

# PROTECTING THE POLLINATORS



Pollinating insects are crucial to our ecosystem, and pollinator friendly yards and gardens are becoming increasingly popular.

Lush, perfectly manicured lawns have long been a point of pride for homeowners. But, as you may have noticed in your own neighborhood, more homeowners are looking for ways to make their yards pollinator

friendly by adding native flowers and plants.

Milkweed, for example, is integral to the survival of the monarch butterfly. Insects lay their eggs on the plant, and it is the only food that monarch caterpillars will eat. Choosing the right mix of plants can make a big difference for butterflies, bees and other pollinators.

Through its Prairie in Progress program, OPPD is also working to create habitats hospitable to pollinators as well as to other insects and animals.

You don't have to replace your entire lawn with native grass and flowers to make a difference. Even small changes are helpful.

## Beat the summer heat with \$25 HVAC tune-up rebate

OPPD is offering \$25 HVAC tune-up rebates to help people save money and stay comfortable.

Your AC unit works hard to keep you cool all summer long. But it needs regular maintenance to stay in top shape.

An HVAC tune-up can reduce your energy bill, improve air quality and prevent inconvenient breakdowns during the sweltering summer months.

To get the \$25 rebate, you need to:

1. Schedule a tune-up with an OPPD-certified HVAC contractor. The contractor will sign and complete an 8-point tune-up checklist.
2. Submit your checklist and rebate application via OPPD's online portal.
3. You should receive a check within 60 days.

To learn more and locate an HVAC contractor, scan the QR code with your phone or visit [oppd.com](http://oppd.com).

The HVAC rebate program page is available by selecting the "Residential" dropdown menu on OPPD's home page, then scrolling down to "Products and Services." That will open another menu that includes the "HVAC Tune-Up Rebates" page.



### AUGUST BOARD MEETINGS

**All-committee meeting:** Tuesday, Aug. 15 (see [oppd.com/BoardMeeting](http://oppd.com/BoardMeeting) for details). **Regular board meeting:** Thursday, Aug. 17, 5 p.m. (see [oppd.com/BoardMeeting](http://oppd.com/BoardMeeting) for details). Hearing-impaired call 531-226-3208, 72 hours prior to request an interpreter. Agendas posted and meetings viewable on [oppd.com/BoardMeeting](http://oppd.com/BoardMeeting).

# Outlets

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Omaha Public Power District

# Thunderstorm season is here

Thunderstorms are a powerful, all-too-familiar force in the Midwest this time of year, and the most severe can pack a powerful punch.

But what exactly is a “severe thunderstorm?” The National Weather Service defines it as a storm that produces quarter-size hail or larger, winds of at least 58 mph, and/or a tornado.

A severe thunderstorm “watch” is an advisory to be prepared, because severe weather is possible. A severe thunderstorm “warning” is a call to take action, because severe weather is imminent. People in a severe thunderstorm’s path should take shelter immediately and check for forecast updates from local media and the weather service.

Here’s a graphic outlining the anatomy of a thunderstorm:

## INSIDE A THUNDERSTORM

And why the sky seems “green” just before it hails

Each part of a thunderstorm supercell is as unique as the weather it produces. Take this tour of a thunderstorm from the safety of your home. It might keep you safe the next time lightning crashes and hail pelts the ground.

**THE SHAPE OF THINGS**  
Thunderstorms can look like heads of cauliflower or their top can appear flat. “Anvil,” as they are known, form when the rising warm air reaches surrounding air that is the same temperature or warmer. The clouds stop growing and flatten.

**LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING**  
The shelf cloud comes at the leading edge of a storm and can look ominous. Meteorologist Brian Smith of the National Weather Service station in Valley said tornados rarely come from here. Instead, you may see damaging winds, including straight-line winds, along with heavy rain.

**LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION**  
Tornados like to form in the southwest portion of a supercell, or its “hook area.” Spotters are often positioned to the south and east of this area to avoid hail and benefit from the sun’s backlighting in the west.

**WHY DOES THE SKY LOOK GREEN?**  
In the Midwest, when a thunderstorm is brewing and there’s a possibility of hail, the clouds are said to appear gray-green from the ground. This is because the sunlight is reflecting the color of the ground off the densest part of the cloud, which is often where hail is produced.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The sky in Oklahoma can appear red during thunderstorms due to reflection from the clay soil.

**THUNDERSTORM LIFE CYCLE**

- 1 DEVELOPING**  
This stage involves the cumulus cloud being pushed upward by a rising column of warm air until the cloud looks like a tower. Little to no rain is seen during this stage, but occasional lightning can occur.
- 2 MATURE**  
This stage begins when precipitation falls while the warm updraft feeds the storm. The precipitation creates a downdraft that, when combined with rain-cooled air, pushes out a gusty front of wind. Hail, heavy rain, lightning and tornados can be seen during this stage.
- 3 DISSIPATING**  
This is when, after a large amount of precipitation, the updraft is overcome by the downdraft. The gust front moves further out from the storm, cutting off the warm air feeding it. Less rainfall is seen at this stage, but lightning is still prevalent.

Sources: National Weather Service - Valley, Neb.; NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory

OPPD  
Oklahoma Public Power District

# Line workers at the ready to keep power on

OPPD line workers have a tough but fulfilling job, one that demands teamwork, precision and a never-ending focus on safety.

They’re also part of a select, highly respected and tightknit community. And their job is more important than ever in OPPD’s fast-growing service district. More residents mean more infrastructure to build, more equipment to maintain and more issues to fix in the field.

Becoming a full-fledged journeyman line worker usually takes six years. Aspiring line workers generally spend two years in a line school program offered by local community colleges. After they finish, they may get a chance to apply for a job through OPPD’s apprentice line worker boot camp.

If chosen, they then spend four years as an apprentice where they gain hands-on experience. At the

end of their apprenticeship, they take an extensive, multi-day test to become journeymen.

Even at that point, their education never stops. Line workers continue to build experience, learn new skills and teach newer crew members about their trade. With experience comes new opportunities to lead and serve the public and a lifetime of pride.

**7”x 2.5” AD SPACE AVAILABLE IN 2023** Proceeds benefit EAP. For details, please email [lskinghoman@oppd.com](mailto:lskinghoman@oppd.com).

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