



# Fire Resistant Trees and Shrubs

*Putting Conservation on the Ground*

Property damage and loss due to wildfires has been increasing since the 1990's. 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. Towards that end, many agencies and organizations have developed programs to assist home owners. One such program is the **Firewise Program**. It 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). The website provides general tips on fire hazard reduction around the home such as:

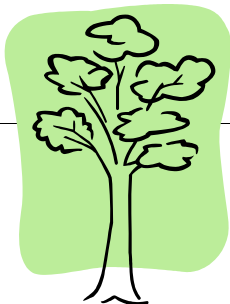
- Maintain a 30' clearing around the house for fire fighting equipment access.
- Space trees carefully.
- Remove dead vegetation.
- Mow regularly.

Most deciduous trees and shrubs are fire resistant if they are maintained in a healthy condition. Some Characteristics of fire resistance in plants are:

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

The website does not have a list of fire resistant plants for Washington State though. However, Oregon State University has developed a list for Oregon and the following is a list of those plants the PMC offers. The entire list for Oregon can be found at::

<http://extension.orst.edu/deschutes/FireResPlants02.pdf>



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## Evergreen Trees

Common Name	Height	Spread	Exposure	Native Distribution
Ponderosa Pine	90'	20'	Sun	Eastern Washington
Lodgepole Pine	100'	15'	Sun	Eastern Washington
Shore Pine	60'	20'	Sun	Western Washington
Western Larch	120'	20'	Sun	Eastern Washington

## Deciduous Trees

Common Name	Height	Spread	Exposure	Native Distribution
Bigleaf Maple	80'	30'	Sun / Shade	Western Washington
Red Alder	80'	20'	Sun / Part Shade	Western Washington
Paper Birch	100'	20'	Sun / Part Shade	All of Washington
Water Birch	20'	10'	Sun / Part Shade	Eastern Washington
Oregon Ash	60'	20'	Sun / Part Shade	Western Washington
Pacific Crabapple	30'	15'	Sun / Part Shade	Western Washington
Black Cottonwood	50'	20'	Sun / Part Shade	All of Washington
Quaking Aspen	80'	15'	Sun / Part Shade	All of Washington
Chokecherry	20'	10'	Sun	Eastern Washington
Oregon White Oak	40'	20'	Sun	Western Washington
Willow Species	10-40'	10-20'	Sun / Part Shade	All of Washington

## Shrubs

Common Name	Height	Spread	Exposure	Native Distribution
Vine Maple	20'	10'	Sun / Shade	All of Washington
Rocky Mountain Maple	25'	15'	Sun / Part Shade	All of Washington
Serviceberry	15'	12'	Sun / Part Shade	All of Washington
Red Osier Dogwood	20'	10'	Sun / Part Shade	All of Washington
Oceanspray	10'	10'	Sun / Part Shade	All of Washington
Mock Orange	10'	8'	Sun	All of Washington
Oregon Grape	8'	6'	Sun / Shade	All of Washington
Flowering Currants	10'	6'	Sun / Part Shade	All of Washington
Woods Rose	8'	6'	Sun	Eastern Washington
Western Spirea	6'	4'	Sun / Part Shade	Western Washington
Snowberry	8'	6'	Sun / Part Shade	All of Washington