



Best Firewise Species

Fire has always been a part of the Flathead Valley and surrounding forest ecosystem. All of our native plants have adaptive strategies to survive and flourish in the presence of wildfire. Some plants survive by having robust roots that can resprout even when all stems and shoots have burned. Some plants survive fire by

having high water content and a low instance of flammable compounds, helping prevent the plant from catching fire. By planting natives strategically and by implementing management strategies, homeowners in the wildland urban interface can reduce the risk of fire damage to their property.

Fire Prevention Tips:

1. **Decrease Fuel Load on Your**

Property: Remove ladder fuels by pruning lower limbs, trees, and dead stems from shrubs. In the spring, remove previous year's dead stems and leaves.

2. **Create an Open Canopy:** Impede the spread of crown fires by thinning and by planting trees with enough space to ensure mature limbs will not touch.

3. **Add Strategic Walkways:** Stone or concrete paths create a break in ground fuels which will halt the spread of fire.

4. **Proper Watering:** Green plants are less flammable, but this doesn't mean you need to dump water or install massive irrigation lines on your property to keep it safe from fire. In fact, excessive watering will negatively impact plant health. Selecting plants that are adapted to the conditions on your site will ensure green plantings even during our hottest, driest months without excessive watering.

5. **Replace your lawn with native grasses & groundcovers.** : A lawn is only a good fire break when it is lush and green. By August, when fire

danger is highest, most lawns are drying out. This is because the roots of turf grasses only penetrate a few inches into the soil, so they need constant water to stay green. Native grasses, on the other hand, have roots that can reach 6 feet in depth. This gives them access to water unavailable to turf grasses. The correct grass at your site can remain lush into the high summer with little to no watering.

6. **Manage Mulch:** Mulch is a useful tool, helping the soil retain moisture (which keeps plants green) and preventing weed encroachment (weeds increase fuel loads). Incorrect mulching, though, can increase fire hazard. Deep beds of mulch can smolder and increase the spread of fire; small particles of mulch can be very flammable. Mulch should not be deeper than two inches and mulch with larger, denser chips should be chosen. Additionally mulch should not be used in beds adjoining structures. Rock or Gravel should be used instead.



ZONE A: 0-4' FROM STRUCTURE

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|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Field Pussytoes | <i>Antennaria neglecta</i> |
| Rosy Pussytoes | <i>Antennaria rosea</i> |
| Cutleaf Daisy | <i>Erigeron compositus</i> |
| Parsnip-flowered Buckwheat | <i>Eriogonum heracleoides</i> |
| Cushion Buckwheat | <i>Eriogonum ovalifolium</i> |
| Sulphur Buckwheat | <i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i> |
| Wild Strawberry | <i>Fragaria virginiana</i> |
| Large-leaved Avens | <i>Geum macrophyllum</i> |
| Alumroot | <i>Heuchera cylindrica</i> |
| Prairie Alumroot | <i>Heuchera richardsonii</i> |
| Twinflower | <i>Linnaea borealis</i> |
| Queen's Crown Stonecrop | <i>Rhodiola rhodantha</i> |
| Stonecrop | <i>Sedum stenopetalum</i> |
| Blue-eyed Grass | <i>Sisyrinchium idahoense</i> |
| Fringecup | <i>Tellima grandiflora</i> |
| Blue Violet | <i>Viola adunca</i> |

ZONE B: 5-20' FROM STRUCTURE

GRASSES

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|----------------|--------------------------|
| All Fescue | <i>Festuca spp.</i> |
| Downy Oatgrass | <i>Trisetum spicatum</i> |

GROUNDCOVERS

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|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Kinnikinnick | <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> |
| Lady Fern | <i>Athyrium filix-femina</i> |
| Male Fern | <i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i> |
| Western Sword Fern | <i>Polystichum munitum</i> |
| Birch-leaved Spirea | <i>Spiraea betulifolia</i> |

FORBS

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|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Nodding Onion | <i>Allium cernuum</i> |
| Wild Chives | <i>Allium schoenoprasum</i> |
| All Columbine Species | <i>Aquilegia spp.</i> |
| Plains Coreopsis | <i>Coreopsis tinctoria</i> |
| Yellow Monkeyflower | <i>Erythranthe guttata</i> |
| Red Monkeyflower | <i>Erythranthe lewisii</i> |
| Blanketflower | <i>Gaillardia aristata</i> |

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|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Scarlet Gilia | <i>Ipomopsis aggregata</i> |
| Rocky Mountain Iris | <i>Iris missouriensis</i> |
| All Penstemon Species | <i>Penstemon spp.</i> |
| Western Spiderwort | <i>Tradescantia occidentalis</i> |
| Yucca | <i>Yucca glauca</i> |

SHRUBS

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|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Mallow Ninebark | <i>Physocarpus malvaceus</i> |
| Nootka Rose | <i>Rosa nutkana</i> |
| Wood's Rose | <i>Rosa woodsii</i> |
| Snowberry | <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i> |

ZONE C: 20+ FEET FROM STRUCTURE

GRASSES

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|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Sideoats Grama | <i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> |
| Blue Grama | <i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> |
| Little Bluestem | <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> |

FORBS

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|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Showy Aster | <i>Eurybia conspicua</i> |
| Mountain Hollyhock | <i>Iliamna rivularis</i> |
| Silverleaf Lupine | <i>Lupinus argenteus</i> |
| Silky Lupine | <i>Lupinus sericeus</i> |

SHRUBS

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|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Red-osier Dogwood | <i>Cornus sericea</i> |
| Rocky Mountain Maple | <i>Acer glabrum</i> |
| Thinleaf Alder | <i>Alnus incana</i> |
| Mock-orange | <i>Philadelphus lewisii</i> |
| Chokecherry | <i>Prunus virginiana</i> |

TREES

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|----------------|----------------------------|
| Western Larch | <i>Larix occidentalis</i> |
| Ponderosa Pine | <i>Pinus ponderosa</i> |
| Quaking Aspen | <i>Populus tremuloides</i> |

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