

Blue Grass Living

The official newsletter of
Blue Grass Energy
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
Making life better, the cooperative way®



**SAFE,
RELIABLE,
AFFORDABLE
ENERGY.**

**THEN. NOW.
IN THE FUTURE.**

**It is our privilege
to power your life.**

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Message from the President

Cooperatives are unique

October is National Co-op Month, which is the perfect time to highlight the many ways electric cooperatives are unique.

Electric cooperatives, like Blue Grass Energy, belong to the communities they serve.

We are locally governed, looking out for the long-term needs of our members. This heightened community focus allows us to quickly adapt to evolving member expectations. Our closeness to the community ensures a better response to these needs because we are led by the people we serve.

Co-ops engage their members to do things that might otherwise be impossible or difficult, like

more than 80 years ago when electric co-ops brought power to areas where other utilities did not find it economically feasible. Today, it means partnering with local charities and working together to make our communities stronger. In the last four years, Blue Grass Energy's employees have raised over \$63,000 that was donated back to our communities through these charities.

Michael I. Williams
President & CEO

Continued on 28D

How to plant containerized trees

Trees are usually purchased in potted containers. These instructions are for planting containerized trees.

1

Dig a hole the same depth of the container and 3 to 4 times wider than the container. The hole should have sloping sides like a saucer to allow for proper root growth.

2

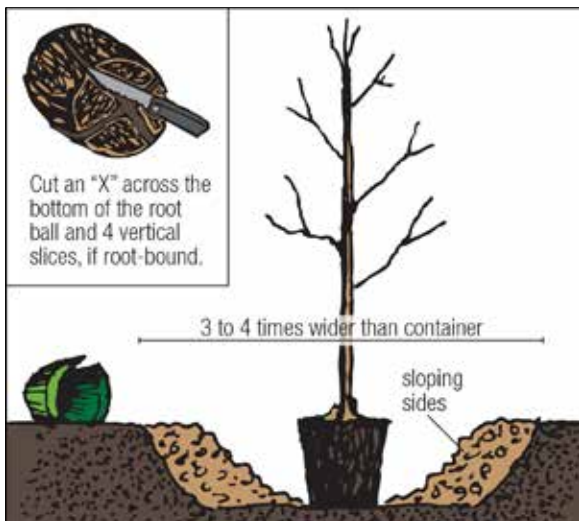
Lay the tree on its side and carefully remove the tree from the container, keeping the soil around the roots intact. It helps to tap the outside of the container to loosen the edge. Carefully slide the tree from the container. Do not yank the tree out of the container as this can separate the roots from the tree.

3

Sometimes containerized trees become rootbound or the roots look like they are about to circle the root ball. If your tree is like this, cut an X across the bottom of the root ball and four vertical slices along the sides of the root ball with a sharp knife.

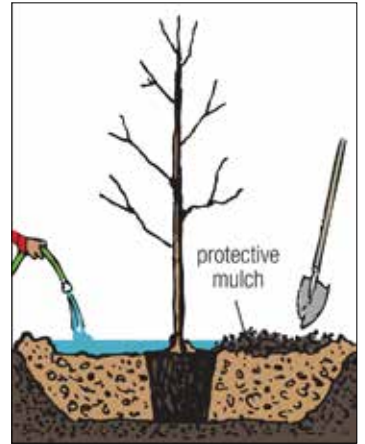
4

Set the tree in the middle of the hole. Avoid planting the tree too deep. If the root collar sits below the top of the hole, compact some soil under the tree so that the root flare at the base of the trunk is slightly above ground level. Using some soil, secure the tree in a straight position, then fill and firmly pack the hole with the original soil, making sure there are no air pockets. Keep backfilling until the soil is just below the root collar.



5

Create a waterholding basin around the hole and give the tree a good watering. After the water has soaked in, spread protective mulch 2-4 inches deep in a 3-foot diameter area around the base of the tree, but not touching the trunk.

