

Sun Mountain Ranch Club Firewise Committee



Fire Resistant Landscaping

Key Role

Having a well-designed landscape around your house can play a key role in the safety of your home in the event of wildfire.

Know Where to Plant

It used to be that landscape architects would advise us to place plants right against our homes. This gave the feeling of the home being anchored in the landscape. But that is no longer advised. We want to keep plants, as much as possible, more than 5 feet from the foundation. The first 5 feet should be landscaped with non-flammable material such as rocks and gravel.

Fire Resistant Not Fire Proof

There are no fire proof plants. All plants will burn given the right conditions. But there are many plants that are less prone to fire than many in our yards now.

PLANT THIS



NOT THAT

PLANT THIS		NOT THAT	
<p>Alternative Firewise Grasses</p> <p>Sheep Fescue <i>Festuca ovina</i> (SPDart)</p> <p>Others include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bluebunch Wheatgrass • Buffalograss • Canada Bluegrass • Sandberg Bluegrass • Zoysia Grass • Idaho Fescue • Kentucky Bluegrass 		<p>Flammable Grasses</p> <p>Indian Ricegrass <i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i> (SPDart)</p> <p>Ornamental grasses *are fine fuel that readily ignite</p> <p>Others include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feather Reed Grass • Switch Grass • Fountain Grass • Big Bluestem 	
<p>Alternative Firewise Shrub</p> <p>Autumn Amber Sumac <i>Rhus typhina</i> 'Autumn Amber'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High moisture content • Drought tolerant • 1' tall creeping shrub 		<p>Flammable Shrub</p> <p>Creeping Juniper <i>Juniperus horizontalis</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High resin content *Resins are highly flammable • 1' tall, creeping shrub 	
<p>Alternative Firewise Shrub</p> <p>Quilled Mockorange <i>Nesaklepis lychnis</i> 'Buckley's Quill'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High soap content *Soap is a fire-resistant chemical • Drought tolerant • Dwarf shrub • 4-5' tall x 4-5' wide <p>Dwarf relative of Idaho's State Flower</p>		<p>Flammable Shrub</p> <p>Hedge Juniper <i>Juniperus sp.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High resin content *Resins are highly flammable • 4-6' tall x variable width 	
<p>Alternative Firewise Shrub</p> <p>Ron Williams Fineline Buckthorn <i>Rhamnus alaternus</i> 'Ron Williams'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium soap content • Medium water needs • 5-7' tall x 3' wide 		<p>Flammable Shrub</p> <p>Juniper <i>Juniperus sp.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High resin content *Resins are highly flammable • Variable height and width 	
<p>Alternative Firewise Shrub</p> <p>Saltbush <i>Atriplex canescens</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High salt content *Salt is a fire-resistant chemical • Extremely drought tolerant • 4-6' tall x 5' wide 		<p>Flammable Shrub</p> <p>Sagebrush <i>Artemisia tridentata</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High oil content *Oil is highly flammable • 3-5' tall x 4' wide 	
<p>Alternative Firewise Perennial</p> <p>Walker's Low Catmint <i>Nepeta x lewisii</i> 'Walker's Low'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low resin content • Drought tolerant • 2' tall x 3' wide 		<p>Flammable Perennial</p> <p>Russian Sage <i>Perovnia amplexicaulis</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High oil content *Oil is highly flammable • 3-4' tall x 4' wide 	

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Consider mature plant size and location

We often landscape using small plants. It's wise to consider their potential size when determining their place in your landscape. Be sure they don't get so big that they touch a wooden deck or grow together and create a pathway for fire to reach your home.

Consider these major points:

- Root space - Are the roots of the plant going to cause future problems to areas such as septic drain fields, sidewalks, or foundations in the selected location?
- Plant Height - Does the plant have room to grow to its pre-determined genetic height in the selected area?
- Plant Spread - Does the plant have room to spread to its pre-determined genetic width?

Recap - Design the landscaping to include a combination of fire-resistant vegetation and non-combustible materials such as decorative bricks, walls, paths, patios, rock mulches, and other attractive fire-resistant features.

Create firebreaks and meadows

It is probably safe to say that every piece of property in Sun Mountain Ranch Club has some amount of bitterbrush and sage brush growing on it. And many of us prefer to keep our properties looking like the natural shrub steppe environment we live in. And these plants should definitely be removed in Zone 1, the first 5 feet from the foundation. But that doesn't mean you can't have any of these plants on your property. They are an important food source for mule deer and provide valuable habitat for small animals and birds. The recommendation is that you not have vast swaths of these plants. Create smaller groupings with wider spacing in between the groups.

FAVORABLE



Plants that are recommended for use in fire-prone environments.

The plants in this category have some common characteristics:

- Low growing
- Herbaceous plant parts
- Open configuration
- High moisture content/succulent parts
- Water-like sap
- Broad leaves
- Low accumulation of dead materials
- Tight bark

