Firewise Plants

For Front & Backyards

Landscaping Smokey Bear would be proud of

Design your Landscape to Defend Your Home

Your Landscape can be **Attractive** & Fire Resistant

Fire Resistance With Aesthetic Sense

Zone 1

0 – 30′+

Fire Resistant Plants Only

- ✓ **Use low-growing, fire resistant plants, avoid conifers**
- ✓ **Keep plants well pruned**
- ✓ **Remove dead plant material**
- ✓ **Mow or weed-eat grasses**
- ✓ **Use gravel mulch**
- ✓ **Keep well irrigated**
- ✓ **Use hardscapes**

Use Low Growing Fire Resistant Plants

Fireworks Flower
Allium shubertii

Yellow Ice Plant
Delosperma nubigenum

Low Growing

Starry Eyes
Nierembergia gracilis

'Firewitch' Dianthus
Dianthus grantianopolitanus

Attributes that Decrease Flammability

- Low oil or resin content
- High moisture content
- Compact growth form
- High soap or salt content
- Green stems
- Drought tolerant

High Soap Content

- Some Plants contain Saponin
- Saponin can be worked into a lather
- Soap is fire resistant

High Soap Content

Rock Soapwort
Saponaria occimodies

High Soap Content

Giant Flowered Soapwort
Saponaria x lempergii

Soapweed Yucca
Yucca glauca

Soap

Snowberry
Symphoricarpos albus

Latex

Spurge
Euphorbia epithymoides

Pectin

Crabapple
Malus spp.

Salt

Saltbush
Atriplex canescens

Hardscapes

Minimize continuous fuels

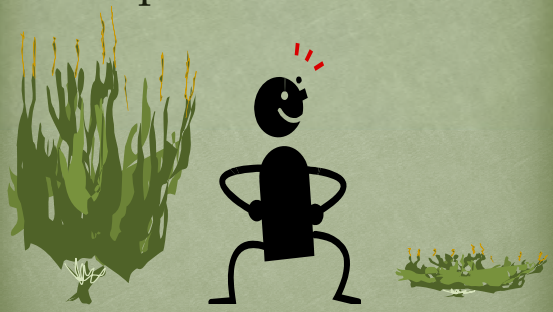
Zone 2

30′ – 60′+

Reduce Plant Density

- **Use low-growing fire resistant plants**
- **Space trees and shrubs at a distance of 2 X their height**
- **Reduce volume of vegetation**

Compact Growth Form



Compact Growth Form

Use of 'Cultivars'

Sand cherry
Prunus pumila
(6 feet tall)

'Pawnee Buttes'
Sand cherry
(3 feet tall)
© Plant Select (Colorado Based)

'Cultivars'

Blanket Flower
Gaillardia aristada

'Arizona Sun'
Blanket Flower
Gaillardia aristada

'Oranges & Lemons' Blanket Flower

Gaillardia aristada

Syringa

Mockorange
Philadelphus lewisii
Idaho State Flower
(8 feet tall)

'Manteau d' hermine'
Dwarf mockorange
Philadelphus lemoinei x
(4 feet tall)

Quilled Mockorange 'Buckley's Quill'

(4 feet tall)

Philadelphus hybrid
'Frosty Morn' X 'Bouquet Blanc'

Oak Leaf Sumac

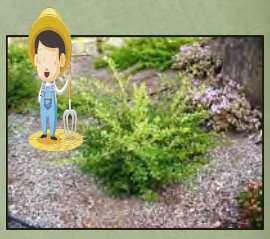
Rhus trilobata
(6 – 12 feet tall)

Oak Leaf Sumac

'Autumn Amber' Sumac
Rhus trilobata
(2 feet tall)

'Gro-Low' Sumac
Rhus aromatica
(3 feet tall)

Flowering Quince



Quince
Chaenomeles
(6 – 12 feet tall)

'Spitfire' Quince
Chaenomeles x *superba*
(3 – 5 feet tall)

Crimson Barberry

Dwarf plants often require less water & less pruning

Zone 3

60′ - 100′+

Thin & Prune Existing Plants

- **Most existing plants okay**
- **Prune tree limbs 6 – 10 feet high**
- **Minimize overlapping branches between trees & shrubs**
- **Reduce ladder fuels that help fire leap from grasses & shrubs to tree tops**

Zone 3

Existing Plants

Not Pruned & Cheatgrass understory

Thinned, Pruned & mulched w/rock

Prune Tree Limbs

How High?

