FIREWISE LANDSCAPING

Firewise landscaping is primarily about surrounding your home with the least flammable plant choices possible, not overplanting, and keeping up with yard maintenance to prevent the build-up of flammable debris. Every plant is flammable, but some are more resistant than others.

FIREWISE LANDSCAPE DESIGN 101

- Consistently remove any dried plant material on your property to minimize fuel load.
- Do not overplant or plant dense shrubbery in large groupings.
- Incorporate fire breaks of non-flammable hardscaping, such as driveways, patios, inorganic mulches or water features in your landscape design.
- Break your property into concentric rings or zones of planting, with the most firewise plants closest to your home, gradually giving way to drought tolerant naturalized species.
- Use drip irrigation to make sure your plants remain hydrated during the fire season.



WHAT MAKES A PLANT FIREWISE?

Primarily herbaceous, low-growing plants with relatively high-moisture content.

WHAT IS NOT A FIREWISE PLANT?

Junipers, other conifers and broadleaf evergreens contain oils, resins and waxes that make them more flammable. They can still be incorporated into your firewise design, just be sure to situate them away from the home and plant them where they can reach their full size at maturity without being overcrowded.

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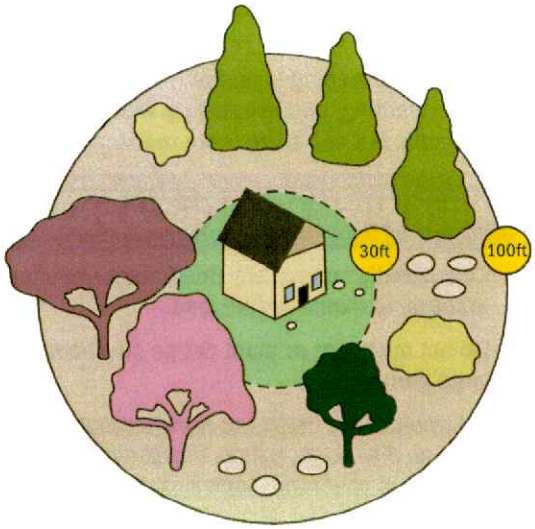
FIREWISE LANDSCAPING

BREAKING YOUR PROPERTY INTO ZONES

A 30-foot diameter around your home should be landscaped with only plants that are low growing, herbaceous, and consistently irrigated. When planning, be sure to allow each plant enough room to reach its full size at maturity. Avoid planting evergreens in this area. Set up your irrigation system in advance, and mulch all plants thoroughly to keep them well hydrated. (Note: Wood mulch can be a fuel source and should not be used within five feet of the home.)

The area extending up to 100 feet from your home is an ideal location for grasses, lawn, rock and low-growing shrubs. Plant in small groupings with hardscaping in between to act as fuel breaks. If you choose to plant evergreen shrubs or trees, situate them between 30–100 feet from your home.

If your property merges with the natural chaparral woodland area, be sure to thin any existing shrubbery on the fringes of your property. If you choose to landscape this area, select native species which can easily adapt to our climate.



FIREWISE PLANT LIST

TREES*

- Maples (Acer spp.)
- Flowering Dogwood (Cornus florida)
- Ash (Fraxinus spp.)
- Honeylocust (Gleditsia triacanthos)
- Cherry (Prunus spp.)
- Oak (Quercus spp.)
- Citrus
- Chinese Pistache
- Redbud

SHRUBS

- Butterfly bush (Buddleja spp.)
- Cotoneaster
- Oregon Grape (Mahonia spp.)
- Buckthorn (Rhamnus spp.)
- Azaleas & Rhododendrons
- Yucca
- Pineapple Guava
- Euonymus Fortunei

PERENNIALS

- Yarrow (Achillea spp.)
- Pigsqueak (Bergenia crassifolia)
- Coreopsis
- Wallflower (Erysimum spp.)
- CA Poppy
- Geranium
- Daylily (Hemerocallis spp.)
- Coral Bells (Heuchera spp.)
- Iris
- Mexican Evening Primrose
- Red Hot Poker (Kniphofia uvaria)
- Penstemon
- Flowering Bulbs
- Black-Eyed Susan (Rudbeckia)
- Coneflower (Echinacea p.)
- Dianthus
- Dead Nettle (Lamium)

GROUNDCOVERS AND SHRUBS

SUCCULENT

- Ice Plant (Delosperma spp.)
- Hens & Chicks (Sempervivum sxp.)
- Stonecrop (Sedum spp.)

NON-SUCCULENT

- Bugleweed (Ajuga reptans)
- Manzanita (Arctostaphylos spp.)
- Snow-in-Summer (Cerastium tomentosum)
- Wintercreeper (Euonymus fortunei)
- Thyme (Thymus spp.)
- Verbena
- Catmint (Nepeta spp.)
- Vinca Minor
- Lilyturf
- Lantana
- Myoporum
- Lamb's Ear (Stachys byzantina)

*Trees should be trimmed to a minimum of 10' away from a chimney.

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