



FIRE-RESISTANT LANDSCAPING FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Choosing the right fire-resistant plants and materials can beautify your property and also help reduce your wildfire risk.



AUGUST 2021



INSIDE THE BUILDING IGNITION ZONE (0-5 FEET FROM BUILDING)

Best Practice

For the best protection, keep this area clear of all combustible materials. Use noncombustible hardscapes such as concrete sidewalks, decorative gravel (rock mulch), and natural stones. The best option is to keep the area clear of plants, especially if you have combustible siding such as wood or vinyl.



The best practice is to keep all combustible materials out of the Building Ignition Zone.

Next Best Option

If you have noncombustible siding such as fiber-cement and you choose to have plants in this zone, limit your selection to varieties that grown no more than 12 inches in height. Be sure to water and care for any vegetation in this zone as any plant can become highly flammable if it is dead, dried out, or not well maintained.

Suitable Plants

African Daisy*

Gazania spp.

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-10

Height: 6"-12"

Blue Chalksticks

Senecio serpens

USDA Hardiness Zone: 9-11

Height: 10"-12"

Carpet Bugleweed

Ajua reptans

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8

Height: 4"-10"

Coopertone Stonecrop

Sedum nussbaumerianum

USDA Hardiness Zone: 8-11

Height: 18"

Creeping Phlox

Phlox subulata

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9

Height: 4"-6"

Dead Nettle*

Lamium [species]

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8

Height: 8"-12"

Dianthus (Garden Carnation)*

Dianthus

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9

Height: 2"-12"



Dwarf Plumbago

Ceratostigma-plumbaginoides

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8

Height: 8"-12"

Dwarf Tickseed

Coreopsis auriculata 'Nana'

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-9

Height: 6"-8"

Evening Primrose*

Oenothera [species]

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-7

Height: 6"-12"

Grayleaf Cranesbill

Geranium cinereum

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-9

Height: 4"-6"

Japanese Pachysandra*

Pachysandra terminalis

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8

Height: 8"-12"

Jelly Bean Plant

Sedum x rubrotinctum

USDA Hardiness Zone: 8-11

Height: 4"-8"

Kinnikinnick

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi

USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-6

Height: 4"-8"

Mahala Mat

Ceanothus prostratus

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8

Height: 1"-3"

Mexican Hens and Chicks

Echeveria 'Perle von Numberg'

USDA Hardiness Zone: 9-11

Height: 3"-5"

Purple Iceplant

Delosperma cooperi

USDA Hardiness Zone: 5-10

Height: 1"-4"



Red Creeping Thyme

Thymus praecox 'Coccineus'

USDA Hardiness Zone: 5-9

Height: 3"-6"

Rock Cress

Aubrieta deltoidea

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8

Height: 3"-8"

Rozanne Cranesbill*

Geranium 'Rozanne'

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-10

Height: 20"

Snow-in-Summer*

Cerastium tomentosum

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8

Height: 6"-12"

Speedwell

Veronica [species]

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8

Height: 1"-6"

Sun Rose*

Helianthemum nummularium

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-7

Height: 8"-12"

*Monitor height as this plant could become too tall (above 12") for the Building Ignition Zone.

PAST THE BUILDING IGNITION ZONE (5+ FEET FROM YOUR BUILDING)

- Include at least 4 feet of space between plant/flower beds.
- For beds and elevated planters with different plant varieties, base spacing on the tallest plant's maximum height and make sure the next bed or planter is at least twice this length away if possible. Also consider the maximum width of each plant to avoid creating very dense vegetation and to ensure adequate spacing between beds and/or planters.
- Consider using hardscape materials between beds or planters.
- Avoid creating long, continuous beds which could act as a path for fire.

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS (WITHIN 30 FEET OF YOUR BUILDING)

- Avoid combustible materials such as pine straw and wood mulch.
- Use noncombustible hardscapes such as concrete sidewalks, decorative gravel (rock mulch), and natural stones such as Mexican Beach pebbles.



Suitable Plants

Basket-of-Gold

Aurinia saxatilis

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-7

Height: 8"-18"

Spread: 1'-2'

Bearded Iris

Iris hybrids

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-10

Height: 16"-30"

Spread: 14"-24"

Blanket Flower

Gaillardia varieties

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-10

Height: 8"-36"

Spread: 12"-24"

Blue Flax

Linum perenne

USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-8

Height: 12"-20"

Spread: 12"-14"

Blue Glow Agave

Agave 'Blue Glow'

USDA Hardiness Zone: 8-11

Height: 1'-2'

Spread: 3'-5'

Coneflower

Echinacea purpurea

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8

Height: 2'-3'

Spread: 1'-2'

Daylily

Hemerocallis species

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9

Height: 1'-4'

Spread: 1'-3'

Delphinium

Delphinium varieties

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-7

Height: 1'-7'

Spread: 1'-3'

Note: If used 5'-30' from building, keep trimmed below 24".

