



## Firewise Guidelines and Enforcement Policy

The Rim Golf Club Community Association's (RGCCA) actively promotes Firewise standards for our community. The Association conducted Firewise assessments of all lots in March 2019 and subsequently updated the survey every year since. We have just updated these assessments for 2026.

Based on the lot condition, a ranking is given from 1 for excellent to 10 requiring immediate mitigation. This assessment is the basis for our Firewise recommendations, calendar, and fine schedule for noncompliance:

- In January, the Firewise Assessment Survey will be updated for all lots within The Rim.
- By February 15, an updated Firewise Assessment will be mailed to all property owners in violation.
- As an incentive to firewise, the Association will continue to provide free brush disposal for roadside brush debris. Please contact the HOA office to schedule a trailer. The lot owner will be responsible for loading the debris on the trailer and once loaded the trailer will be hauled away at no cost to the homeowner.
- Property Owners with lots in the At-Risk category (assessment score between 7 – 10) will have until June 30<sup>th</sup> to become compliant and address the Firewise issues associated with their property.
- A Pending Action warning letter will be sent to At Risk property owners on June 1<sup>st</sup> requesting action be taken to firewise their lots by June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- If no action is taken by the property owner **to perform or schedule firewising by June 30<sup>th</sup>**, a Notice of Pending Action and Fine will be sent. A quarterly fine of \$1000 will be assessed against the property owner beginning with the third calendar quarter. Additional fines of \$1000 per quarter will be assessed at the beginning of each quarter if no action has been taken by the property owner. The RGCCA reserves the right to perform firewising and bill the property owner the Firewise cost plus an administrative fee if the cumulative cost exceeds \$3000.

To assist you to meet your obligation to firewise your property we are providing a list of contractors below that can provide this essential service. **If you use another resource/company not on this list, we request that they contact the Community Association office to review our Firewise guidelines which is contained in this document.**

Trees Company – Matt Kluvo  
MS (Environmental Science)

(928) 978-0191

Alonso Ramirez

(928) 978-1403

Integra Builders – Paul Meulemans

(480) 486-7409

Armstrong Tree Service - Jim Armstrong

(928) 468-9494

Thank you in advance to taking the necessary steps to Firewise your property. Please direct any questions to Steve Stephenson our community manager @ 928 474-4809.

## Helpful suggestions on Firewising at The Rim

### Do's –

- o Remove dead limbs and bushes.
- o Remove Scrub Oak under taller Ponderosa pines.
- o Trim lower portions of free-standing Scrub Oak. Trim sucker sprouts at the base of Scrub Oaks.
  - o Selectively trim lower limbs of Manzanita bushes. Avoid leaving small crown and stringy base. Too much trimming can seriously damage the plant. Reference attached article for more guidelines.
- o Remove dead Ponderosa pines which are a haven for bark beetles.

### Don'ts –

- o Clear cut your property. Remember the natural landscaping is what gives The Rim its beauty.
- o Leave ladder fuels within 30 feet of your house.
- o Destroy the beauty and elegance of the Manzanitas
- o Ignore dead pine trees that may contain bark beetles.



# How to Prune Greenleaf Manzanita

By Debra L Turner ; Updated September 21, 2017

With its dense crown of curiously gnarled branches, Greenleaf Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos spatula*) evokes visions of the [Great American Southwest](#) for many gardeners. This native North American beauty is not very large, attaining a maximum height of 3 to 6 feet. Greenleaf Manzanita is often used for erosion control. It is fire resistant, and stems have the unusual habit of rooting when living limbs touch the ground. *Arctostaphylos* likes full sun and warm summers followed by heavy snowfall; with few exceptions, this plant should be pruned infrequently.

Use clean, sharp [pruning](#) shears to remove only wood that is diseased or dead in late summer. [Pruning](#) stems from the Greenleaf Manzanita's dense crown will ruin the appearance of the shrub. Remember that this plant takes care of itself very well in the wild without anyone pruning out its natural growth.

Trim off stem tips only if they show obvious signs of damage or disease, as this is where flower buds form on the current season's growth.

Prune off a few of the lower limbs of mature specimens to show off the beautiful red inner bark of the plant's uniquely gnarled trunk. This attractive feature is revealed when the plant periodically drops shreds of its outer bark. Cut off one branch at a time, then step back a few paces. Look the Manzanita over from several angles and distances and evaluate the plant's appearance before removing the next limb.

Prune off a few more of the lowest limbs to train the Greenleaf Manzanita to tree form. As in Step 3, take your time and remove one limb at a time and look the plant over in between each cut.

## Warning

- You can prune a little more than just dead or diseased wood if you absolutely must. About 25 percent of the plant can be pruned out without causing injury. But keep in mind that Greenleaf Manzanita is very slow-growing and will take a long time to recover from a poor pruning job.

