



River Mountain Ranch Firewise Committee Landscaping Tips

Firewise Plantings are less likely to burn; or will burn less hot or for less time; may imply low maintenance, slow growth.

- Select **plants** that are drought tolerant, high in moisture content, easily pruned and maintained. For example: Salvia Greggii, Salvia, Lamb's Ear, Guara, Lantana, Ruellia, Rock Rose; Yuccas, Sotols, Agaves, Sage, Esparanza (Yellow Bells).
- Select **trees** that have open branching, which can help retard fire spread. For example: Chinquapin Oak, Monterrey Oak, Burr Oak, Cedar Elm, Eve's Necklace, Texas Mountain Laurel, Desert Willow, Retama, Texas Redbud.
- Plant the right tree in the right place. Avoid planting potentially large trees and shrubs under utility lines or right next to your house. It is best to have a 30 foot space between your house and trees.
- Avoid planting vegetation with high oil and resin content, such as cedars, junipers or rosemary close to your house. These types of plants burn quickly and can greatly increase the rate of fire spread.
- Restrict the use of flowerbeds and shrubbery against your house. Nonflammable mulches such as rock or crushed limestone are preferred. If you use flammable mulch, install a 20 inch band of rock contiguous to the foundation. This also assists in drainage.

Firewise Plant Maintenance:

- Remove dead leaf and stem material within crown of trees.
- Remove litter on the ground. Watch out for snakes taking cover in accumulated ground litter.
- Prune to thin crowns of trees and shrubs and prune trees 6' to 10' up.
- Remove individual or groups of plants to break up fuel continuity.
- Irrigate appropriately.
- Remove debris from site and clean gutters to remove dead leaves and cedar needles.
- Clear out small shrubs and bushes away from larger trees to avoid creating a ladder of vegetation that could lead a ground fire up into the tree crowns.

Extra Firewise Tidbits:

- Avoid grass doormats and bring in your outdoor furniture cushions when you are away from your home for extended periods of time.
- If lightning strikes a tree, monitor it for smoldering fires and hot spots.
- Establish a burn pile away from your house, surrounded by rocks, and near a water source. Feed small amounts of burnable litter at a time, following the regulations for Outdoor Burning of Hays County.
- Do not stack firewood next to your house or in between two trees as this provides a ladder and attracts bugs.
- Use safe practices and sound judgment with BBQ grills and campfires.
- Please remember that **fireworks are not permitted in RMR.**
- Keep driveway clearances to your house suitable for access by fire and emergency vehicles and be sure your house number is visible from the road in the daytime and nighttime.
- Please turn in your Firewise Activity Hours to Cathy Kubica at firewise_data@rivermountainranch.org
- **References:**
 - Texas Forest Service at <http://texasforests.tamu.edu>
 - Firewise at www.firewise.org
 - Firewise Plants by Dr. Mike Kuhns, Utah State University Extension Forester. http://extension.usu.edu/forestry/HomeTown/FirewisePlantsCD/Media/Firewise_Plants.pdf
- Prepared by Jeanne B. Martin, Firewise Committee Chairperson and Margaret Baker. May 2010.

Firewise Plant List for Central Texas

Compiled from state listings: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Montana, & New Mexico

Groundcovers

<i>Delosperma cooperi</i>	Purple iceplant
<i>Dianthus</i> species	Dianthus, or Pinks
<i>Phlox subulata</i>	Creeping phlox
<i>Sedum</i> species	Sedum or stonecrops
<i>Sempervivum</i> species	Hens and chicks
<i>Thymus praecox</i>	Creeping thyme
<i>Veronica</i> species	Speedwell
<i>Vinca major</i>	Periwinkle

Perennials & Annuals

<i>Achillea</i> species	Yarrow
<i>Aquilegia</i> species	Columbine
<i>Artemisia</i> species	Artemisia or sage
<i>Aster</i> species	Aster
<i>Carex</i> species	Sedges
<i>Coreopsis</i> species	Coreopsis or Tickseed
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Coneflower
<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	Fireweed
<i>Gaillardia</i> varieties	Blanket flower
<i>Hemerocallis</i> species	Daylily
<i>Helianthus</i> species	Sunflower
<i>Iris</i> hybrids	Iris
<i>Kniphofi uvaria</i>	Torch lily or Red-hot poker
<i>Lavandula</i> species	Lavender
<i>Leucanthemum x superbum</i>	Shasta Daisy
<i>Liatris</i> species	Gayfeather
<i>Linum</i> species	Flax
<i>Lonicera</i> species	Honeysuckle
<i>Lupinus</i> varieties	Lupine
<i>Oenothera</i> species	Evening primrose
<i>Papaver orientale</i>	Oriental poppy
<i>Penstemon</i> species	Penstemon or Beardtongue
<i>Phlox subulata</i>	Creeping phlox
<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>	Prairie coneflower or Mexican hat
<i>Salvia</i> species	Salvia or Sage
<i>Scutellaria suffrutescens</i>	Skullcap
<i>Sedum</i> species	Sedum or stonecrops
<i>Sempervivum</i> species	Hens and chicks
<i>Stachys byzantina</i>	Lamb's ear
<i>Thymus</i> species	Thyme
<i>Tradescantia</i> species	Spiderwort
<i>Veronica</i> species	Speedwell
<i>Vinca minor</i>	Periwinkle
<i>Yucca</i> species	Yucca
<i>Zinnia</i> species	Zinnia

Shrubs— evergreen

<i>Cotoneaster</i>	Cotoneaster
<i>Fallugia paradoxa</i>	Apache plume
<i>Lonicera</i> species	Lantana
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Oregon grapeholly
<i>Mahonia trifoliata</i>	Agarita
<i>Nolina microcarpa</i>	Beargrass
<i>Opuntia</i> species	Cactus
<i>Rhus</i> species	Sumac
<i>Viburnum</i> species	Viburnum

Shrubs—deciduous

<i>Aloysia wrightii</i> or <i>A. gratissima</i>	Desert lavender
<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	False indigo
<i>Caryopteris</i> species	Blue-mist spirea
<i>Philadelphus</i> species	Mockorange
<i>Rhus</i> species	Sumac
<i>Rosa</i> species	Hardy shrub rose

Trees—deciduous

<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	Bigleaf maple
<i>Betula</i> species	Birch
<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	Western catalpa
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Common hackberry
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern redbud
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	Desert Willow
<i>Crataegus</i> species	Hawthorn
<i>Fraxinus</i> species	Ash species
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> var. <i>inermis</i> . cvs	Thornless honeylocust
<i>Juglans</i> species	Walnut
<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	Goldenraintree
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweetgum
<i>Populus occidentalis</i> 'Mexicana'	Mexican sycamore
<i>Quercus</i> species	Oak