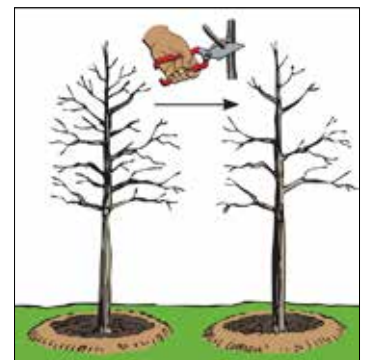


6

The soil and mulch around your trees should be kept moist, but not soggy. During dry weather, generously water the tree every 7 to 10 days during the first year. Water slowly at the dripline (outer circumference of the tree branches).

7

Remove any tags and labels from the tree as these will affect the tree as it grows. You may need to prune any broken or dead branches.



Fertilizer? Do NOT use fertilizer, potting soil or chemicals on your newly planted trees. Such products can kill young trees.

Watering: Keeping your trees watered is important during their first year. The water should soak into the soil and mulch. Avoid watering so much that you see standing water.

Source: Arbor Day Foundation

Following storms, watch for door-to-door scams

After a storm, it is common for people claiming to be tree specialists to show up at your door offering services. Unfortunately, many of these individuals have little to no training and are simply out to make a quick profit. Legitimate arborists rarely go door-to-door.

Here are five questions to guide you in finding qualified tree-care specialists:

1. **Is the person part of an established community business?** Check for a reputable website or phone number. Online reviews may also be helpful.
2. **Has the person provided evidence that they are regularly employed with the company?** Some specialists work as independent contractors and have a limited relationship with the company they claim as their employers.
3. **Is the person up-to-date on certification?** Ask for current certificates of insurance for property damage, personal liability and workers' compensation.
4. **Is the person a member of a professional association?** While not essential, it is ideal that the individual be a part of a professional association of arborists, such as the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), the National Arborist Association (NAA) or the American Society of Consulting Arborists (ASCA).
5. **Is the person offering a competitive price?** If possible, obtain more than one estimate to ensure that the price offered is comparable with competitors. Clarify whether the price includes removal and clean-up.

Source: Arbor Day Foundation

Washington Youth Tour gives new perspective



"My favorite part was meeting our senators and congressman," says WYT participant Shayla Walker of Western Hills High School. "It helped me find where I fit in the political world. I still can't believe I was selected for such a remarkable once-in-a-lifetime experience."

In June, nine local high school seniors joined 81 other Kentucky electric co-op students for the weeklong program where they learned about the political process, interacted with elected officials and gained an up-close understanding of American history. Photos: Tim Webb



How to reach us

24-Hour Service: (888) 546-4243

Automated payment: (877) 934-9491

Report an outage: (888) 655-4243

bgenergy.com

Headquarters

P.O. Box 990
1201 Lexington Road
Nicholasville, KY 40340-0990

District Offices

P.O. Box 730
327 Sea Biscuit Way
Cynthiana, KY 41031-0730

P.O. Box 150
1200 Versailles Road
Lawrenceburg, KY 40342-0150

P.O. Box 276
2099 Berea Road
Richmond, KY 40476-0276

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as a service to our members.

Rachel Settles, Editor



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.



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President's message (continued)

Electric cooperatives partner with local groups to bring economic opportunities to their communities. This is often the most valuable strength of the co-op. Right here in our 23-county service territory, we partner with East Kentucky Power Cooperative to showcase opportunities and competitive energy rates to potential businesses. We know when businesses thrive, our communities and members do, too.

Our co-op business model is unique. It is purpose-oriented and puts members first. We strive to be a trusted voice in our communities and have earned that trust because we focus on our members' interests. We are determined to enrich the lives of those living and working in the communities we serve. These co-op attributes and practices give us the perfect opportunity to fulfill our purpose of making life better, the cooperative way—now and in the future.

Stay healthy by making good choices

You can reduce your risk of cancer by making healthy choices such as:

- Stay away from tobacco.
- Be safe in the sun.
- Eat healthy and get active.
- Ask your doctor about the HPV vaccine for your child. Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a very common virus that can lead to cancer-causing infections.
- Have your cancer screening tests done as recommended.
- Find more info at cancer.org.



Each year, Blue Grass Energy chooses a charity to work with for the year. We partner with a local nonprofit organization that benefits the communities in which we live and serve. Our fundraising efforts for the entire year go to that cause. This year, we are partnering with the American Cancer Society.