Heartleaf Bergenia

Bergenia cordifolia

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8

Height: 12"-14"

Spread: 12"-18"

Hosta / Hosta Lily

Hosta species

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8

Height: 6"-36"

Spread: 20"-24"

Oriental Poppy

Papaver orientale

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-7

Height: 2'-3'

Spread: 1'-2'

Penstemon or Beardtongue

Penstemon species

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8

Height: 4"-48"

Spread: 6"-36"

Prairie Coneflower / Mexican Hat

Ratibida columnifera

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-9

Height: 18"-24"

Spread: 12"-14"

Salvia / Sage

Salvia species

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-9

Height: 18"-28"

Spread: 24"-34"

Sea Thrift

Armeria maritima

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8

Height: 6"-36"

Spread: 20"-24"



Sedges

Carex species

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-9

Height: 12"-18"

Spread: 10"-12"

Sun Rose

Helianthemum nummularium

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-7

Height: 8"-12"

Spread: 12"-16"

Tickseed

Coreopsis species

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9

Height: 10"-24"

Spread: 12"-18"

Yarrow

Achillea [species]

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8

Height: 6"-36"

Spread: 20"-24"

Yucca

Yucca species

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-10

Height: 2'-4'

Spread: 2'-4'

Chives

Allium schoenoprasum

USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8

Height: 12"-24"

Spread: 20"-24"



Columbine

Aquilegia species

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9

Height: 10"-36"

Spread: 10"-12"

Shrubs

Space between shrubs should be a minimum of 2 times the peak growth height of the shrub.

Blue-Mist Spirea

Caryopteris x clandonensis
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 5-10
 Spacing: 10'+ / Height: 3'-5'
 Spread: 3'-5'

Boxwood

Paxistima myrtifolia
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9
 Spacing: 8'+ / Height: 1'-4'
 Spread: 1'-4'

Bumald Spirea

Spirea x Bumalda
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8
 Spacing: 8'+ / Height: 2'-4'
 Spread: 2'-4'

Creeping Holly

Mahonia repens
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8
 Spacing: 4'+ / Height: 12"-18"
 Spread: 2'

Dwarf Burning Bush

Euonymus alatus compactus
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8
 Spacing: 12'+ / Height: 4'-6'
 Spread: 4'-6'

Flowering Currant

Ribes species
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-7
 Spacing: 12'+ / Height: 3'-6'
 Spread: 3'-6'



Grape Holly

Mahonia aquifolium
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9
 Spacing: 12'+ / Height: 5'-6'
 Spread: 5'-6'

Lilac

Syringa species
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-7
 Spacing: 30'+ / Height: 5'-15'
 Spread: 6'-12'

Mockorange

Philadelphus species
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8
 Spacing: 16'+ / Height: 6'-8'
 Spread: 6'-8'

Oceanspray

Holodiscus discolor
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 5-9
 Spacing: 18'+ / Height: 6'-9'
 Spread: 3'-6'

Orchid Rockrose

Cistus purpureus
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 8-10
 Spacing: Min. 8' / Height: 3'-4'
 Spread: 3'-4'

Redosier Dogwood

Cornus sericea
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-8
 Spacing: 20'+ / Height: 7'-10'
 Spread: 8'-10'

Rhododendron

Rhododendron macrophyllum
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 6-9
 Spacing: 24'+ / Height: 6'-12'
 Spread: 10'-12'

Russian Sage

Perovskia atriplicifolia
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8
 Spacing: 10'+ / Height: 3'-5'
 Spread: 3'-4'

Salal

Gaultheria shallon
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 6-8
 Spacing: 20'+ / Height: 1'-10'
 Spread: 3'-12'

Shrub Roses

Rosa species
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-9
 Spacing: 12'+ / Height: 2'-6'
 Spread: 2'-6'

Snowberry

Symphoricarpos albus
 Common Name: Snowberry
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-7
 Spacing: 12'+ / Height: 4'-6'
 Spread: 4'-6'

Compact American Cranberry

Viburnum trilobum
 'compactum'
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-7
 Spacing: 12'+ / Height: 4'-6'
 Spread: 4'-6'

Western Azalea

Rhododendron occidentale
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 6-9
 Spacing: 10'+ / Height: 5'
 Spread: 5'-10'

Western Sandcherry

Prunus besseyi
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-7
 Spacing: 12'+ / Height: 4'-6'
 Spread: 4'-6'

Wood's Rose

Rosa woodsii
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8
 Spacing: 12'+ / Height: 3'-6'
 Spread: 3'-6'

Western Spirea

Spirea douglasii
 USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8
 Spacing: 12'+ / Height: 3'-6'
 Spread: 3'-6'

Tall Shrubs & Trees

- For the best protection, tall shrubs and trees are not recommended within 30 feet of the building. Also keep this area irrigated.
- For areas beyond 30 feet, such as in parking lot areas, use this list to guide your tree and shrub selection.
- Do NOT plant within the Building Ignition Zone or any area where the tree may eventually overhang your roof at its largest size. This could lead to a buildup of flammable debris on your roof. Additionally, the tree or shrub could serve as a large fuel source right next to your building. It could also fall on your building in a windstorm. Over time, root systems may also puncture your building's underground plumbing and even cause foundation problems.

