



FIRE-RESISTANT LANDSCAPING FOR YOUR HOME

Choosing the right fire-resistant plants and materials can beautify your suburban home and also help reduce your wildfire risk.



AUGUST 2021



INSIDE THE HOME IGNITION ZONE (0-5 FEET FROM YOUR HOME)

Best Practice

For the best protection, keep this area clear of all combustible materials. Use noncombustible hardscapes, such as concrete pavers, flagstone paths, decorative gravel (rock mulch), and natural stones. The best option is to keep the area clear of plants, especially if you have combustible siding such as wood or vinyl.



The best practice is to keep all combustible materials out of the Home Ignition Zone.

Next Best Option

If you have noncombustible siding such as fiber-cement and you choose to have plants in this zone, limit your selection to varieties that grown no more than 12 inches in height. Be sure to water and care for any vegetation in this zone as any plant can become highly flammable if it is dead, dried out, or not well maintained.

Suitable Plants

African Daisy*

Gazania spp.

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-10

Height: 6"-12"

Blue Chalksticks

Senecio serpens

USDA Hardiness Zone: 9-11

Height: 10"-12"

Carpet Bugleweed

Ajua reptans

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8

Height: 4"-10"

Coopertone Stonecrop

Sedum nussbaumerianum

USDA Hardiness Zone: 8-11

Height: 18"

Creeping Phlox

Phlox subulata

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9

Height: 4"-6"

Dead Nettle*

Lamium [species]

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8

Height: 8"-12"

Dianthus (Garden Carnation)*

Dianthus

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9

Height: 2"-12"



Dwarf Plumbago

Ceratostigma-plumbaginoides

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8

Height: 8"-12"

Dwarf Tickseed

Coreopsis auriculata 'Nana'

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-9

Height: 6"-8"

Evening Primrose*

Oenothera [species]

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-7

Height: 6"-12"

Grayleaf Cranesbill

Geranium cinereum

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-9

Height: 4"-6"

Japanese Pachysandra*

Pachysandra terminalis

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8

Height: 8"-12"

Jelly Bean Plant

Sedum x rubrotinctum

USDA Hardiness Zone: 8-11

Height: 4"-8"

Kinnikinnick

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi

USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-6

Height: 4"-8"

Mahala Mat

Ceanothus prostratus

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8

Height: 1"-3"

Mexican Hens and Chicks

Echeveria 'Perle von Numberg'

USDA Hardiness Zone: 9-11

Height: 3"-5"

Purple Iceplant

Delosperma cooperi

USDA Hardiness Zone: 5-10

Height: 1"-4"



Red Creeping Thyme

Thymus praecox 'Coccineus'

USDA Hardiness Zone: 5-9

Height: 3"-6"

Rock Cress

Aubrieta deltoidea

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8

Height: 3"-8"

Rozanne Cranesbill*

Geranium 'Rozanne'

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-10

Height: 20"

Snow-in-Summer*

Cerastium tomentosum

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8

Height: 6"-12"

Speedwell

Veronica [species]

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8

Height: 1"-6"

Sun Rose*

Helianthemum nummularium

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-7

Height: 8"-12"

*Monitor height as this plant could become too tall (above 12") for the Home Ignition Zone.

PAST THE HOME IGNITION ZONE (5+ FEET FROM YOUR HOME)

- Include at least 4 feet of space between plant/flower beds.
- For beds with different plant varieties, base spacing on the tallest plant's maximum height and make sure the next bed is at least twice this length away. Also consider the maximum width of each plant to avoid creating very dense vegetation and to ensure adequate spacing between beds.
- Consider using hardscape materials between beds.
- Avoid creating long, continuous beds which could act as a path for fire.
- Privacy screens/hedge rows of arborvitae, cedars, or other evergreens are not recommended. At a minimum, these should not encroach into the Home Ignition Zone or your neighbor's wildfire-resistant landscaping.

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS (WITHIN 30 FEET OF YOUR HOME)

- Avoid combustible materials such as pine straw and wood mulch.
- Use noncombustible hardscapes such as concrete pavers, decorative gravel (rock mulch), flagstone, and natural stones such as Mexican Beach pebbles.



Suitable Plants

Basket-of-Gold

Aurinia saxatilis

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-7

Height: 8"-18"

Spread: 1'-2'

Bearded Iris

Iris hybrids

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-10

Height: 16"-30"

Spread: 14"-24"

Blanket Flower

Gaillardia varieties

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-10

Height: 8"-36"

Spread: 12"-24"

Blue Flax

Linum perenne

USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-8

Height: 12"-20"

Spread: 12"-14"

Blue Glow Agave

Agave 'Blue Glow'

USDA Hardiness Zone: 8-11

Height: 1'-2'

Spread: 3'-5'

Chives

Allium schoenoprasum

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8

Height: 12"-24"

Spread: 20"-24"



Columbine

Aquilegia species

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9

Height: 10"-36"

Spread: 10"-12"

Coneflower

Echinacea purpurea

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8

Height: 2'-3'

Spread: 1'-2'

Daylily

Hemerocallis species

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9

Height: 1'-4'

Spread: 1'-3'

Delphinium

Delphinium varieties

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-7

Height: 1'-7'

Spread: 1'-3'

Note: If used 5'-30' from home, keep trimmed below 24".

