

Mohawk Valley Preferred Planting List from a Fire Resistant Perspective

Deer Resistant where noted Deer Resistant

Deer-resistant means **deer** are less likely to eat a particular plant. If a **deer** is hungry enough, almost any plant is fair game.

Fire Resistant Plants

While given certain conditions, all plants can and will burn, some plants are more resistant to ignition and supporting fire. In general, plants that are low growing, open structured, and less resinous are most suited to be fire resistant.

Following are general characteristics to look for:

- Higher moisture content in branches, stems and leaves – moist and supple
- Open branching habits either naturally or through pruning
- Trees tend to be clean, not bushy, and have little deadwood
- Less accumulation of woody debris from dead branches, stems and leaves
- Branches, stems and leaves that do not contain significant oil or wax
- Shrubs are low-growing (2') with minimal dead material
- Taller shrubs are clean, not bushy or twiggy
- Most fire-resistant trees are broad-leaf deciduous (lose their leaves), but some thick-leaf evergreens are also fire-resistant
- Sap or resin materials are low
- Sap is water-like and does not have a strong odor

There are no “fire-proof” plants. Even the most resistant plants must be maintained in good health, properly irrigated, and free of dead material, dry twigs, or fallen leaves and needles.

Spacing is as important as plant selection to achieve a fire resilient landscape.

- Minimum vertical spacing between trees, shrubs, and ground cover is determined by a formula of three times the height of the plant to the lowest branches.
- Minimum horizontal spacing depends on the slope of the land and the height of the plants involved. See attached chart.

MINIMUM HORIZONTAL CLEARANCE







SHRUBS

TREES



Fire Resistant Plants










Trees

Common Name	Botanical Name	
Alder	Alnus species	
Aspen/Poplars/Cottonwood	Populus species	
Crabapple	Malus species	
Ash	Fraxinus species	 Deer Resistant
Catalpa	Catalpa species	
Giant Sequoia	Sequoiadendron	 Deer Resistant
Goldenchain Tree	Laburnum watereri	
Larch	Larix species	
Locust	Robina species	
Lodgepole Pine	Pinus contorta murrayana species	
Maple	Acer species	 Deer Resistant
Maidenhair Tree	Ginkgo bilboba	
Mountain Alder	Alnus tenuifolia	
Mountain Ash	Sorbus species	
Ornamental Pear	Pyrus species	
Ponderosa Pine	Pinus ponderosa	 Deer Resistant
Plum or Cherry	Prunus species	
Redbud	Cercis species	 Deer Resistant
Smoke Tree	Cotinus coggygria	
Sumac	Rhus species	
Sugar Pine	Pinus lambertiana	 Deer Resistant

Shrubs

Common Name

Botanical Name

Barberry	Berberis species	 Deer Resistant
Buffaloberry	Sheperdia argentea	
Creek Dogwood	Cornus stolonifera	
Chokecherry	Prunus virginiana	
Cotoneaster	Cotoneaster species	 Deer Resistant
Current/Gooseberry	Ribes species	 Deer Resistant
Dogwood	Cornus species	
Elderberry	Sambucus species	
Euonymus	Euonymus species	
Flowering Quince	Chaenomeles species	 Deer Resistant
Forsythia	Forsythia species	
Germander	Teucrium species	 Deer Resistant
Honeysuckle	Lonicera species	
Laurel	Kalmia species	
Lavender	Santolina species	 Deer Resistant
Lilac	Syringa species	
Mahonia	Mahonia species	 Deer Resistant
Mock Orange	Philadelphus species	
Ninebark	Physocarpus species	
Pieris	Pieris species	
Potentilla	Potentilla species	 Deer Resistant
Redbud	Cercis species	 Deer Resistant
Saltbrush	Atriplex species	

Common Name








Botanical Name

Serviceberry/Juneberry	Amelanchier species	
Skunkbush	Rhus trilobata	 Deer Resistant
Snowberry/Coralberry	Symphoricarpos species	
Spiraea	Spiraea species	
Sumac	Rhus species	 Deer Resistant
Sunrose	Helianthemum	
Viburnum	Viburnum species	 Deer Resistant
Wild Lilac	Ceanothus species	 Deer Resistant
Willow	Salix species	

Groundcover/Vines/Perennials













Common Name

Botanical Name

Asters	Aster species	 Deer Resistant
Astilbe	Astible species	 Deer Resistant
Basket-of-Gold	Aurinia saxatilis	
Beard Tongue	Penstemon species	 Deer Resistant
Bellflower/Bluebells	Campanula species	 Deer Resistant
Black Eyed Susans	Rudbeckia species	 Deer Resistant
Blanket Flower	Gaillardia species	 Deer Resistant
Carpet Bugle	Ajuga species	
Cinquefoil	Potentilla species	 Deer Resistant
Clematis	Clematis species	
Coral Bells	Heuchera species	




