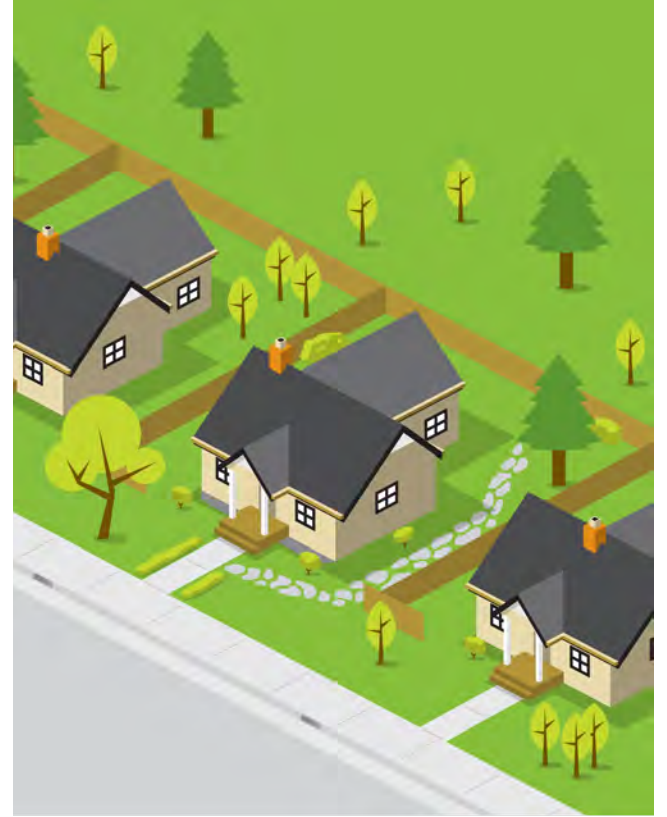


Deciduous plants lose their leaves seasonally and present a lower fire risk than conifers, if those leaves are removed. Conifers are needle-bearing “evergreens,” meaning they stay green throughout the year, usually with a high resin content, which presents a fire risk.



- Remember that all vegetation is potential fuel for a wildfire if not pruned periodically.
- Indiscriminate clearing of vegetation is not recommended because it can cause erosion. Instead, evaluate the placement of fire-prone vegetation that could ignite from embers or flame exposure. Replace fire-prone vegetation with fire-resistant species.
- By managing fire-prone vegetation, you can minimize the risk of home ignition and wildfire spread in your neighborhood.
- Modify vegetation to meet wildfire-resistant landscaping recommendations. In some cases, removal or replacement will be a better solution than modification.
- Control the density and placement of highly flammable vegetation within 30 feet of your home or up to your property line, including attachments such as decks and garages.

Guidelines for Wildfire Resistant Landscaping in an Urban Setting



Avoid These Plants

Fire-Prone Trees

- Arbutia
- Austrian Pine
- Cedar
- Douglas Fir
- Fitzler
- Gambel Oak
- Juniper
- Pinyon Pine
- Scotch Pine
- Scrub Oak

Fire-Prone Grasses, Shrubs, Gound Covers

- Buckbrush
- Fitzler
- French Broom
- Gambel Oak
- Juniper
- Mugo Pine
- Pampas Grass
- Pinyon Pine
- Scotch Broom
- Scrub Oak
- Spanish Broom

These types of plants are considered fire-prone because of the dead material that accumulates in and around them, their high oil or resin content, and the low moisture content of their leaves and branches. All plants are flammable under extreme wildfire conditions. Watering adequately and pruning can increase a plant's resistance to wildfire, disease and insects. This list is in no way exhaustive and may be modified at any time.

Contact Us!

Still have questions? Contact South Metro Fire Rescue for answers or a free home ignition zone assessment.