<p>Amur Maple <i>Acer ginnala</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 15'-20' Spread: 15'-20'</p> <p>Big Leaf Maple <i>Acer macrophyllum</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 5-7 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 30'-75' Spread: 30'-50'</p> <p>Birch <i>Betula species</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-9 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 30'-40' Spread: 20'-30'</p> <p>Canada Red Chokecherry <i>Prunus virginiana 'Schubert'</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 20'-30' Spread: 15'-20'</p> <p>Chokecherry <i>Prunus virginiana</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-6 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 20'-30' Spread: 18'-25'</p> <p>Common Hackberry <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-9 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 40'-50' Spread: 35'-40'</p>	<p>Crabapple <i>Malus species</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 15'-20' Spread: 15'-20'</p> <p>Note: Given the relatively short height, consider spacing more than 10 feet and make sure limbs are trimmed 3'-4' above the ground.</p> <p>Eastern Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-9 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 25'-35' Spread: 15'-20'</p> <p>European Beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-7 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 50'-60' Spread: 35'-45'</p> <p>Fernleaf Buckthorn <i>Rhamnus frangula 'Aspenifolia'</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-7 Spacing: 24'+ / Height: 10'-12' Spread: 6'-10'</p> <p>Flowering Dogwood <i>Cornus florida</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 5-9 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 20'-30' Spread: 15'-20'</p> <p>Green Ash <i>Faxinus pennsylvanica</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 40'-60' Spread: 20'-40'</p>	<p>Hawthorn <i>Crataegus species</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-7 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 15'-20' Spread: 10'-15'</p> <p>Note: Given its relatively short height, consider using 2 times the height as proper spacing, and keep branches pruned above the ground.</p> <p>Horsechestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-7 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 10'-15' Spread: 10'-15'</p> <p>Kentucky Coffee Tree <i>Gymnocladus dioica</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 40'-50' Spread: 30'-40'</p> <p>Mountain Alder <i>Alnus tenuifolia</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 5-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 20'-25' Spread: 15'-20'</p> <p>Mountain Ash <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-7 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 20'-30' Spread: 15'-20'</p> <p>Pin Oak <i>Quercus palustris</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 50'-70' Spread: 25'-40'</p>
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<p>Purple Robe Locust <i>Robinia pseudocacia</i> 'purple robe' USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 30'-40' Spread: 20'-30'</p> <p>Quaking Aspen <i>Populus tremuloides</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 1-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 30'-40' Spread: 12'-15'</p> <p>Note: This tree will produce suckers to produce a grove of trees. Consider using outside of the 30-foot zone in a larger landscape setting.</p> <p>Red Alder <i>Alnus rubra</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 5-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 45'-50' Spread: 20'-30'</p> <p>Red Oak <i>Quercus rubra</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 60'-75' Spread: 40'-50'</p> <p>Rocky Mountain Maple <i>Acer glabrum</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-7 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 10'-15' Spread: 10'-15'</p>	<p>Sumac <i>Rhus species</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9 Spacing: > 30' / Height: 2'-20' Spread: 4'-15'</p> <p>Tallhedge <i>Rhamnus frangula</i> 'Columnaris' USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-7 Spacing: 24'+ / Height: 8'-12' Spread: 3'-4'</p> <p>Thornless Honeylocust <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> var. <i>inermis</i>. cvs USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 35'-40' Spread: 30'-50'</p> <p>Vine Maple <i>Acer circinatum</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 15'-20' Spread: 15'-20'</p> <p>Walnut <i>Juglans species</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-9 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 40'-60'+ Spread: 30'-50'</p> <p>Western Catalpa <i>Catalpa speciosa</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-8 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 40'-50' Spread: 20'-25'</p>	<p>Western Larch <i>Larix occidentalis</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 4-7 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 100'-180' Spread: 30'-40'</p> <p>Note: Keep branches trimmed to a height of at least 15 feet.</p> <p>Western Sycamore / California Sycamore <i>Platanus racemosa</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 7-9 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 40'-80' Spread: 50'-70'</p> <p>White Ash <i>Faxinus americana</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 3-9 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 40'-60' Spread: 20'-40'</p> <p>White Oak <i>Quercus garryana</i> USDA Hardiness Zone: 6-9 Spacing: > 10' / Height: 40'-90' Spread: 30'-60'</p>
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact your local extension office to get specific guidance for your climate or region.

Note that landscaping with fire-resistant plants is essential to making a meaningful reduction in the wildfire risk to your building; however, there is no guarantee this will eliminate all risk. To learn about additional steps you can take to reduce your building's risk, visit [Wildfire Ready-Business](https://www.disastersafety.org) on [disastersafety.org](https://www.disastersafety.org).

For steep-sloped commercial properties, follow guidance from "Fire-Resistant Landscaping for Your Home."