Heartleaf Bergenia

Bergenia cordifolia

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8

Height: 12"-14"

Spread: 12"-18"

Hosta / Hosta Lily

Hosta species

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8

Height: 6"-36"

Spread: 20"-24"

Oriental Poppy

Papaver orientale

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-7

Height: 2'-3'

Spread: 1'-2'

Penstemon or Beardtongue

Penstemon species

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8

Height: 4"-48"

Spread: 6"-36"

Prairie Coneflower / Mexican Hat

Ratibida columnifera

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-9

Height: 18"-24"

Spread: 12"-14"

Salvia / Sage

Salvia species

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-9

Height: 18"-28"

Spread: 24"-34"

Sea Thrift

Armeria maritima

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8

Height: 6"-36"

Spread: 20"-24"



Sedges

Carex species

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-9

Height: 12"-18"

Spread: 10"-12"

Sun Rose

Helianthemum nummularium

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-7

Height: 8"-12"

Spread: 12"-16"

Tickseed

Coreopsis species

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9

Height: 10"-24"

Spread: 12"-18"

Yarrow

Achillea [species]

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8

Height: 6"-36"

Spread: 20"-24"

Yucca

Yucca species

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-10

Height: 2'-4'

Spread: 2'-4'

Shrubs

Space between shrubs should be a minimum of 2 times the peak growth height of the shrub.

Blue-Mist Spirea <i>Caryopteris x clandonensis</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 5-10 Spacing: 10'+ / Height: 3'-5' Spread: 3'-5'	Grape Holly <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9 Spacing: 12'+ / Height: 5'-6' Spread: 5'-6'	Salal <i>Gaultheria shallon</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 6-8 Spacing: 20'+ / Height: 1'-10' Spread: 3'-12'
Boxwood <i>Paxistima myrtifolia</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9 Spacing: 8'+ / Height: 1'-4' Spread: 1'-4'	Lilac <i>Syringa species</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-7 Spacing: 30'+ / Height: 5'-15' Spread: 6'-12'	Shrub Roses <i>Rosa species</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-9 Spacing: 12'+ / Height: 2'-6' Spread: 2'-6'
Bumald Spirea <i>Spirea x Bumalda</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8 Spacing: 8'+ / Height: 2'-4' Spread: 2'-4'	Mockorange <i>Philadelphus species</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8 Spacing: 16'+ / Height: 6'-8' Spread: 6'-8'	Snowberry <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i> Common Name: Snowberry USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-7 Spacing: 12'+ / Height: 4'-6' Spread: 4'-6'
Creeping Holly <i>Mahonia repens</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8 Spacing: 4'+ / Height: 12"-18" Spread: 2'	Oceanspray <i>Holodiscus discolor</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 5-9 Spacing: 18'+ / Height: 6'-9' Spread: 3'-6'	Compact American Cranberry <i>Viburnum trilobum</i> <i>'compactum'</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-7 Spacing: 12'+ / Height: 4'-6' Spread: 4'-6'
Dwarf Burning Bush <i>Euonymus alatus compactus</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8 Spacing: 12'+ / Height: 4'-6' Spread: 4'-6'	Orchid Rockrose <i>Cistus purpureus</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 8-10 Spacing: Min. 8' / Height: 3'-4' Spread: 3'-4'	Western Azalea <i>Rhododendron occidentale</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 6-9 Spacing: 10'+ / Height: 5' Spread: 5'-10'
Flowering Currant <i>Ribes species</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-7 Spacing: 12'+ / Height: 3'-6' Spread: 3'-6'	Redosier Dogwood <i>Cornus sericea</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-8 Spacing: 20'+ / Height: 7'-10' Spread: 8'-10'	Western Sandcherry <i>Prunus besseyi</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-7 Spacing: 12'+ / Height: 4'-6' Spread: 4'-6'
	Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron macrophyllum</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 6-9 Spacing: 24'+ / Height: 6'-12' Spread: 10'-12'	Wood's Rose <i>Rosa woodsii</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8 Spacing: 12'+ / Height: 3'-6' Spread: 3'-6'
	Russian Sage <i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8 Spacing: 10'+ / Height: 3'-5' Spread: 3'-4'	Western Spirea <i>Spirea douglasii</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8 Spacing: 12'+ / Height: 3'-6' Spread: 3'-6'

Tall Shrubs & Trees

- Trees should have their limbs trimmed so all branches, leaves, or needles are above 15 feet or your house's roof line, whichever is tallest.
- Consider using only 1 tall shrub or tree within 30 feet of your home. If you plant more than 1, make sure there is a minimum of 10 feet of space between them.
- Do NOT plant within the Home Ignition Zone or any area where the tree may eventually overhang your roof at its largest size. This could lead to a buildup of flammable debris on your roof. Additionally, the tree or shrub could serve as a large fuel source right next to your home. It could also fall on your home in a windstorm. Over time, root systems may also puncture your home's underground plumbing and even cause foundation problems.

