

# Fire Resistant Landscaping



There are no fireproof plants but some plants burn slower, are harder to ignite, produce less heat or produce shorter flames than others. The characteristics of fire resistant plants are:

- High Moisture Content - Plants with high moisture content are more difficult to ignite and burn slower. When green and healthy, grasses and ground covers have more moisture than scrubs and trees.
- Low fuel Volume - Select plants which produce small amounts of vegetation.
- Low Growing Habit - Low growing plants produce shorter flame lengths and have less fuel volume than taller plants. Choose plants that are less than 18 inches at maturity.
- Desirable Chemical Content - Avoid plants with waxy or shinny leaves. These characteristics can indicate undesirable chemical content that increases flammability.

Of equal or greater importance than plant selection is plant maintenance. Routinely remove dead materials.

## Your landscaping as a fuel break



A fuel break is an area cleared totally of flammables, and may contain some fire resistant plants. To create a fuel break, space new plants or small groups of plants so that branches will not touch other groups when they are fully grown. At the base of trees and scrubs, replace flammable vegetation with rock, gravel, or low-growing or more fire resistant

groundcovers. This cover reduces the fire danger and also minimizes weeds. Don't group medium - sized scrubs beneath trees or taller scrubs. Create a fuel mosaic, where plants are in distinct groups with open space between containing low ground covers. This breaks up any available fuel mass. A hedge or row of trees can be a pathway for fire. Vertical and horizontal spacing of plants are both important considerations.

Maintain a defensible space around your home, to help minimize fire damage and provide space where firefighters can defend your home.

## Fire Resistant Plants for Plumas County

### TREES

Western Redbud	<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>
Poplars/Cottonwood	<i>Populus</i> spp.
Alders	<i>Alnus</i> spp.
Quaking Aspens	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>
Maples	<i>Acer</i> spp.

### SHRUBS

Creek Dogwood	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>
Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>
Oregon Grape	<i>Mahonia aquifolia</i>
Buffaloberry	<i>Shepherdia argentea</i>
Lilac	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>
Sunrose	<i>Helianthemum</i> spp.
Willows	<i>Salix</i> spp.
Saltbush	<i>Atriplex</i> spp.
Skunkbush	<i>Rhus trilobata</i>
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos</i> spp.

### VINES

Virginia Creeper	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>
Golden Clematis	<i>Clematis</i> spp.
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera</i>

### GROUNDCOVER/PERENNIALS

Sulfur Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>
Indian Blanket Flower	<i>Gallardia</i> spp.
Carpet Bugle	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>
Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla</i> spp.
Creeping Pinks	<i>Dianthus</i> spp.
Penstemons	<i>Penstemon</i> spp.
Larkspur	<i>Delphinium</i> spp.
Lupine	<i>Lupinus</i> spp.
Winter Creeper	<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>
Yarrow	<i>Achillea</i> spp.
Germander	<i>Germander</i> spp.
Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera hookeri</i>
Stonecups	<i>Sedum</i> spp.

**This brochure was developed as a partnership in Fire Prevention**

Plumas National Forest  
Beckwourth Ranger Station  
P.O. Box 7  
Hwy 70 and Mohawk Road  
Blairsden, CA 96103  
(530) 836-2575



Sierra Valley Nursery & Produce  
P.O. Box 79  
Beckwourth, CA 966129  
(530) 832-0114



For Fire Prevention information contact your local fire agency.

# Fire Resistant Plants for your Landscape



Protect your home from wildfire!

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