



Anchorage Fire Department • Wildfire Mitigation Office

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www.muni.org/fire



FIREWISE VEGETATION

All plants can ignite under extreme conditions such as drought. However, plants burn at different intensities and rates. Fire-resistant plants burn at a lower intensity, with slower rates of spread, and with shorter flame lengths.

Characteristics of fire-resistant plants and landscapes:

- Plants with a high water content and supple, moist leaves
- Plants with water-like sap (birch vs. spruce)
- Little or no accumulation of dead vegetation, either on the ground or on the plant
- Vegetation that requires less care
- Landscape with low volumes of vegetation – sparse, deciduous trees rather than dense forest or shrubs
- Forest stands without ladder fuels – small, fine branches between the ground and canopy that allow the fire to spread

Characteristics of plants that ignite readily and burn intensely:

- Resinous plants, such as spruce, pine, juniper, and fir
- Leaves and wood containing waxes, terpenes or oils
- Blade-leaf or needle-leaf evergreens
- Stiff, leathery, or fine, lacy leaves
- Aromatic crushed leaves
- Gummy, resinous sap with a strong odor

Native plants are good for Alaska

- Native plants are typically hardy and compatible with the other vegetation.
- They provide important food and shelter for wildlife.
- Ask your favorite garden center for plants that are best suited for your location.
- Many native plant selections appropriate for Firewise landscaping.
- While some native plants are not available in garden centers, there are places where they can be gathered. Your own yard may have a plentiful selection of which you can transplant several varieties into your flower beds near the home. Visit www.muni.org/fire and click on “My Firewise Home” for tips on gathering and transplanting.
- Noxious and Invasive plants are harmful. www.cnipm.org

Credits to the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group.

Alaska Firewise Vegetation List

Ground Covers and Shrubs

Artemisia / wormwood – *Artemisia*
Chocolate lily – *Fritillaria camschatcensis*
Columbine – *Aquilegia formosa*
Dwarf dogwood / bunchberry – *Cornus canadensis*
Ferns – Various species (Wood, Lady, Ostrich)
Fireweed – *Epilobium angustifolium*
Forget-me-not – *Myosotis alpestris*
Geranium / cranesbill – *Geranium*
Kinnikinnick – *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*
Iris – *Iris setosa*
Jacob's ladder – *Polemonium*
Lupine – *Lupinus arcticus*
Nagoon berry – *Rubus arcticus*
Speedwell – *Veronica*
Violet – *Viola*
Strawberry – *Fragaria virginiana*

Shrubs

Alder - *Alnus*
Blueberry – *Vaccinium alaskaense*
Currant – *Ribes*
High bush cranberry – *Viburnum edule*
Potentilla – *Potentilla fruticosa*
Prickly rose – *Rosa acicularis*
Red Elder – *Sambucus racemosa*
Red-twig dogwood – *Cornus stolonifera*
Serviceberry – *Amelanchier*
Spirea – *Spiraea*
Sweet gale – *Myrica gale*
Willow – *Salix*

Trees

Alaska paper birch – *Betula papyrifera* var. *neoalaskana*
Balsam Poplar – *Populus balsamifera*
Black Cottonwood – *Populus trichocarpa*
Mountain ash – *Sorbus*
Quaking aspen – *Populus tremuloides*