FORESTRY

FireWise Plant Materials no. 6.305

by F.C. Dennis[1]

Quick Facts...

FireWise landscaping can be aesthetically pleasing while reducing potential wildfire fuel.

Plant choice, spacing and maintenance are critical.

Your landscape, and the plants in it, must be maintained to retain their FireWise properties.

Creating a "defensible space" around your home is one of the most important and effective steps you can take to protect you, your family and your home from catastrophic wildfire. Defensible space is the area between a structure and an oncoming wildfire where nearby vegetation has been modified to reduce a wildfire's intensity. (See fact sheet 6.302, *Creating Wildfire-Defensible Zones*.)

Many people resist creating defensible space around their homes because they believe these areas will be unattractive and unnatural. This is far from true. With careful planning, FireWise landscaping can be aesthetically pleasing while reducing potential wildfire fuel. It can actually enhance beauty and property values, as well as personal safety.

Many native plants are highly flammable during different seasons of the year. At such times, left unmanaged, they can accelerate the spread of a wildfire through your neighborhood, threatening homes, property and lives.

All vegetation, naturally occurring and otherwise, is potential fuel for fire. Its type, amount and arrangement has a dramatic effect on fire behavior. There are no truly "fireproof" plant species, so plant choice, spacing and maintenance are critical to defensible space landscaping. In fact, **where** and **how** you plant may be more important than **what** you plant. However, given alternatives, choose plant species that tend to be more resistant to wildfire.

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

- A plant's moisture content is the single most important factor governing its volatility. (However, *resin* content and other factors in some species render them flammable even when the plant is well-watered.) Conifers tend to be flammable due to their oil and pitch content, regardless of their water content.
- Deciduous plants tend to be more fire resistant because their leaves have higher moisture content and their basic chemistry is less flammable. Also, 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.

There also appears to be a correlation between a plant's salt tolerance and natural fire resistance. Plants adapted to salty conditions, and actually growing in salty situations, may better resist burning.

Colorado State University Cooperative Extension

Putting Knowledge to Work

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FireWise Plant List

The following list was prepared by Phil Hoefer, Colorado State Forest Service. It was reviewed by Jim Knopf, a landscape architect in Boulder, and two landscape architects on Colorado's Western Slope. Bloom time is approximate (observed in Boulder at 5,600 feet).

Key: Water needs: VL = very low L = low M = medium H = high
Sun/Shade: S = sun PS = part sun Sh = shade
Elevation: Y = Yes N = No ? = Questionable or unknown

