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*