill a line worker.

- Stash away emergency supplies including:
 - Flashlight and batteries
 - A supply of drinking water and canned food
 - A battery-operated portable radio
 - First-aid kit

Local people. Serving you.
That's the cooperative difference.



As a member of a Touchstone Energy® cooperative, you're connected to a powerful source of energy: co-op employees.

You can depend on them to provide reliable and responsive service.

And, because co-op employees live and work here, they generously donate time and energy to projects that enhance your community.

Responsive co-op employees: making sure the people have the power.

Lamar Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Co-op Connections®

1st Choice Pest Control

OFFERING \$10 OFF INITIAL GENERAL PEST CONTROL SERVICE

■ Ricky Williams, state-certified licensed applicator. Call (903) 785-5679 to schedule an appointment.

B&D Taxidermy

OFFERING \$10 OFF TAXIDERMY SERVICES

■ Benzy and Debbie Jo Hostetler, Owners. Call (903) 737-8604.

Checks to Cash

15 PERCENT DISCOUNT ON CHECK-CASHING FEES

■ 3185 Lamar Ave. in Paris. Call (903) 785-6666.

Gillie Insulation

10 PERCENT OFF WITH YOUR CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARD

■ Lowell Gillie, Owner. Call (903) 982-6399.

Jackson-Hewitt

25 PERCENT OFF TAX PREPARATION FEES ONLY. DISCOUNT MUST BE DISCLOSED WHEN ASKED DURING INTERVIEW PROCESS.

■ 3185 Lamar Ave. in Paris. Call (903) 737-0811.

Papa Murphy's Pizza

OFFERING \$3 OFF FAMILY-SIZE PIZZA (LIMIT 3 PER ORDER)

■ 2705 Lamar Ave. in Paris. Call (903) 785-0036.

Quality Craft Picture Frames

OFFERING 20 PERCENT OFF CUSTOM FRAMING INCLUDING FRAME, MAT AND GLASS

■ 2030 Clarksville St. in Paris. Call (903) 785-2760.

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\$12,394.80 Saved

On prescriptions by members using their Co-op Connections® Card

In December, 238 prescriptions were filled and members saved \$2,153.22, averaging 22 percent off the retail price.

This valuable member benefit is absolutely free!

Want to do some price checking on your prescriptions? Visit www.rxpricequotes.com to see the discounted price from our local pharmacies.



Even if you have medical coverage, compare your coverage to the discounts. Sometimes the Co-op Connections discount is better than your medical insurance!

The pharmacy will need the group and member numbers on the back of the card to process the discount.