

List of most flammable plants, trees and shrubs

By Ward Habriel, Fire Safety Gardening Chairman

This list is NOT inclusion. ANY PLANT will burn given sufficient exposure to heat!

Acacia – contains resin and flammable oils

Algerian Ivy (*Hedera algeriensis*) -

Bamboo (*Bambusoideae*) – can quickly spread a wildfire

Broom (*Cytisus*) – French, Spanish and Scotch – extremely flammable because of their oil content

Chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*)– can create very hot fire if ignited

Cypress – Arizona, Italian, Leylandii, Tecate (*Cupressaceae*)– useful as screens, hedges, or windbreaks can become tall torches during wildfires

Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)– the thin resinous bark of young fir makes hem highly susceptible to wildfires

Eucalyptus – contains highly combustible oils produced by the leaves

Gas plant or burning bush (*Dictamnus*) – contains oils in the seed capsules

Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)– highly flammable

Juniper (*Juniperus*) – several varieties contain resins which are highly flammable

Lavender (*Lavandula*) – oils are highly flammable

Maiden grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*) – when dry becomes highly flammable

Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos*) – may be one of the most fire-prone plants

Melaluca (*Myrtaceae*) – contains oils that are flammable (tea tree oil)

Palms (*Arecaceae*) – dry and dead fronds can become flaming arrows if they detach from their trunk and are carried by winds. They rapidly become engulfed in flames. Avoid medium fan palm, Canary Island date palm, Senegal date palm, pygmy date palm, windmill palm and Mexican fan palm.

Pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) – if dried out, can quickly ignite and spread

Pine (*Pinus*) – flammability varies by species

Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) – contains flammable oils

Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) – the leather leaves make it highly flammable