ENVIRONMENT + SUSTAINABILITY

ITC VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND OAK WILT PREVENTION

Trees and power lines are a hazardous combination. Tree interference with power lines is a leading cause of electric power outages and poses a safety threat to the public and utility workers. Moreover, our society depends upon electricity and the loss of power can bring daily life to a halt. To manage vegetation near high-voltage power lines, ITC adopts an integrated vegetation management (IVM) program to ensure reliability and safety.

OUR APPROACH TO VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Selective removal of incompatible species in urban, suburban and rural transmission corridors is the cornerstone of our IVM program. These efforts make space for stable grass, wildflowers and low-growing shrubs to thrive while maintaining safe operation, inspection and repairs.

Having adopted ANSI standards surrounding IVM, ITC takes into account existing biological, ecological, cultural resources and economic factors while following applicable laws and regulations. As an electrical utility, IVM techniques are multifaceted approaches to keep transmission equipment free of large woody plants and trees to maintain reliability while ensuring the safety of the public and our employees.

Our International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborists and other trained field staff routinely inspect our corridors on a site-by-site basis and identify both compatible and incompatible species. Based on these site inspections, they recommend appropriate IVM methods.

ABOUT ITC

ITC's investments in power transmission infrastructure lower electricity costs, improve service reliability and safety, and increase economic activity and tax revenues for customers, stakeholders and communities.

OAK WILT PREVENTION

Oak wilt is a vascular disease that shuts off the tree pathways of moving photosynthate, nutrients and water. This disease kills thousands of oak trees each year.

As a multistate company and steward of the environment, ITC implements an oak wilt program that incorporates each state's recommended guidelines. Generally, oak wilt practices can be expected from April to September, depending on weather.

If an oak tree needs to be pruned or removed during oak wilt season, ITC has directed all tree contractors to apply an industry approved tree wound sealant within minutes of cutting or when it is safe to return to the tree. This approach allows ITC to create a healthy, compatible ecosystem around the transmission lines, continue providing safe and reliability electricity, and reduce the overall impact of oak wilt on the oak tree community.

Oak Wilt

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