Yarralumla
Nursery
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Fire retardant plants for Canberra

Bushfires are a common occurrence in summer for most Australians, and protecting your family, pets and property does not have to be difficult if you plan ahead. Here are some tips for establishing a fire retardant garden.

REMEMBER - fire retardant plants are only <u>one</u> aspect of preparing your property to withstand fire. Seek information on house design, water use and personal fire plans from your local authorities.

Having a garden containing fire retardant plants will not necessarily stop a fire from damaging your house, but may help slow the fire and reduce radiant heat.

Maintenance can make a difference

- Remove lower branches from trees

- Remove dry or dead material from around the plants

- Prune shrubs to keep foliage fresh and green

- Replace lawns and grass areas around buildings with succulent groundcovers, such as *Myoporum parvifolium*

- Cut back Australian grass tufts and water regularly for a flush of green growth.

Plant choices

- Smooth-barked trees will not burn as readily as stringy or rough-barked trees

- Plants with a high moisture or salt content, or with a low oil content, will take a much greater time to ignite and will burn slowly

- A well watered hedge on the fire-prone side of the house can reduce radiant heat and the spread of fire to the house

- Inorganic mulches, such as granite or gravel on the fire-prone side of the house will help slow the spread of fire.

Look for the following features when choosing plants

- Broad or fleshy leaves

- Smooth bark

- High moisture content in leaves

- Low oil content (hold a leaf up to the sun and look through it – you can sometimes see little spotty oil glands)

Fire retardant plants:

Groundcovers

- Ajuga species
- Blechnum Penna Marina
- Bulbine bulbosa
- Microlaena stipoides
- Myoporum parvifolium
- Scleranthus biflorus
- Selliera radicans
- Viola hederacea

Small Plants (to 1.5m)

- Agapanthus species
- Anigozanthus species
- Atriplex nummularia
- Correa alba
- Correa reflexa
- Crowea saligna
- Dianella tasmanica
- Hebe species
- Myoporum viscosum
- Pelargonium species
- Rhagodia spinescens
- Thelionema grande

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Shrubs

- Acacia cultriformis
- Acacia iteaphylla
- