



Bainbridge Island Fire-Resistant Landscaping Guide

Selecting Appropriate Vegetation Near Structures



This list is intended as a guide for spaced plantings within the defensible space around your home. Fire-resistant does not mean fireproof, so take care to plant in locations that can be pruned away from structures and consider further means of wildfire risk mitigation such as ignition-resistant building materials and healthy forest management.

Characteristics of fire-resistant plants

- Limited accumulation of dead material
- Sparse, loose growth habit
- Non-resinous (woody plants), thin sap
- Succulent-like leaves

Certain plants such as arborvitae, juniper, eucalyptus, spruce, true fir, etc. can increase the intensity, rate and spread of wildfire due to chemicals and resin present in the plant material and should be avoided near structures. Using native species when possible is preferred due to adapted characteristics, but diversity in the landscape is also important.



Oemleria cerasiformis

Trees	Common name
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red maple
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River birch
<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	Western catalpa
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Hackberry
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Redbud
<i>Cornus nutallii</i>	Pacific dogwood

<i>Cornus spp.</i>	Ornamental dogwoods
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	European beech
<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	Kentucky coffeetree
<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	Ponderosa pine
<i>Platanus racemose</i>	Western sycamore
<i>Prunus emarginata</i>	Bitter cherry
<i>Quercus garryana</i>	Garry oak
<i>Quercus spp.</i>	Ornamental oaks
<i>Salix spp.</i>	Ornamental willows

Shrubs	Common name
<i>Acer circinatum</i>	Vine maple
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Kinnikkinnik
<i>Amelanchier spp.</i>	Serviceberry
<i>Berberis spp.</i>	Oregon grape
<i>Ceanothus spp.</i>	Snowbrush or redstem
<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	Red-osier dogwood
<i>Gaultheria ovatifolia</i>	Oregon wintergreen
<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	Salal
<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	Oceanspray
<i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>	Osoberry
<i>Philadelphus spp.</i>	Mock orange
<i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>	Pacific ninebark
<i>Rhamnus purshiana</i>	Cascara
<i>Rhododendron macrophyllum</i>	Pacific rhododendron
<i>Rhododendron occidentale</i>	Western azalea
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	Red-flowering currant
<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	Salmonberry
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	Red elderberry
<i>Sheperdia canadensis</i>	Soapberry, buffaloberry
<i>Sorbus sitchensis</i>	Sitka mountain-ash
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Snowberry
<i>Vaccinium spp.</i>	Huckleberry, blueberry
<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	American bush cranberry

Resources:

- Oregon State Extension
<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/pnw590.pdf>
- WUI Defensible Space
https://www.bainbridgewa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/17488/WUI_Defensible-Space