

## Firewise Landscaping Plants

There is no such thing as a “fireproof” landscape (unless it is completely covered in concrete), but there are landscapes that are “Firewise” and can help prevent the spread of fire damage.

### General concepts to keep in mind when choosing and planting Firewise species are:

A plant's moisture content is the one of the most important factors governing its volatility. However, oil and resin content plus other factors in some species render them flammable even when the plant is well-watered.

- \* Deciduous plants tend to be more fire resistant because their leaves have higher moisture content and their basic chemistry is less flammable. When deciduous trees are dormant, there is less fuel to carry fire through their canopies.
- \* In some cases, there is a strong correlation between drought tolerance and fire resistance. For example, a plant may shed its leaves or needles during extreme drought. Other drought-tolerant species may have smaller leaves or thick, succulent leaves. These plants offer less fuel or have a higher moisture content, both of which help reduce fire hazard.

- \* During extended periods of drought, risk of wildfires is highest. Your plant choices, new or replacement, can change the vulnerability for fire damage.
- \* While we do want to encourage the use of shrubs and brush around the home, we don't want to encourage it right up against the home, especially plants that are extremely flammable.
- \* Consider the following when choosing plants and laying out landscaping:

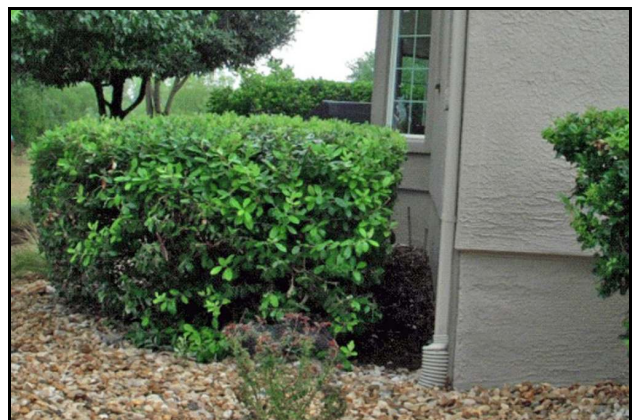
- ! Plants that have a higher water content.
- ! Plants that don't tend to take fire from the ground upwards toward the windows or roof, because these are the sensitive areas in our homes.
- ! Avoid tall grasses like Pampas grass, because they have a tendency to dry out and become easily ignitable.
- ! Use the areas near your house for your hard scapes like rocks, fountains and walkways. These are a good barrier that the fire has difficulty jumping.

For help with finding a landscape company, check the Vendor Notebook at the Monitor Desk in the Social Center, Cowan Creek, and Retreat Amenity Centers.

*Some common plant suggestions and their potential deer resistance are on the next page. During extended drought periods, deer will consume many plants they normally avoid.*



Rosemary needs to be at least 3 feet from the foundation.



Plants should be planted and trimmed 6-12 inches away from the house.

**Large hardwood could include:**

Deer resistance ('deer'column) - N=none, M=medium, H= high		
<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>deer</u>
Maple, Big-toothed or Red	<i>Acer grandidentatum</i> or <i>A. rubrum</i>	N
Mexican Sycamore	<i>Platanus mexicana</i> (drought-tolerant)	H
Oak	<i>Quercus</i> ( <i>Post - Q. stellata</i> , Texas Red - <i>Q. texana</i> , Shumard - <i>Q. shumardii</i> *)	N
Pecan	<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	N
Plateau Black cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i> var. <i>eximia</i>	N
Sugar Hackberry	<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	M
Texas Ash	<i>Fraxinus texensis</i>	N
Texas Pistache	<i>Pistacia texana</i>	M
Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	H
Walnut, Black or Texas	<i>Juglans nigra</i> or <i>microcarpa</i>	N

**Medium-sized trees could include:**

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>deer</u>
Mexican Buckeye	<i>Ungnadia speciosa</i>	M
Mexican Plum	<i>Prunus mexicana</i>	N
Mexican redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i> var. <i>mexicana</i>	M
Roughleaf Dogwood	<i>Cornus drummondii</i>	N
Texas persimmon	<i>Diospyros texana</i>	M
Texas redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i> var. <i>texensis</i>	M
Western soapberry	<i>Sapindus drummondii</i>	H

**Small trees/shrubs could include:**

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>deer</u>
American beautyberry	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	N
Anacacho Orchid	<i>Bauhinia congesta</i>	H
Black Dalea	<i>Dalea frutescens</i>	M
Dessert Willow	<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	M
Elbowbush	<i>Forestiera pubescens</i> var. <i>pubescens</i>	M
Esperanza (Yellow bells)	<i>Tecoma stans</i>	M
Evergreen Sumac	<i>Rhus virens</i>	M
Fragrant Sumac	<i>Rhus trilobata</i> ( <i>R. aromatica</i> )	M
Flame Acanthus	<i>Anisacanthus quadrifidus</i> var. <i>wrightii</i>	H
Texas Mountain Laurel	<i>Sophora secundiflora</i>	H

**Herbaceous perennials could include:**

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>deer</u>
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	M
Blanketflower	<i>Gaillardia x grandiflora</i> (some Native)	M
Butterflyweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	H
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia</i> (some Native)	M
Coreopsis - perennials	<i>Coreopsis</i>	M
Englemann daisy	<i>Engelmannia peristenia</i>	N
Fleabane	<i>Erigeron</i> (some Native)	M
Lantana	<i>Lantana horrida</i> (some Native)	H
Lupine	<i>Lupinus</i> (some Native)	M
Primrose	<i>Oenothera</i> (some Native)	N
Penstemon	<i>Penstemon</i> (some Native)	N
Salvia, Sage	<i>Salvia</i> (some Native)	H
Shrubby boneset	<i>Ageratina havanensis</i>	M
Skullcap	<i>Scutellaria</i> (some Native)	H
Turk's cap	<i>Malvastrum arborescens</i> var. <i>drummondii</i>	M
Yarrow	<i>Achillea</i> (some Native)	H

**Also could include:**

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>deer</u>
Agave	<i>Agave</i> (some Native)	H
Cactus	<i>Cactaceae</i> (some Native)	H
Nolina	<i>Nolinaceae</i> (some Native)	H
Yucca	<i>Yucca</i> (some Native)	H

**Do not plant near the foundation:**

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>deer</u>
Agarito	<i>Mahonia trifoliolata</i>	H
Ornamental Grasses	(native & non-native)	H
Possumhaw Holly	<i>Ilex decidua</i>	M
Yaupon Holly	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	M

**AVOID the following:**

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>deer</u>
Baldcypress	<i>Taxodium distichu</i>	H
Juniper (Cedar)	(& Montezuma - <i>mucronatum</i> )	H
Pampas grass	<i>Juniperus</i> (native & non-native)	H
Pine	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	H
Upright rosemary	<i>Pinus</i> (native & non-native)	H
	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> (all varieties)	H