Scientific Name	Common Name	Approx. Water Needs	Sun/Shade Preference	Approx. Mature Height	Elevation (1,000 ft.) 5	6	7	8	9	Approx. Bloom Month
			Flowers and Ground Covers							
Achillea lanulosa [a]	Native yarrow	L-H	S/PS	1.5 - 2'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jul
Achillea tomentosa [b]	Woolly yarrow	M-H	S/PS	.5'	Y	Y	N	N	N	Jul
Aconitum spp.[c]	Monkshood	M-H	S	2'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jun-Jul
Aconitum columbianum [ac]	Columbian monkshood	M-H	S	2'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jun-Jul
Ajuga reptans [b]	Bugleweed	H	Sh	< .5'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jun-Jul
Alchemilla sp.	Lady's mantle	M-H	PS/Sh	1'	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	Jun-Jul
Allium cernuum [ac]	Nodding onion	L-H	S/PS	1'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jun
Allium geyeri [ac]	Geyer onion	L-H	S/PS	1'	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	Jun
Anaphalis margaritacea [a]	Pearly everlasting	L-H	S	1.5 - 2.5'	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	Aug
Anemone blanda	Windflower	M-H	S/PS	1'	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	Apr-May
Antennaria parvifolia [ab]	Small-leaf pussytoes	M	S/PS	<.5'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jun
Antennaria rosea [ab]	Rosy pussytoes	M	S/PS	<.5'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jun
Aquilegia spp.	Columbine	M-H	S/PS	1 - 2'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jun-Jul
Aquilegia coerulea [a]	Colorado blue columbine	M-H	S/PS	1 - 2'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jun-Jul
Aquilegia chrysantha [a]	Yellow columbine	M-H	S/PS	1 - 2'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jun-Aug
Arabis sp.[b]	Rockcress	L-H	S	< 1'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	May-Jun
Armeria maritima	Sea thrift	L-H	S/PS	.5'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Apr-Jun
Artemisia caucasica	Caucasian sage	L-M	S/PS	1- 2'	Y	Y	Y	?	?	n/a
Artemisia frigida [ac]	Fringed sage	L-M	S	1 - 1.5'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	n/a
Artemisia ludoviciana [a]	Prairie sage	L-M	S	1 - 1.5'	Y	Y	Y	?	?	n/a
Aster laevis [a]	Smooth aster	L-H	S/PS	1 - 3'	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	Aug-Sep
Aster porteri [a]	Porter aster	L-M	S	1'	Y	Y	Y	?	?	Aug-Sep
Aubrieta sp.[b]	False rockcress	M	S	1'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Apr-May
Aurinia sp.[b]	Basket of gold	M	S/PS	1'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Apr-May
Calochortus gunnisonii [a]	Mariposa lily	M-H	S	.5 - 2'	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	Jul-Aug
Campanula rotundifolia [a]	Common harebell	M-H	S	.5 - 1'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	May-Oct
Centranthus ruber	Jupiter's beard	L-H	S/Sh	2 - 2.5'	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	May-Oct
Cerastium strictum [ab]	Mouse ear chickweed	M	S/PS	1'	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	May-Jun
Cerastium tomentosum [b]	Snow-in-summer	L-M	S/PS	1'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	May-Jun
Claytonia lanceolata [a]	Spring beauty	M	Sh	.5 - 1.5'	Y	Y	Y	?	?	Mar-Apr
Convallaria majalis [bc]	Lily-of-the-valley	H	Sh	< 1'	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	May-Jun
Delosperma nubigenum [b]	Hardy yellow iceplant	M-H	S	.5'	Y	Y	Y	?	?	Jun
Delphinium spp.[c]	Delphinium	M-H	S/PS	.5 - 3'+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jun-Jul
Dianthus spp.	Pinks	L-H	S	<.5' - 2'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	May-Aug
Doronicum sp.	Leopard's bane	H	S/PS	2 - 3'	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	Jul-Aug
Echinacea purpurea[a]	Purple coneflower	M	S	2 - 3'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jul-Aug
Epilobium angustifolium	Fireweed	H	S/PS	3'	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jul-Aug
Erigeron flagellaris [a]	Whiplash daisy, trailing fleabane	L-M	S	< 1'	Y	Y	?	?	?	Jun-Jul
Eriogonum umbellatum [a]	Sulphur flower	M	S/PS	<.5'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jun-Jul
Erysimum asperum [a]	Western wallflower	M	S/PS	1'+	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	Jun-Jul
Gaillardia aristata [a]	Blanket flower	L-M	S	1 - 1.5'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jul-Sep
Galium boreale [ab]	Northern bedstraw	M-H	Sh	<1'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	May-Jun
Geranium spp.	Hardy geraniums	M	Sh/PS	2'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	May-Oct
Geranium caespitosum [a]	Wild geranium	M	Sh/PS	2'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	May-Oct
Geum triflorum	Prairie smoke	M-H	S/PS	1.5'	Y	Y	Y	?	?	Jun
Helianthella quinquenervis [a]	Aspen sunflower	M	S	1'	?	?	?	Y	Y	?
Helianthemum nummularium	Rockrose	M-H	S	< 1'	Y	Y	Y	?	?	May-Jun
Helianthus pumilus [a]	Small sunflower	M	S	1 - 2'	Y	Y	Y	?	?	Jun-Jul
Heuchera spp.	Coral bells	M-H	PS/Sh	1 - 2'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jun-Aug
Ipomopsis aggregata [a]	Scarlet gilia	M	S/PS	1 - 2'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jun-Aug
Iris germanica	Bearded iris	L-M	S	1 - 3'	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	May-Jun

