



The following tables contain examples of fire resistant plants useful in establishing defensible space. Remember, no plants are fire proof. Plants should be placed into small groups (planting in 3's and 5's allows for a more natural appearance) with significant space between each group. Pictures and information about each plant can be obtained on the internet simply by doing a search using the plant's scientific name, which is seen below in italics.

### TREES

Scientific Name	Common Name
<b>Height 20-40 feet</b>	
<i>Acer ginnala</i>	Amur Maple
<i>Alnus tenuifolia</i>	Mountain Alder
<i>Malus species</i>	Crabapple
<i>Acer glabrum</i>	Rocky Mountain Maple
<i>Prunus padus</i>	May Day Tree
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Quaking Aspen
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River Birch
<i>Salix m. 'Umbraculifera'</i>	Globe Willow
<i>Salix babylonica</i>	Weeping Willow
<i>Betula pendula</i>	European White Birch
<i>Aesculus hippocatanum</i>	Red Horsechestnut
<b>Height 41-60 feet</b>	
<i>Gleditsia tricanthos</i>	Honeylocust
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Bur Oak
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin Oak
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green Ash
<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	Northern Catalpa
<i>Populus angustifolia</i>	Narrowleaf Cottonwood
<i>Aesculus carnea</i>	Common Horsechestnut
<b>Height 61-120 feet</b>	
<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	Ponderosa Pine
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box Elder
<i>Fraxinus Americana</i>	White Ash
<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar
<i>Populus Canadensis</i>	Carolina Poplar
<b>Varies</b>	
<i>Acer species</i>	Other Maples
<i>Betula species</i>	Other Birch

### SHRUBS

Scientific Name	Common Name
<b>Height and Spacing 2-5 feet</b>	
<i>Spirea x bulmalda</i>	Limemound Spirea <b>P</b>
<i>Spirea japonica</i>	Shirobana Spirea <b>P</b>
<i>Yucca filamentosa</i>	Yucca ☼
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Oregon Grape Holly <b>P</b>
<i>Euonymus alatus</i>	Burning Bush ☼ <b>P</b>
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	Potentilla ☼ <b>P</b>
<i>Spirea bumalda</i>	Anthony Waterer Spirea <b>P</b>
<i>Cotoneaster apiculatus</i>	Cranberry Cotoneaster ☼ <b>P</b>
<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	Rockspray Cotoneaster ☼ <b>P</b>
<i>Philadelphus virginialis</i>	Mock Orange <b>P</b>
<i>Forsythia intermedia</i>	Forsythia <b>P</b>
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Snowberry <b>P</b>
<b>Height and Spacing 6-10 feet</b>	
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red Twig Dogwood ☼ <b>P</b>
<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	Butterfly Bush ☼ <b>P</b>
<i>Rosa foetida</i>	Austrian Copper Rose ☼
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	Lilac ☼
<i>Prunus cistena</i>	Cistena Plum ☼
<i>Spirea vanhouttei</i>	Bridal Wreath Spirea ☼
<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	American Cranberry Bush ☼
<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>	Tatarian Honeysuckle <b>P</b>
<i>Rhus glabra</i>	Smooth Sumac ☼
<b>Height and Spacing 11-20 feet</b>	
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Common Privet ☼
<i>Rhus typhina</i>	Staghorn Sumac ☼
<b>Sun Exposure</b>	
☼ <b>Full Sun</b> - Requires the plant to be exposed to sun at least 8 hours of the day	● <b>Shade</b> - Requires the plant to have minimum sun exposure
<b>P Partial Sun</b> - Requires the plant to be exposed to sun about 4 hours of the day	

### PERENNIALS & GROUNDCOVERS

Scientific Name	Common Name
<b>Perennials</b>	
<i>Achillea species</i>	Yarrow ☼
<i>Bergenia species</i>	Bergenia ☼ <b>P</b>
<i>Coreopsis species</i>	Coreopsis ☼
<i>Geranium species</i>	Geranium ☼ <b>P</b>
<i>Hemerocallis hybrids</i>	Daylilies ☼ <b>P</b>
<i>Heuchera species</i>	Coral Bells ☼ <b>P</b>
<i>Iris species</i>	Iris ☼
<i>Kniphofia uvaria</i>	Red Hot Poker ☼
<i>Lupinus species</i>	Lupine ☼ <b>P</b>
<i>Oenothera species</i>	Evening Primrose ☼
<i>Penstemon species</i>	Beard Tongue ☼
<i>Solidago species</i>	Goldenrod ☼
<b>Groundcovers</b>	
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Kinickinnick <b>P</b>
<i>Euonymus fortuneii</i>	Wintercreeper ☼ <b>P</b>
<i>Mahonia repens</i>	Creeping Mahonia ●
<i>Vinca minor</i>	Common Periwinkle ●
<b>As a Reminder...</b>	
Keep a 30 foot wide area irrigated with fire resistant plants	
Remove ladder fuels	
Create spaces between plants and plant groupings	
Keep all limbs 15 feet away from structures	



### For More Information...

#### WEBSITES

- [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)
- [www.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.firesafecouncil.org)
- [www.nifc.gov](http://www.nifc.gov)
- [www.id.blm.gov/iso/fire/index.htm](http://www.id.blm.gov/iso/fire/index.htm)
- <http://fsweb.r4.fs.fed.us>
- [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)
- [www.keepidahogreen.org/resident.htm](http://www.keepidahogreen.org/resident.htm)
- [www.3riversred.org](http://www.3riversred.org)
- [http://extension.ag.ui.idaho.edu/mg/southeast/flowers\\_shrubs\\_index.htm](http://extension.ag.ui.idaho.edu/mg/southeast/flowers_shrubs_index.htm)

#### REFERENCES

The following references were used in the development of this brochure. Both provide useful information for decreasing the threat of wildfire to your home.