Common Name

Botanical Name

Colombine	Aquilegia species	
Coneflower	Echinacea purpurea	 Deer Resistant
Coreopsis	Coreopsis species	 Deer Resistant
Creeping Jenny	Lysimachia species	
Creeping Pinks	Dianthus species	
Daisies	Chrysanthemum species	 Deer Resistant
Daylily	Hemerocallis species	
Primrose	Oenothera species	
Candytuft	Iberis species	 Deer Resistant
Geranium	Geranium species	 Deer Resistant
Honeysuckle	Lonicera species	
Hosta	Hosta species	
Iris	Iris species	 Deer Resistant
Ranunculus	Ranunculus species	
Lamb's Ear	Stachys byzantine	 Deer Resistant
Delphinium	Delphinium species	
Lupine	Lupinus species	 Deer Resistant
Mahonia	Mahonia species	
Narcissus	Narcissus species	 Deer Resistant
Penstemon	Penstemon species	 Deer Resistant
Dwarf Periwinkle	Vinca minor	
Phlox	Phlox species	 Deer Resistant
Uva-ursi	Arctostaphylos species	 Deer Resistant

Common Name






Botanical Name

Dwarf Plumbago	Ceratostigma plumbaginoides
Snow-in-Summer	Cerastium tomentosum  Deer Resistant
Creeping Snowberry	Symphoricarpos mallis
Sedum/Stonecrop	Sedum species
Squaw Carpet	Ceanothus prostratus
Mock Strawberry	Duchesnea indica
Sulfur Buckwheat	Eriogonum umbellulatum
Sweet Woodruff	Galium Odoratum
Thyme	Thymus species  Deer Resistant
Virginia Creeper	Parthenocissus species
Winter Creeper	Euonymus fortunei
Yarrow	Achillea species  Deer Resistant


Following is a list of plantings that are native to our area and may be acceptable in the landscape when properly maintained.

Even though quite flammable, these species, which are the dominant plants in our area, can be made more fire resistant with proper care. If they have an open growth with no dead wood, and are watered frequently, they will be less likely to burn. Limbing trees and trimming shrubs to keep these plants in control is a definite help to minimize the fire risk.

Trees

Common Name	Botanical Name	
Douglas Fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	 Deer Resistant
Incense Cedar	<i>Calocedrus decurrens</i>	 Deer Resistant
Pine	<i>Pinus species</i>	 Deer Resistant
Spruce	<i>Picea species</i>	 Deer Resistant
Fir	<i>Abies species</i>	 Deer Resistant

Shrubs

Common Name	Botanical Name	
Bitterbrush	<i>Purshia tridentate</i>	
Manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos species</i>	 Deer Resistant

Following is a list of plantings that should be avoided.

Common Name	Botanical Name
Acacia	Acacia species
Arborvitae	Thuja species
Bigcone Spruce	Pseudotsuga macrocarpa
Broom	Cytisus species
Cypress	Cupressus species
Douglas Fir	Pseudotsuga menziesii
Dwarf Alberta Spruce	Picea glauca 'Conica'
Dwarf Broom	Genista species
Giant Redwood	Sequoiadendron giganteum
Incense Cedar	Calocedrus decurrens
Juniper	Juniperus species
Manzanita	Arctostaphylos species
Pine	Pinus species
Rabbitbrush	Chrysothamnus nauseosus
Rosemary	Rosmarinus officinalis
Sagebrush or Wormwood	Artemisia species
Spruce	Picea species

These lists are not exhaustive.

The Sunset Western Garden Book is an excellent source for the details of the various species.

Following are some Internet sites that have excellent information on these issues:

- Lassen County and Northeastern California Landscaping Plant Guide
<http://www.lassenfiresafecouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/Lassen-Fire-Safe-Council-NECal-LandscapePlantGuide.pdf>
- The Spruce
<https://www.thespruce.com/plant-selection-for-the-landscape-2131865>
- Fire Resistant Plants for Chilean/Douglas County Washington
<http://cesutter.ucanr.edu/files/156934.pdf>

CAL FIRE and Cal Poly publish the “SelectTree” Database, which has detailed information and can be filtered to show fire resident species.

- <https://selecttree.calpoly.edu/>

Even though the next items were done for Oregon and Washington, they have very good information that also applies to plants that we have in our area of California.

- Fire Resistant Plants for Home Landscapes
<https://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/handle/1957/20921>
- Fire Resistant Plants for Chilean/Douglas County Washington
<http://cesutter.ucanr.edu/files/156934.pdf>

This is meant to be a working document. If you have questions, corrections, additions, or comments please send them to: chbowman@prodigy.net.