Scientific Name	Common Name	Approx. Water Needs	Sun/Shade Preference	Approx. Mature Height	Elevation (1,000 ft.) 5	6	7	8	9	Approx. Bloom Month
Iris missouriensis [ac]	Missouri iris	M-H	S	1 - 2’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	May
Lamium sp.[b]	Dead nettle	M-H	Sh	< 1’	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	May-Jun
Lavandula spp.	Lavender	L-M	S	1 - 2’	Y	Y	Y	?	?	Jun-Nov
Leucocrinum montanum [a]	Sand lily	L-M	S	< 1’	Y	Y	Y	?	?	May
Liatris punctata [a]	Dotted gayfeather	VL-L	S	1 - 2’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Aug-Oct
Linum lewisii [ac]	Wild blue flax	L-H	S/PS	1 - 2’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	May-Sep
Lupinus argenteus [ac]	Silver lupine	M	Sh/PS	1 - 3’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jun-Jul
Mertensia lanceolata [a]	Narrow-leaved chiming bells	M-H	Sh/PS	1 - 2’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	May-Jun
Mimulus guttatus [a]	Yellow monkey-flower	H	Sh	1’	?	Y	Y	Y	Y	?
Monarda fistulosa [a]	Native beebalm	M-H	S/PS	1 - 2’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jul-Oct
Oenothera caespitosa [a]	White stemless evening primrose	L-M	S	1 - 2’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jun-Aug
Papaver orientale	Oriental poppy	H	S/Sh	2 - 3’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	May-Jun
Penstemon caespitosus [ab]	Mat penstemon	L-M	S	< .5’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jun
Penstemon secundiflorus	Sidebells	L-M	S	1 - 2’	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	May-Jun
Penstemon teucrioides [a]	Germander penstemon	L-M	S	.5’	Y	Y	Y	?	?	Jun-Jul
Penstemon virens [ac]	Blue mist penstemon	M	S/PS	.5’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	May-Jun
Phlox subulata	Moss phlox	M	S	< .5’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	May
Polemonium sp.	Jacob’s ladder	H	S/PS	1 - 2’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	May-Aug
Potentilla fissa [a]	Leafy potentilla	M-H	PS	1’	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	?
Potentilla verna [b]	Spring potentilla	M-H	PS	< .5’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Mar-May
Pulsatilla patens [a]	Pasque flower	M	S/PS	1’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Mar-May
Ratibida columnifera [a]	Prairie coneflower	L-M	S	2’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jul-Sep
Rudbeckia hirta [a]	Black-eyed Susan	M-H	S	2 - 3’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jul-Sep
Salvia officinalis	Cooking sage	L-M	S/PS	2’	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	Jun
Saxifraga hirsuta	Saxifrage	H	S/PS	.5’+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	May-Jun
Scutellaria brittonii [a]	Skullcap	M	S/PS	.5 - 1’	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	Aug-Sep
Sedum spp.[b]	Stonecrop	M	S/PS	1 - 1.5’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jul-Aug