*Landscaping for Wildfire Prevention - Protecting Homes of the Wildland/Urban Interface.*  
Idaho Forest, Wildlife Range Experiment Station. Moscow, Idaho: Revised June 2002

*Living with Fire - A Guide for the Homeowner.*  
Great Basin Fire Prevention Organization

Three Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Council's  
Wildland Fire Education Program

208-241-4656

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Please call or e-mail for a free home evaluation or more information.



# FIREWISE LANDSCAPING



## Guide for Homeowners Living in the Wildland- Urban Interface

Prepared by  
Three Rivers Resource Conservation  
and Development Council's  
Wildland Fire Education Program

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## Why Be Firewise?

### Fire History



Fire is an important natural component of ecosystems, including forests and rangelands. Over the course of millennia, wildland fires have burned these systems resulting in healthy forests and rangelands.

Although beneficial, these fires are considered unacceptable as they conflict with human land-use practices and aesthetics. Therefore, wildland fires have been suppressed for over a century. As a result of this suppression, dry vegetation has accumulated in our forests and rangelands causing fire breakouts to be more destructive and more difficult to control.

### Wildland-Urban Interface

Despite wildland fires, many people desire to “plant their roots” among these natural resources establishing an area referred to as the wildland-urban interface.

As this area continues to grow, fires become an increasing concern. Not only have wildland areas acquired humans, who can start fires, but they have also accumulated structures, which are nothing more than fuel to a fire. As the Firewise program in Virginia states, “A house cannot stop, drop, and roll”.

In this instance, fire is not apart of our environment but we are apart of fire's natural environment. Therefore, we have a responsibility to protect this environment and ourselves.



### Reasons To Be Firewise



It's our responsibility • Lives, homes and, properties safer • Neighbors and communities safer

Community values safer • Less damage to natural resources • Firefighters safer • Less \$ spent on firefighting

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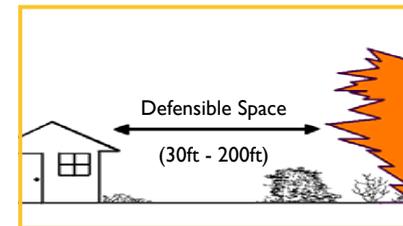
## How to be Firewise?

### Wildfire Behavior

Wildfire behavior is driven by several components, all of which must be present to create a fire environment. Two of these components, including weather and topography cannot be influenced by humans. However, humans can manipulate the fuel component, which consists of vegetation (i.e. live plants and dead leaves and needles) and combustible building materials (i.e. roof).

### Defensible Space

Defensible space refers to the area between a house and an oncoming wildfire where vegetation management practices reduce the threat of wildfire. This space can be a distance of 30 feet to 200 feet depending on the slope and type of vegetation growing near the home.



### Vegetation Management Practices

- Remove flammable trees and shrubs, especially those in close proximity to the home
- Prune dead wood from shrubs, remove low tree branches, and mow dried grass
- Select fire resistant vegetation to replace flammable vegetation
- Practice proper firewise landscaping

## Proper Firewise Landscaping

### Plant Selection

When establishing defensible space, use plants which are more resistant to fire than others. There are no fire proof plants. All plants will burn in a very intense fire. Below are some characteristics of *fire resistant plants*.

- Have a high moisture content in their leaves
- Are drought tolerant
- Have little or no seasonal accumulation of dead vegetation
- Have a low volume of total vegetation
- Have non-resinous, non-oily, non-waxy stems and leaves
- Have an open, loose branching habit
- Are slow growing



Minimize the use of fire-prone plants (pyrophytes), such as junipers, other conifers, broad-leaved conifers, berries, and ornamental grasses.

### Plant Placement and Maintenance

When developing a landscape, remember, open spaces are more important than plants. Establish space between plants and groups of plants on the ground. Also, provide a separation between trees, shrubs, and ground covers to avoid ladder fuels, which allow fire to move from lower growing plants to taller ones.

The area closest to a structure out to 30 feet should be where irrigated perennials, lawns, and low growing or non-woody deciduous plants are placed. If turf grass is not desirable, utilize groundcovers, conservation grasses, or clover, which are kept green during the fire season.



Trees can also be used near structures if pruned properly and irrigated. When planting trees keep in mind their height when full grown. Keep tree limbs at least 15 feet from all structures. Avoid creating ladder fuels near structures.