

Native Plants for Reducing Wildfire Risk

(Adapted from PNW Bulletin 590)

Avoid Highly Flammable plants:

- Plants that contain fine, dry or dead material, such as twigs, needles & leaves.
- Leaves, twigs and stems contain volatile waxes, terpenes or oil.
- Leaves are aromatic.
- Sap is gummy, resinous and has a strong odor.
- Bark may be loose or papery.
- Ornamental grasses, conifers & vines.
- Invasive plants such as Scotch Broom.

Groundcovers:

- Pussytoes or Cat's Ears, *Antennaria* sp.
- Kinnikinnick, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*
- Mahala Mat & Pt. Reyes, *Ceanothus prostratus* & *C. gloriosus*
- Sulphur Buckwheat, *Eriogonum umbellatum*
- Wild Strawberry, *Fragaria* sp.
- Stonecrop, *Sedum* sp.
- Speedwell, *Veronica* sp.

Perennials:

- Yarrow, *Achillea millefolium* (will spread)
- Nodding Onion, *Allium cernuum*
- Western Columbine, *Aquilegia Formosa*
- Sea Thrift, *Armeria maritima*
- Larkspur, *Delphinium* sp.
- Western Bleeding Heart, *Dicentra Formosa*
- Prairie Smoke, *Geum triflorum*
- Alumroot, *Heuchera* sp.
- Bitterroot, *Lewisia* sp.

Fire-resistant does not mean Fireproof!

3 Critical steps to defensible space:

1. Use fire resistant building materials
2. Reduce fuels such as weed vegetation and clean debris from roofs, decks & gutters.
3. Use fire resistant plants (5-30') & mulch (5') from your home.



- Columbia Tiger Lily, *Lilium columbianum*
- Lupines, *Lupinus* sp.
- Evening Primrose, *Oenothera* sp.
- Prickly Pear Cactus, *Opuntia* sp.
- Beardtongue, *Penstemon* sp.
- Jacob's Ladder, *Polemonium* sp.
- Skullcap, *Scutellaria* sp.
- Goldenrod, *Solidago* sp.
- Cooley's Hedge Nettle, *Stachys cooleyae*
- Aster, *Symphotrichum* sp.
- Meadowrue, *Thalictrum* sp.



Trees:

- Bigleaf Maple, *Acer macrophyllum*
- Red Alder, *Alnus rubra*
- Paper birch, *Betula papyrifera*
- Western Dogwood, *Cornus nuttallii*
- Western Hawthorn, *Crataegus douglasii*
- Cascara, *Frangula purshiana*
- Pacific Crabapple, *Malus fusca*
- Quaking Aspen, *Populus tremuloides*
- Chokecherry, *Prunus virginiana*
- Oregon White Oak, *Quercus garryana*

Broadleaf Evergreens:

- Oregon Grapes, *Mahonia* sp.
- Salal, *Gaultheria shallon*
- Pacific Rhododendron, *R. macrophyllum*
- Oregon Boxwood, *Paxistima myrsinites*



Deciduous Shrubs:

- Vine Maple, *Acer circinatum*
- Saskatoon Serviceberry, *Amelanchier alnifolia*
- Rocky Mountain Maple, *Acer glabrum*
- Honeysuckle, *Lonicera* sp. (use metal trellis away from home & other plants.)
- Red-twig Dogwood, *Cornus sericea*
- Shrubby Cinquefoil, *Dasiphora fruticosa*
- Oceanspray, *Holodiscus discolor*
- Pacific Mockorange, *Philadelphus lewisii*
- Pacific Ninebark, *Physocarpus capitatus*
- Western Azalea, *Rhododendron occidentale*
- Currants, *Ribes* sp.
- Wild Roses, *Rosa* sp.
- Willows, *Salix* sp.
- Elderberries, *Sambucus* sp.
- Meadowsweets, *Spiraea* sp.
- Snowberry, *Symphoricarpos albus*
- American Cranberrybush, *Viburnum opulus (trilobum)*



“Most conifers have resin and other characteristics that make them more flammable. Avoid planting conifers near the home.”--Mature conifers with thick bark are more fire-resistant, especially Ponderosa Pine & Western Larch.

*Other wetland plants and plants with succulent leaves are also likely to be fire-resistant.