Sedum lanceolatum [a]	Yellow stonecrop	M	S/PS	.5’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jul-Aug
Sempervivum sp.	Hens and chicks	L-M	S/PS	.5’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	n/a
Senecio spartioides [ac]	Broom groundsel	VL-L	S	2 - 3’	Y	Y	?	?	?	Sep-Oct
Solidago missouriensis [a]	Smooth goldenrod	L-M	S	1 - 2’	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	Jul-Aug
Thalictrum fendleri [a]	Fendler meadowrue	H	S/PS	2 - 3’	?	?	Y	Y	Y	Jul-Aug
Thermopsis divaricarpa [a]	Spreading golden banner	M-H	S/PS	2’	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	May
Tradescantia occidentalis [a]	Western spiderwort	M	S/PS	1.5’	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	Jun-Aug
Thymus spp.[b]	Thyme	L-M	S	< .5’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jun-Jul
Veronica pectinata	Speedwell	L-M	S	< .5’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Apr-Jul
Vinca minor [b]	Periwinkle, myrtle	H	Sh	< 1’	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	Apr-Jun
Waldsteinia sp.[b]	Barren strawberry	M-H	Sh/PS	< 1’	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	May-Jun
			Shrubs							
Arctostaphylos nevadensis [ab]	Pinemat manzanita	M	S/PS	1 - 2’	Y	Y	Y	N	N	n/a
Arctostaphylos patula [a]	Greenleaf manzanita	M	S/PS	3 - 4’	Y	Y	Y	N	N	n/a
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi [ab]	Kinnikinnick, bearberry	M	S/Sh	1’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	n/a
Betula glanulosa [a]	Bog birch	H	S/PS	6 - 8’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	n/a
Calluna sp.	Heather	H	S/PS	2’	Y	Y	Y	?	?	Jul-Aug
Ceanothus fendleri [a]	Buckbrush, mountain lilac	M	S	2’	Y	Y	Y	?	?	Jul
Cercocarpus intricatus [a]	Little-leaf mountain mahogany	VL-L	S	4 - 6’	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	n/a
Cercocarpus montanus [ac]	True mountain mahogany	L-M	S	4 - 6’	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	n/a
Chrysothamnus spp.[a]	Rabbitbrush	VL-L	S	2 - 6’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jul-Aug
Cornus stolonifera [a]	Redtwig dogwood	H	S/Sh	4 - 6’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	n/a
Cotoneaster horizontalis	Spreading cotoneaster	M	S/PS	2 - 3’	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	May-Jun
Daphne burkwoodii	Burkwood daphne	M	S/PS	2 - 3’	Y	Y	Y	?	?	Apr-Jun
Erica sp.	Heath	H	S/PS	1’	Y	Y	Y	?	?	Jan-Mar
Euonymus alatus	Burning bush euonymus	M	S/Sh	1 - 6’	Y	Y	Y	?	?	n/a
Fallugia paradoxa [a]	Apache plume	VL-L	S	2 - 4’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jun-Oct
Holodiscus dumosus [a]	Ocean spray, cliff/rock spirea	L-M	S/PS	4’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jun
Jamesia americana [a]	Wax flower	M-H	S/Sh	2 - 6’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jun
Lonicera tatarica	Tatarian honeysuckle	M	S/PS	4 - 6’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	May-Jun
Mahonia aquifolium	Oregon grape holly	M-H	S/Sh	4 - 6’	Y	Y	Y	?	?	May-Jun