Amur Maple <i>Acer ginnala</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 15'-20' Spread: 15'-20'	Crabapple <i>Malus species</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 15'-20' Spread: 15'-20' Note: Given the relatively short height, consider spacing more than 10 feet and make sure limbs are trimmed 3'-4' above the ground.	Hawthorn <i>Crataegus species</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-7 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 15'-20' Spread: 10'-15' Note: Given its relatively short height, consider using 2 times the height as proper spacing, and keep branches pruned above the ground.
Big Leaf Maple <i>Acer macrophyllum</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 5-7 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 30'-75' Spread: 30'-50'	Eastern Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-9 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 25'-35' Spread: 15'-20'	Horsechestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-7 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 10'-15' Spread: 10'-15'
Birch <i>Betula species</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-9 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 30'-40' Spread: 20'-30'	European Beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-7 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 50'-60' Spread: 35'-45'	Kentucky Coffee Tree <i>Gymnocladus dioica</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 40'-50' Spread: 30'-40'
Canada Red Chokecherry <i>Prunus virginiana 'Schubert'</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 20'-30' Spread: 15'-20'	Fernleaf Buckthorn <i>Rhamnus frangula 'Aspenifolia'</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-7 Spacing: 24'+ / Height: 10'-12' Spread: 6'-10'	Mountain Alder <i>Alnus tenuifolia</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 5-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 20'-25' Spread: 15'-20'
Chokecherry <i>Prunus virginiana</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-6 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 20'-30' Spread: 18'-25'	Flowering Dogwood <i>Cornus florida</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 5-9 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 20'-30' Spread: 15'-20'	Mountain Ash <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-7 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 20'-30' Spread: 15'-20'
Common Hackberry <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-9 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 40'-50' Spread: 35'-40'	Green Ash <i>Faxinus pennsylvanica</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 40'-60' Spread: 20'-40'	Pin Oak <i>Quercus palustris</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 50'-70' Spread: 25'-40'

Purple Robe Locust <i>Robinia pseudocacia</i> 'purple robe' USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 30'-40' Spread: 20'-30' Quaking Aspen <i>Populus tremuloides</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 1-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 30'-40' Spread: 12'-15' Note: This tree will produce suckers to produce a grove of trees. Consider using outside of the 30-foot zone in a larger landscape setting. Red Alder <i>Alnus rubra</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 5-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 45'-50' Spread: 20'-30' Red Oak <i>Quercus rubra</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 60'-75' Spread: 40'-50' Rocky Mountain Maple <i>Acer glabrum</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-7 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 10'-15' Spread: 10'-15'	Sumac <i>Rhus species</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9 Spacing: > 30' / Height: 2'-20' Spread: 4'-15' Tallhedge <i>Rhamnus frangula</i> 'Columnaris' USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-7 Spacing: 24'+ / Height: 8'-12' Spread: 3'-4' Thornless Honeylocust <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> var. <i>inermis</i>. cvs USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 35'-40' Spread: 30'-50' Vine Maple <i>Acer circinatum</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 15'-20' Spread: 15'-20' Walnut <i>Juglans species</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-9 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 40'-60'+ Spread: 30'-50' Western Catalpa <i>Catalpa speciosa</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 40'-50' Spread: 20'-25'	Western Larch <i>Larix occidentalis</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-7 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 100'-180' Spread: 30'-40' Note: Keep branches trimmed to a height of at least 15 feet. Western Sycamore / California Sycamore <i>Platanus racemosa</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 7-9 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 40'-80' Spread: 50'-70' White Ash <i>Fraxinus americana</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 40'-60' Spread: 20'-40' White Oak <i>Quercus garryana</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 6-9 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 40'-90' Spread: 30'-60'
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

This guide was designed for suburban homes. Contact your local extension office to get specific guidance for your climate or region.

Note that landscaping with fire-resistant plants is essential to making a meaningful reduction in the wildfire risk to your home; however, there is no guarantee this will eliminate all risk. To learn about additional steps you can take to reduce your home's risk, visit [Wildfire Ready](https://www.wildfire-ready.org/) on [disastersafety.org](https://www.disastersafety.org/).