

Quick Guide to Firewise Shrubs

- Select the “right plant for the right place” by choosing plants that are well adapted to the conditions where they are to be planted and by considering their flammability characteristics.
- Conduct routine landscape maintenance, such as pruning shrubs, to maintain vertical and horizontal separation from other plants.
- Periodically remove dead or diseased plant material from plants within your home landscape.
- Remember, there are no “fireproof” plants. All plants and organic mulches burn in extreme weather or fire conditions.
- The 34 shrubs shown here were selected for testing based on responses to a survey from fire professionals across the southern United States.

Did you know you can select shrubs based on their flammability?

Researchers at the U.S. Forest Service, University of Florida, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology used three flammability categories to indicate how easily and intensely a shrub will burn: high, moderate, and low.

- To estimate the flammability of shrub and other plant species not shown here, see “Preparing a Firewise Plant List for WUI Residents” at www.interfacesouth.org/products/fact_sheets/Preparing_Firewise_Plant_List.pdf or www.interfacesouth.org/products/flammability_key.html.

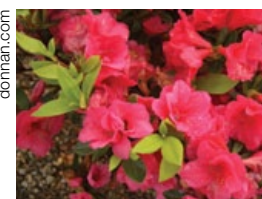
Moderate Flammability

Use cautiously in isolated landscape beds within the defensible space, 15 feet or more from the house.



Joseph A. Marcus

Ashe juniper
Juniperus ashei



doman.com

Hershey's Red Azalea
Rhododendron obtusum



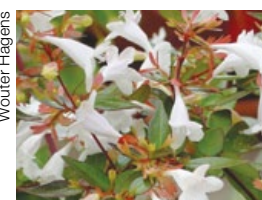
Missouri Botanical Garden

Blue holly
Ilex x meserveae



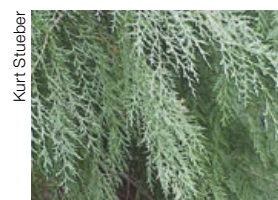
Sten Porse

Boxwood
Buxus microphylla
var. *koreana*



Wouter Hagens

Glossy abelia
Abelia x grandiflora



Kurt Stueber

Leyland cypress
Cupressocyparis leylandii



J. S. Peterson

Chinese juniper
Juniperus chinensis



Ted Bodner

Dwarf yaupon
Ilex vomitoria



Ted Bodner

Gallberry/Inkberry
Ilex glabra



Ted Bodner

Mountain laurel
Kalmia latifolia



J. S. Peterson

Pipestem
Agarista populifolia



Boris Bauer

Rhododendron
Rhododendron
x chionoides

Low Flammability

Shrubs suitable for planting within the defensible space; plant 6 feet or more from the house.

Ted Bodner



Adam's needle
Yucca filamentosa

Ted Bodner



Anisetree
Illicium floridanum

C. and L. Loughmiller



Arrowwood
Viburnum dentatum

Missouri Botanical Garden



Bayberry
Myrica pennsylvanica

Ted Bodner



Beautyberry
Callicarpa dichotoma

Kurt Stueber



Bigleaf hydrangea
Hydrangea macrophylla

R. and E. Chambers



Butterfly bush
Buddleia davidi

Gary Cooper



Camellia
Camellia japonica

Wikipedia



Coontie
Zamia pumila

Missouri Botanical Garden



Foster holly
Ilex x attenuata

Glenn Kopp



Gardenia
Gardenia jasminoides

Wikipedia



Klein's forsythia
Forsythia x intermedia

J.S. Peterson



Oakleaf hydrangea
Hydrangea quercifolia

Gary Cooper



Oleander
Nerium oleander

Kenpei



Pittosporum
Pittosporum tobira

William S. Justice



Rosebay
Rhododendron maximum

Wikipedia



Scarlet firethorn
Pyracantha coccinea
var. *mohave*

W. D. Bransford



Shrubby cinquefoil
Potentilla fruticosa

Ted Bodner



Sweet pepperbush
Clethra alnifolia

Chris Evans



Walter's viburnum
Viburnum obovatum

For more information, contact Annie Hermansen-Báez of the U.S. Forest Service, Southern Research Station at ahermansen@fs.fed.us, (352) 376-3271.

To view this fact sheet online, visit http://www.interfacesouth.org/products/pdf/Shrub_Flammability.pdf. For the Spanish version, visit www.interfacesouth.org/products/pdf/Shrub_Flammability_es.pdf

Opiola Jerzy



Weigela
Weigela florida

Stefan Bloodworth



Winterberry
Ilex verticillata

Additional Resources

- For Firewise landscaping tips, see www.interfacesouth.org/products/fact_sheets/Selecting_Maintaining_Firewise_Plants_Landscaping.pdf and www.interfacesouth.org/products/fact_sheets/Reducing_Wildfire_Risk.pdf
- Also visit: www.interfacesouth.org/research.html
- For information about the Firewise program visit: www.firewise.org

The photographs in this fact sheet were gathered from various sources. All copyrighted photographs in this publication were used with the permission of the photographers. Shrubs are listed in alphabetical order and not by their intensity of flammability within each category. Published September 2009.