Scientific Name	Common Name	Approx. Water Needs	Sun/Shade Preference	Approx. Mature Height	Elevation (1,000 ft.) 5	6	7	8	9	Approx. Bloom Month
Mahonia repens [ab]	Creeping grape holly	L-H	S/Sh	1 - 2’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Mar-May
Philadelphus microphyllus [a]	Little-leaf mockorange	M	S	2 - 3’	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	Jun
Physocarpus monogynus [a]	Mountain ninebark	M	S/Sh	2 - 4’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jun
Potentilla fruticosa [a]	Shrubby cinquefoil	M	S/PS	2 - 3’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	May-Sep
Prunus besseyi [a]	Western sand cherry	L-M	S	1 - 3’	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	May
Purshia tridentata [a]	Antelope bitterbrush	L-M	S	1 - 2’	Y	Y	Y	?	?	Jun-Aug
Ribes aureum [a]	Golden currant	M	S/PS	2 - 3’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Apr-May
Rosa woodsii [a]	Woods’ or native wild rose	M	S/PS	2 - 3’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Jun-Jul
Shepherdia canadensis [d]	Russet buffaloberry	M-H	S	5 - 6’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	n/a
Symphoricarpos spp. [d]	Snowberry, coralberry	M	S/PS	2 - 3’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	n/a
Viburnum edule [a]	Highbush cranberry	H	S	6 - 8’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	May-Jun
Yucca baccata [a]	Banana or broad-leaf yucca	VL-L	S/PS	2 - 3’	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Jun
Yucca filamentosa	Adam’s needle	M	S/PS	2 - 3’	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Jun
Yucca glauca [a]	Spanish bayonet, small soapweed, Great Plains yucca	VL-L	S/PS	2 - 3’	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	Jun
Large Shrubs and Trees										
Acer ginnala	Ginnala maple	M-H	S	6 - 10’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	n/a
Acer glabrum [a]	Rocky Mountain maple	M-H	S/Sh	6 - 10’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	n/a
Acer grandidentatum [a]	Wasatch maple	M	S/PS	10 - 20’	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	n/a
Alnus tenuifolia [a]	Thinleaf alder	H	S/PS	6 - 8’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Apr
Amelanchier alnifolia [ac]	Saskatoon alder-leaf serviceberry	M	S/PS	6 - 8’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Apr-May
Amelanchier utahensis [a]	Utah serviceberry	VL-M	S	4 - 6’	Y	Y	N	N	N	May
Betula fontinalis [a]	River birch	H	S/PS	6 - 8’	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	n/a
Cercocarpus ledifolius [a]	Mountain mahogany	VL-L	S	6 - 15’	Y	Y	?	N	N	n/a
Corylus cornuta [a]	Filbert, beaked hazelnut	H	S/Sh	5 - 6’	Y	Y	Y	?	?	n/a
Crataegus spp.[a]	Hawthorn (several native)	M	S	6 - 8’	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	May
Fraxinus pennsylvancia	Green ash	M-H	S	20 - 25’	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	n/a
Gleditsia triacanthos	Honeylocust	M-H	S	60 - 70’	Y	Y	N	N	N	May
Malus sp.	Crabapple	M	S	10 - 15’	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Apr-May
Physocarpus opulifolius [a]	Tall ninebark	M	S/PS	4 - 6’	Y	Y	Y	?	N	May
Populus tremuloides [a]	Aspen	M	S	8 - 25’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	n/a
Prunus americana [a]	American wild plum	M	S/PS	4 - 6’	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Apr
Prunus cerasifera[c]	Flowering plum	M	S/PS	8 - 10’	Y	Y	Y	?	N	Apr
Prunus pensylvanica [ac]	Pin/fire/wild/red cherry	M	S/PS	6 - 8’	Y	Y	Y	?	N	May
Prunus virginiana melanocarpa [ac]	Western chokecherry	M-H	S/PS	6 - 8’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Apr-May
Rubus deliciosus [a]	Boulder raspberry, thimbleberry	M	S/Sh	4 - 6’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Apr-May
Salix amygdaloides [a]	Peachleaf willow	H	S/PS	20 - 30’	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	n/a
Shepherdia argentea [a]	Silver buffaloberry	M	S/PS	4 - 6’	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	Apr
Sorbus scopulina [a]	Western mountain ash	M-H	S/Sh	6 - 8’	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	May
Syringa vulgaris	Common lilac	M	S	6 - 8’	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	May