How about here?

Prune Tree Limbs

6 – 10 feet from the ground

Fences

Use stone, concrete, wrought iron, or other Fire Resistant Fencing Materials

Fire Resistant Fences

Concrete Fencing

Wrought Iron Fencing

Green Fences

A hedge can be grown to create a Green Fence & the Green Fence could help stop a wildfire.

Vines for a Green Fence

Fire Resistant Vines can be grown on a variety of fencing types.

Fire Resistant Vines

'Goldflame'
Honeysuckle
Lonicera x heckrottii

Sweet Pea
Lathyrus odoratus

More Vines

Grape Vine
Vitis spp.

Virginia Creeper
Parthenocissus quinquefolia

*Can be invasive

Flammable Plant Alternatives

PLANT THIS

Western Larch
Larix occidentalis

NOT THAT

Blue Spruce
Picea spp.

Contains Resins

Alternatives

PLANT THIS

Saltbush
Atriplex canescens

NOT THAT

Sagebrush
Artemisia tridentata

Contains oils

Alternatives

PLANT THIS

Rocky Mountain Penstemon
Penstemon strictus

NOT THAT

Russian Sage
Perovskia atriplicifolia

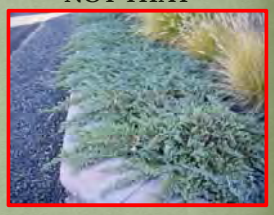
Contains oils

Alternatives

PLANT THIS

'Autumn Amber' Sumac
Rhus trilobata

NOT THAT



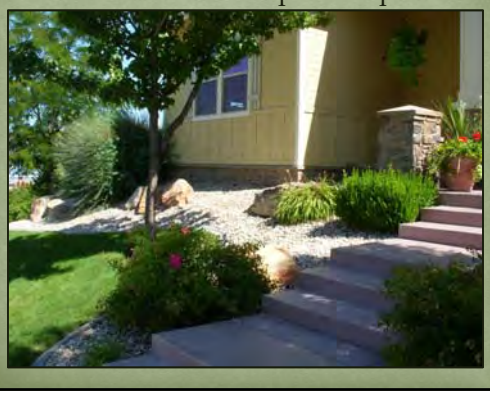
Creeping Juniper
Juniperus horizontalis

Contains resins

'KEEP IT CLEAN & GREEN'

- ✓ **Choose plants that use less water**
- ✓ **Choose plants that are naturally smaller in size**
- ✓ **Keep grasses well watered and mowed**
- ✓ **Remove dead branches, plants, and weeds**
- ✓ **Choose plants that do not drop a lot of flammable material**
- ✓ **Prune back and thin trees, shrubs, and perennials**

Firewise Landscape Example



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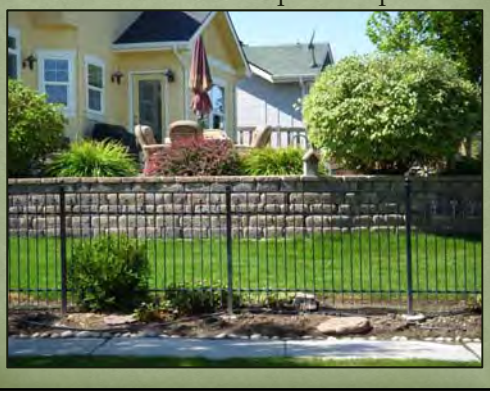

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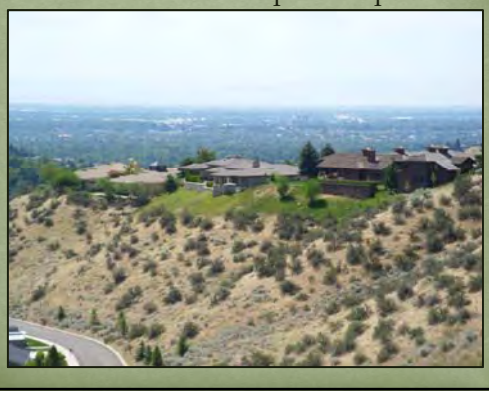

Firewise Landscaping

Makes A Difference

There are not enough fire engines to be at every home on every wildfire.

Firewise landscaping and building materials may be the only defense for your home.

Idaho Firewise Garden
Cooperative
ZONE
U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND
MANAGEMENT
CWI
COLLEGE OF
WESTERN IDAHO
IDAHO BOTANICAL
GARDEN