## References

- [USDA Natural Resources Conservation Svc.: Greenleaf Manzanita -- Plant Guide](#)
- [Las Pelita's Nursery: How to Prune Native Plants \(Without Killing Them\)](#)
- [Timberline Landscaping: Garden Usefulness -- Cultivation](#)
- Garden Guides.com - [www.gardenguides.com/87584-prune-greenleaf-manzanita.html](http://www.gardenguides.com/87584-prune-greenleaf-manzanita.html)



## Trimming Examples

### Good



### Too Severe



Remember - once branches are removed, a Manzanita will no longer put out growth on that branch below the green part and will only add growth to the top. Therefore, once it is gone, it is gone. If branches and trunks are exposed to the sun, they tend to sunburn with a probable death to the plant.





Important Notice From:  
The Rim Golf Club Community Association, Inc.

**Firewise Standard**

“In accordance with Chapter 92 of the Town of Payson Code of Ordinances, Section 304.1.2 of the International Fire Code, and section 6.32 of the Addendum to the Design Guidelines of the Rim Golf Club Community, **lot owners are now required** to make their lots more fire-safe by:

- 1.) Removing all diseased, dead, or dying trees. (As per the Town of Payson Code 153.03 and 154-03-005)
- 2.) Removing all dead or decaying brush. (As per the Town of Payson Code 153.32 Removal of dangerous, diseased, or infested trees.)
- 3.) Thin the remaining trees to an average of 60-80 square feet of basal area.
  - a. Use a “thin from below” treatment method where trees from the lower crown class (overtopped, suppressed) are removed first, while retaining the more vigorous dominant and co-dominant trees.
    - I. Priority for removal should be insect or disease infected; weather or animal damaged; crowded or stressed; trees of poor form or low vigor.
    - II. Character trees are those which are unique in shape and appearance or perform a particular function such as hiding an undesirable view (i.e., road or building) or having emotional value for the property owner. Character trees may be left but remember to mitigate the fuel hazard by removing any trees and brush around them.
  - b. Space or group trees to eliminate a continuous crown canopy; remember to leave some smaller trees in open areas to allow for regeneration and stand replacement.
    - I. Quality trees should take preference over spacing of trees.
    - II. Remember to remove trees from around the group, creating irregular clusters or islands, to reduce the horizontal continuity and eliminate continuous crown canopy.
- 4.) Reducing the amount of ladder fuels (shrubs, small trees, etc.) associated with chaparral vegetation.

Remove/reduce ladder fuels associated with chaparral vegetation.

  - a. Remove chaparral vegetation (ladder fuels) from under and around trees especially ponderosa pines. Remember to maintain 10-15 foot spacing between tree and shrub crowns.
  - b. Retain small groups of immature plants (2-4 feet in height) or single mature plants (4-6<sup>+</sup> feet) in open areas to provide a more natural mosaic pattern.
  - c. In areas of continuous chaparral vegetation, separate individual

**THE RIM**  
**GOLF CLUB**  
*Community Association*

shrubs or small clumps from one another by at least twice the height of the average shrub (i.e., shrub height is 2 feet, then there should be a separation between shrub branches of at least 4 feet).

d. These intervals may need to be adjusted on hills and slopes to prevent increased erosion (i.e., tile or checkerboard pattern).

5.) Pruning the lower branches of remaining trees: branches should be pruned 6-10 feet above the ground but no more than 1/3 of the total tree height.

6.) Periodically (yearly) inspecting and maintaining your property per the above standards.”

**The removal of dead brush, reduction of ladder fuels and thinning of remaining trees will not only reduce a wildfire’s ability to spread across a landscape but will enhance the health and appearance of the remaining vegetation, especially our ponderosa pines which take two hundred years to grow to maturity.**

Please be advised that the Town of Payson Code 153.04 states that no person, entity or corporation in any zoning district shall remove, cause to be removed, destroy or injure any native tree with a diameter of six inches or greater, measured 4 ½ feet above ground level, from an undeveloped or developed parcel of land without first obtaining a tree permit from the building department and approved by the Zoning Administrator, or designee, except where necessary for construction of streets, driveways, utility poles, and structures approved in a Town of Payson building permit, for the removal of trees.

**Definitions:**

**Basal Area:** The cross-sectional area of a tree stem commonly measured at breast height (4.5 feet above the ground) and inclusive of bark; generally expressed in square feet per acre.

**Chaparral vegetation:** Vegetation composed of broad-leaved evergreen shrubs, bushes, and small trees of low stature, often forming dense thickets.

**Ladder Fuels:** Brush, chaparral bushes, small shrubs, and young trees that provide continuous fire material from the forest floor which can more easily ignite the dominate trees.