

## What Are Fire-Resistant Plants?

Fire-resistant plants are those that do not readily ignite from a flame or other ignition sources. These plants can be damaged or even killed by fire; however, their foliage and stems do not significantly contribute to the fuel and, therefore, the fire's intensity. There are several other significant factors that influence the fire characteristics of plants, including plant moisture content, age, total volume, dead materials, and chemical content.

### Fire-Resistant Does Not Mean Fire-Proof!

#### Fire Resistant Characteristics:

- Plants maintained in a healthy condition.
- Leaves are moist and supple.
- Plants that have little dead wood and tend not to accumulate dry, dead material within the plant.
- Sap is water-like and does not have a strong odor.

#### Highly Flammable Characteristics:

- Contain fine, dry, or dead materials within the plant, such as twigs, needles and leaves.
- Leaves, twigs, and stems contain volatile waxes, terpenes, or oils.
- Leaves are aromatic (strong odor when crushed).
- Sap is gummy, resinous and has a strong odor.
- May have loose or papery bark.

## Protecting Your Family And Home

In the Pacific Northwest, fires are a natural part of the changing landscape. As home owners continue to build in rural areas, they must take special precautions to protect their lives, homes and property.

In many cases, loss could have been reduced or avoided if the home owners had taken steps to reduce the fire hazards on their property. Many agencies and organizations have developed programs to assist home owners.

The **Firewise Program** is a national program that helps communities and individuals reduce fire hazards with information on everything from home construction to grounds maintenance. It can be accessed by going to [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org).

#### Taking Action

One step homeowners should take to minimize or reduce the fuel and fire hazard around their homes is including the use of fire-resistant plants in the landscape. Equally important is proper plant placement, plant spacing and ongoing plant maintenance.

#### Selecting Fire-Resistant Plants

Due to the great diversity in landscape environments throughout the Pacific Northwest, always check with your local Extension office or nursery to find out which plants are adaptable to your area.



# Fire Resistant Plants

#### Putting Conservation on the Ground

WACD Plant Material Center  
16564 Bradley Road  
Bow, WA 98232

Phone: 360-757-1094

Fax: 360-757-3923

E-mail: [pmcsales@clearwire.net](mailto:pmcsales@clearwire.net)

Web: [www.wacd.org/PMC](http://www.wacd.org/PMC)

# Fire Resistant Native Plants for the Northwest



## Deciduous Trees

**Big Leaf Maple** (*Acer macrophyllum*)

Height: 80' / Spread 30'

**Red Alder** (*Alnus rubra*)

Height: 80' / Spread 20'

**Paper Birch** (*Betula papyrifera*)

Height: 100' / Spread 20'

**Water Birch** (*Betula occidentalis*)

Height: 20' / Spread 10'

**Oregon Ash** (*Fraxinus latifolia*)

Height: 60' / Spread 20'

**Pacific Crabapple** (*Malus fusca*)

Height: 30' / Spread 15'

**Black Hawthorn** (*Crataegus douglasii*)

Height: 50' / Spread 12'

**Quaking Aspen** (*Populus tremuloides*)

Height: 80' / Spread 15'

**Chokecherry** (*Prunus virginiana*)

Height: 20' / Spread 10'

**Oregon Oak** (*Quercus garryana*)

Height: 40' / Spread 20'

**Willow Species**

Height: 10-40' / Spread 10-20'

## Evergreen Trees

**Ponderosa Pine**

(*Pinus ponderosa*)

Height: 90' / Spread 20'

**Lodgepole Pine**

(*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*)

Height: 100' / Spread 15'

**Shore Pine**

(*Pinus contorta* var. *contorta*)

Height: 60' / Spread 20'

**Western Larch**

(*Larix occidentalis*)

Height: 120' / Spread 20'



**For additional information on these and other plants, contact the PMC.**

## Shrubs

**Vine Maple** (*Acer circinatum*)

Height: 20' / Spread 10'

**Rocky Mountain Maple** (*Acer glabrum*)

Height: 25' / Spread 15'

**Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)

Height: 15' / Spread 15'

**Red Osier Dogwood** (*Cornus stolonifera*)

Height: 20' / Spread 10'

**Oceanspray** (*Holodiscus discolor*)

Height: 10' / Spread 10'

**Mock Orange** (*Philadelphus lewisii*)

Height: 10' / Spread 8'

**Oregon Grape** (*Mahonia aquifolium*)

Height: 8' / Spread 6'

**Red Flowering Currant** (*Ribes sanguineum*)

Height: 10' / Spread 6'

**Woods Rose** (*Rosa woodsii*)

Height: 8' / Spread 6'

**Douglas Spirea** (*Spiraea douglasii*)

Height: 6' / Spread 4'

**Snowberry** (*Symphoricarpos albus*)

Height: 8' / Spread 6'