South Metro Fire Rescue
720-989-2271

lifesafetyeducation@southmetro.org

Other Resources

The **Pikes Peak Wildfire Prevention Partners** is a consortium of wildfire professional wildfire mitigation contractors, agency representatives and homeowners that provide effective reduction of the threat of wildfire to life and property in El Paso, Douglas and Teller counties in Colorado.
www.ppwpp.org

The **Fire & Life Safety Educators of Colorado** is a network of life safety educators committed to preventing loss, injury and death and mitigating the context of all hazards to reduce risk in our communities collaboratively. Its members share resources, coordinate risk reduction programs, represent larger populations to media and government and provide professional development.
www.FireSafetyEducators.org



Modify Existing Plants

Remove or modify fire-prone vegetation within 30 feet of any building or structure including decks and combustible attachments.

Fire-Prone Trees

- Prune branches a minimum of six feet from the ground
- Maintain clearance of three times the height of under-story vegetation
- All branches should be no closer than 10 feet from the structure, including the roofline and deck

Fire-Prone Shrubs

- The space between two shrubs should be a minimum of twice the height of the tallest shrub.
- Individual shrubs or groups of shrubs clumped together should be modified so that their diameter does not exceed 15 feet.

Minimize Fire Risk From ALL Plants

- Remove dead stems, branches and twigs
- Selectively prune to reduce plant density while maintaining age diversity
- Water adequately



The home ignition zone is up to 200 feet from your home. Safer homes in an urban or suburban setting are a neighborhood responsibility.

Fire Risk Reduction Tips

A wildfire can occur in any neighborhood in our fire district that features open space, parks, greenbelts or yards. Reducing the risk of wildfires around your home maintains and often improves the appearance and security of your property.

Follow these simple recommendations to minimize fire risk to your family, home and neighborhood.

- Avoid fire-prone conifers such as junipers along your property line. Instead use fire-resistant plants to create visual screens.
- Consider using nonflammable structures like metal arbors or fences with fire-resistant vines or climbing plants.
- Resist planting tightly spaced conifer vegetation that will provide easy fuel in a wildfire in dense neighborhoods or close to homes.
- Establish a fuel break in the vegetation in your yard by installing rock or concrete pathways.
- Maintain an area free of fuel in the 3-5 feet surrounding your home and garage.
- Use rock or pebbles instead of bark and wood mulch beside your home.
- Plant moisture-rich succulents, annuals and perennials near your home.
- Keep all vegetation watered, free of dead material and maintained to prevent fire spread.

Guidelines for Wildfire Resistant Landscaping in an Urban Setting



Safe Spacing
Remove lower tree limbs to reduce ladder fuels.

Keep all fire-prone trees 10 feet from roof.

Keep all trees 10 feet from chimney.

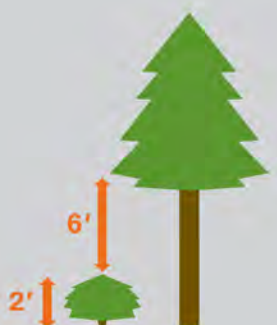
Minimize the fuel load of trees and shrubs with proper spacing.

Good Plants
Plant moisture-rich succulents, annuals and perennials near your home.

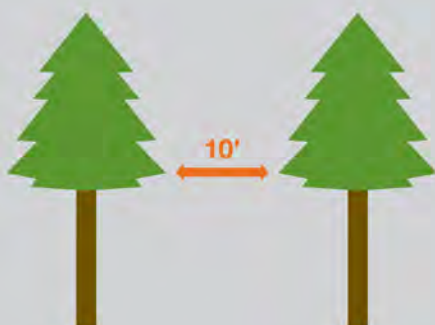
Fuel Free Zone
Keep fire-prone vegetation and dry debris 3-5 feet from your house.

Safe Groundcover
Use rock or pebbles instead of bark or mulch next to your home.

Fuel Break
Establish a fuel break in the vegetation in your yard by installing rock or concrete pathways.



Minimum Vertical Clearance
3 x the height of the shrub to the lowest branches of the tree



Tree Spacing
Flat to mild slope
10-foot spacing

Mild to moderate slope
20-foot spacing

Moderate to steep slope
30-foot spacing



Shrub Spacing
Flat to mild slope
2 x the height of the shrub

Mild to moderate slope
4 x the height of the shrub

Keep it lean, clean and green.
Keep all vegetation watered, free of dead material, and maintained.

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