

FIRE RESISTANT PLANTS

What are Fire Resistant Plants?

Fire-resistant plants are those that do not readily ignite from a flame or other ignition sources. These plants can be damaged or even killed by fire; however, their foliage and stems do not significantly contribute to the fuel and, therefore, the fire's intensity. There are several other significant factors that influence the fire characteristics of plants, including plant moisture content, age, total volume, dead materials, and chemical content.

Characteristics of Fire Resistant Plants:

- Plants maintained in a healthy condition.
- Leaves are moist and supple.
- Plants that have little dead wood and tend not to accumulate dry, dead material within the plant.
- Sap is water-like and does not have a strong odor.



Characteristics of Highly Flammable Plants:

- Contain fine, dry, or dead materials within the plant, such as twigs, needles and leaves.
- Leaves, twigs, and stems contain volatile waxes, terpenes, or oils.
- Leaves are aromatic (strong odor when crushed).
- Sap is gummy, resinous and has a strong odor and may have loose or papery bark.

Protecting Your Family And Home

In the Pacific Northwest, fires are a natural part of the changing landscape. As home owners continue to build in rural areas, they must take special precautions to protect their lives, homes and property.

In many cases, loss could have been reduced or avoided if the home owners had taken steps to reduce the fire hazards on their property. Many agencies and organizations have developed programs to assist home owners.

The Firewise Program is a national program that helps communities and individuals reduce fire hazards with information on everything from home construction to grounds maintenance. It can be accessed by going to www.firewise.org.

FIRE RESISTANT NATIVE PLANTS FOR THE NORTHWEST

Deciduous Trees

Big Leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*)

- Height: 80' / Spread: 30'

Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*)

- Height: 80' / Spread: 20'

Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*)

- Height: 100' / Spread: 20'

Water Birch (*Betula occidentalis*)

- Height: 20' / Spread: 10'

Oregon Ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*)

- Height: 60' / Spread: 20'

Pacific Crabapple (*Malus fusca*)

- Height: 30' / Spread: 15'

Black Hawthorn (*Crataegus douglasii*)

- Height: 50' / Spread: 12'

Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)

- Height: 80' / Spread: 15'

Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)

- Height: 20' / Spread: 10'

Oregon Oak (*Quercus garryana*)

- Height: 40' / Spread: 20'

Willow Species

- Height: 10-40' / Spread: 10-20'

Evergreen Trees

Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)

- Height: 90' / Spread: 20'

Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta var. latifolia*)

- Height: 100' / Spread: 15'

Evergreen Trees

Shore Pine (*Pinus contorta var. contorta*)

- Height: 60' / Spread: 20'

Western Larch (*Larix occidentalis*)

- Height: 120' / Spread: 20'

Shrubs

Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*)

- Height: 20' / Spread: 10'

Rocky Mountain Maple (*Acer glabrum*)

- Height: 25' / Spread: 15'

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)

- Height: 15' / Spread: 15'

Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*)

- Height: 20' / Spread: 10'

Oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*)

- Height: 10' / Spread: 10'

Mock Orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*)

- Height: 10' / Spread: 8'

Oregon Grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*)

- Height: 8' / Spread: 6'

Red Flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*)

- Height: 10' / Spread: 6'

Woods Rose (*Rosa woodsii*)

- Height: 8' / Spread: 6'

Douglas Spirea (*Spiraea douglasii*)

- Height: 6' / Spread: 4'

Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*)

- Height: 8' / Spread: 6'