

Below is a partial list of fire-resistive plants. There are many other species fitting the criteria for fire-resistant plants that are not listed here. If the species you are thinking about using has the characteristics of a fire-resistive plant and will be properly maintained, then it should help protect your home from wildfire. Visit a local nursery for more ideas on plant selection and landscaping tips.

**BOTANICAL NAME    COMMON NAME**

<i>Sedum</i> spp.	Stone crops
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Carpet bugle
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Kinnickinnick
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Sea pink, thrift
<i>Iris cristata</i>	Crested iris
<i>Lupinus sericeus</i>	Silky lupine
<i>Campsis radicans</i>	Trumpet vine
<i>Wisteria</i> spp.	Wisteria
<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	Red osier dogwood
<i>Pachistima canbyi</i>	Dwarf mountain lover
<i>Rhododendron</i> spp.	Rhododendron
<i>Acer circinatum</i>	Vine Maple
<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	Serviceberry

Aesthetics need not be a tradeoff in designing a fire resistant landscape. The key is proper selection and placement of trees and vegetation. For example, we recommend using well irrigated perennials near the home with nonflammable mulches like gravel or crushed rock.



As a part of the landscape planning process, homeowners should find out the levels of risk for wildfire for their home location. For more information on this or anything discussed in this brochure, please contact your local county office:

- Whatcom Conservation District  
(360) 354-2035
- Whidbey Island Conservation District  
(360) 678-4708
- Snohomish Conservation District  
(425) 335-5634
- Skagit Conservation District  
(360) 428-4313
- San Juan County Conservation District  
(360) 378-6621

# When Yard Work Works for You



## Fire Resistant Traits of Plants in Washington State

## Contact your Local Landscape or Nursery Professional

Landscape and Nursery Professionals can help you incorporate fire safety features into your landscape design while enhancing its beauty and functionality. Their expertise in soil preparation, plant selection and plant placement will provide a fire-resistant landscape that will add value and attractiveness to your home.

Fire has always played a prominent role in the natural environment in the Pacific Northwest. With the increasing number of people moving into homes built in the urban interface, fire danger escalates exponentially. Homeowners are being urged to incorporate fire-safety measures in and around their homes to help protect their family and homes in the event of a wildfire.

By taking action now to create a fire-resistant landscape around your home, you can be much better prepared for the upcoming fire season.

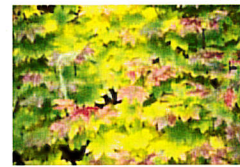


## It's YOUR Responsibility

Fire-resistive and fire-resistant are basically interchangeable terms. They are also highly relative terms. Flammability is relative to the weather conditions, topography and season of the year. Keep in mind, **a fireproof plant does not exist.** Any plant will burn in the right circumstances.

In general, fire-resistive plant characteristics include:

- Supple leaves
- Water-like sap
- Thicker bark
- High moisture content
- Low resin content



Vine Maple

Good landscaping can increase your home's resale value, enhance the joy of homeownership, provide versatile new entertainment venues, facilitate gardening and bird watching hobbies, and encourage people of all ages to enjoy the outdoors.

Specific plant families also have fire-resistant qualities:

- Deciduous plants tend to be fire-resistant, since they have more moisture in their leaves. The lack of leaves in the dormant season means less fuel for a wildfire (provided you rake the leaves up and remove them from underneath the tree).
- Most cool-season grasses are fire-resistant, provided they are irrigated.
- Trees with high canopies (10' - 15' off the ground).
- Shrubs with open forms (rather than conical).
- Bulbs add seasonal beauty without contributing greatly to fuel for wildfires.
- Wildflowers are also suitable.



Lupinus species



Beautiful  
landscaping can  
help reduce your  
risk of  
wildfire

In general, fire-resistive plants are also drought-tolerant. Just as important in creating a fire-resistive landscape is how the material is **planted and maintained.** If close to a structure, keep dead foliage and other debris cleared from plants and planting beds. Space planting beds farther apart and make sure your plants are adequately watered.



Serviceberry