[a] Native species.

[b] Ground cover plant.

[c] This species, or some species in this genus, may be poisonous to livestock, pets, wildlife and/or people under some conditions. Before planting, check with Colorado State University Cooperative Extension, Colorado State Forest Service, or other knowledgeable personnel.

[d] Several species of symphoricarpos are native.

Plants for a FireWise Landscape

Plants that are more resistant to wildfire have one or more of the following characteristics:

- They grow without accumulating large amounts of combustible dead branches, needles or leaves (example: aspen).
- They have open, loose branches with a low volume of total vegetation (examples: currant and mountain mahogany).
- They have low sap or resin content (examples: many deciduous species).
- They have high moisture content (examples: succulents and some herbaceous species).
- They grow slowly and need little maintenance (do not need frequent pruning).
- They are short and grow close to the ground (examples: wildflowers and groundcovers).
- They can resprout following fire, thus reducing relandscaping costs (example: aspen).

Conifers

In Colorado, conifers make up much of our natural forest. Because of their high resin content, they are more susceptible to fire.

Even though conifers are flammable, you do not need to remove all of them from around your home. Wildfire hazards usually can be effectively reduced through proper thinning and pruning of existing trees and shrubs.

When choosing conifers for your defensible space, consider those with characteristics that make them better able to survive fire:

- *thick bark,*
- *long needles, or*
- *self-pruning. (Self-pruning trees lose lower branches naturally, leaving a greater distance between ground and canopy.)*

Additional FireWise Guidelines

Some additional tips to follow when planning a FireWise landscape include:

- Landscape according to the recommended defensible-space zones. The plants nearest your home should be more widely spaced and smaller than those farther away.
- Plant in small, irregular clusters and islands, not in large masses.
- Break up the continuity of the vegetation (fuel) with decorative rock, gravel and stepping stone pathways. This will help modify fire behavior and slow its spread across your property.
- Plant a variety of types and species. Besides being aesthetically pleasing, this will help ensure a healthier forest by reducing insects and diseases. Healthy, vigorous, thinned forests can better resist catastrophic fires than unhealthy ones with insect and disease problems.
- In the event of drought and water rationing, prioritize the plants you wish to save. Provide supplemental water to those nearest your home, perhaps using "gray water."
- Mulch to conserve moisture and reduce weed growth. Mulch can be organic (wood chips or small bark pieces) or inorganic (gravel or rock). Avoid pine bark, thick layers of pine needles or other materials that can easily carry fire.

Don't Forget Maintenance

A landscape is a dynamic, constantly changing system. Plants considered "fire resistant" and that have low fuel volumes can lose these characteristics over time. Your landscape, and the plants in it, must be maintained to retain their FireWise properties.

FIREWISE is a multi-agency program that encourages the development of defensible space and the prevention of catastrophic wildfire.

Be aware of the growth habits of the plants on your land and of the changes that occur seasonally. Keep a watchful eye for the need to reduce fuel volumes and fuel continuity.

- Remove annual, herbaceous plants after they have gone to seed or when the stems become overly dry.
- Rake up and dispose of litter as it builds up over the season.
- Mow or trim grasses to a low height within your defensible space. This is especially important as they begin to cure and dry.
- Remove plant parts damaged by snow, wind, frost or other agents.
- Timely pruning is critical. It not only reduces fuel volume but also maintains healthier plants with more succulent, vigorous growth.

Additional FireWise Publications

Cooperative Extension

The following publications are available from The Other Bookstore, Colorado State University Cooperative Extension, 115 General Services Bldg., Fort Collins, CO 80523-4061; (970) 491-6198; resourcecenter@ucm.colostate.edu. Printed copies cost $1; they are available free on our Web site at www.cerc.colostate.edu:

- 6.302, *Creating Wildfire-Defensible Zones*
- 6.303, *Fire-Resistant Landscaping*
- 6.304, *Fire Safety, Evacuation and Home Defense*
- 6.306, *Grass Seed Mixes for the Reduction of Wildfire Hazard*
- 7.205, *Pruning Evergreens*
- 7.206, *Pruning Shrubs*
- 7.207, *Pruning Deciduous Trees*
- 7.402, *Protecting Trees During Construction*

Colorado State Forest Service

The following publication is available from the Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523-5060; (970) 491-6303:

- *Home Fire Protection in the Wildland Urban Interface*, CSFS #142-399

This fact sheet was produced in cooperation with the Colorado State Forest Service.

[1] *Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Coordinator, Colorado State Forest Service.*

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