



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

Careopsis 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

Caryopteris x clandonensis
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 5-10
 Spacing: 10'+ / Height: 3'-5'
 Spread: 3'-5'

Boxwood

Paxistima myrtifolia
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9
 Spacing: 8'+ / Height: 1'-4'
 Spread: 1'-4'

Burnald Spirea

Spiraea x Bumalda
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8
 Spacing: 8'+ / Height: 2'-4'
 Spread: 2'-4'

Creeping Holly

Mahonia repens
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8
 Spacing: 4'+ / Height: 12"-18"
 Spread: 2'

Dwarf Burning Bush

Euonymus alatus compactus
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8
 Spacing: 12'+ / Height: 4'-6'
 Spread: 4'-6'

Flowering Currant

Ribes species
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-7
 Spacing: 12'+ / Height: 3'-6'
 Spread: 3'-6'



Grape Holly

Mahonia aquifolium
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9
 Spacing: 12'+ / Height: 5'-6'
 Spread: 5'-6'

Lilac

Syringa species
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-7
 Spacing: 30'+ / Height: 5'-15'
 Spread: 6'-12'

Mockorange

Philadelphus species
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8
 Spacing: 16'+ / Height: 6'-8'
 Spread: 6'-8'

Oceanspray

Holodiscus discolor
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 5-9
 Spacing: 18'+ / Height: 6'-9'
 Spread: 3'-6'

Orchid Rockrose

Cistus purpureus
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 8-10
 Spacing: Min. 8' / Height: 3'-4'
 Spread: 3'-4'

Redosier Dogwood

Cornus sericea
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-8
 Spacing: 20'+ / Height: 7'-10'
 Spread: 8'-10'

Rhododendron

Rhododendron macrophyllum
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 6-9
 Spacing: 24'+ / Height: 6'-12'
 Spread: 10'-12'

Russian Sage

Perovskia atriplicifolia
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8
 Spacing: 10'+ / Height: 3'-5'
 Spread: 3'-4'

Salal

Gaultheria shallon
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 6-8
 Spacing: 20'+ / Height: 1'-10'
 Spread: 3'-12'

Shrub Roses

Rosa species
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-9
 Spacing: 12'+ / Height: 2'-6'
 Spread: 2'-6'

Snowberry

Symphoricarpos albus
 Common Name: Snowberry
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-7
 Spacing: 12'+ / Height: 4'-6'
 Spread: 4'-6'

Compact American Cranberry

Viburnum trilobum
 'compactum'
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-7
 Spacing: 12'+ / Height: 4'-6'
 Spread: 4'-6'

Western Azalea

Rhododendron occidentale
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 6-9
 Spacing: 10'+ / Height: 5'
 Spread: 5'-10'

Western Sandcherry

Prunus besseyi
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-7
 Spacing: 12'+ / Height: 4'-6'
 Spread: 4'-6'

Wood's Rose

Rosa woodsii
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8
 Spacing: 12'+ / Height: 3'-6'
 Spread: 3'-6'

Western Spirea

Spiraea douglasii
 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.

<p>Amur Maple <i>Acer ginnala</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 15'-20' Spread: 15'-20'</p> <p>Big Leaf Maple <i>Acer macrophyllum</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 5-7 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 30'-75' Spread: 30'-50'</p> <p>Birch <i>Betula species</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-9 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 30'-40' Spread: 20'-30'</p> <p>Canada Red Chokecherry <i>Prunus virginiana 'Schubert'</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 20'-30' Spread: 15'-20'</p> <p>Chokecherry <i>Prunus virginiana</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-6 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 20'-30' Spread: 18'-25'</p> <p>Common Hackberry <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-9 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 40'-50' Spread: 35'-40'</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Eastern Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-9 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 25'-35' Spread: 15'-20'</p> <p>European Beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-7 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 50'-60' Spread: 35'-45'</p> <p>Fernleaf Buckthorn <i>Rhamnus frangula 'Aspenifolia'</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-7 Spacing: 24'+ / Height: 10'-12' Spread: 6'-10'</p> <p>Flowering Dogwood <i>Cornus florida</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 5-9 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 20'-30' Spread: 15'-20'</p> <p>Green Ash <i>Faxinus pennsylvanica</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 40'-60' Spread: 20'-40'</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Horsechestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-7 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 10'-15' Spread: 10'-15'</p> <p>Kentucky Coffee Tree <i>Gymnocladus dioica</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 40'-50' Spread: 30'-40'</p> <p>Mountain Alder <i>Alnus tenuifolia</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 5-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 20'-25' Spread: 15'-20'</p> <p>Mountain Ash <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-7 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 20'-30' Spread: 15'-20'</p> <p>Pin Oak <i>Quercus palustris</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 50'-70' Spread: 25'-40'</p>
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Purple Robe Locust

Robinia pseudocacia 'purple robe'

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8
Spacing: > 10' / Height: 30'-40'
Spread: 20'-30'

Quaking Aspen

Populus tremuloides

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

Alnus rubra

USDA Hardiness Zone: 5-8
Spacing: > 10' / Height: 45'-50'
Spread: 20'-30'

Red Oak

Quercus rubra

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8
Spacing: > 10' / Height: 60'-75'
Spread: 40'-50'

Rocky Mountain Maple

Acer glabrum

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-7
Spacing: > 10' / Height: 10'-15'
Spread: 10'-15'

Sumac

Rhus species

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9
Spacing: > 30' / Height: 2'-20'
Spread: 4'-15'

Tallhedge

Rhamnus frangula 'Columnaris'

USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-7
Spacing: 24'+ / Height: 8'-12'
Spread: 3'-4'

Thornless Honeylocust

Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis. cvs

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9
Spacing: > 10' / Height: 35'-40'
Spread: 30'-50'

Vine Maple

Acer circinatum

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8
Spacing: > 10' / Height: 15'-20'
Spread: 15'-20'

Walnut

Juglans species

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-9
Spacing: > 10' / Height: 40'-60'+
Spread: 30'-50'

Western Catalpa

Catalpa speciosa

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8
Spacing: > 10' / Height: 40'-50'
Spread: 20'-25'

Western Larch

Larix occidentalis

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

Platanus racemosa

USDA Hardiness Zone: 7-9
Spacing: > 10' / Height: 40'-80'
Spread: 50'-70'

White Ash

Fraxinus americana

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9
Spacing: > 10' / Height: 40'-60'
Spread: 20'-40'

White Oak

Quercus garryana

USDA Hardiness Zone: 6-9
Spacing: > 10' / Height: 40'-90'
Spread: 30'-60'

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.disastersafety.org/Wildfire-Ready) on [disastersafety.org](https://www.disastersafety.org).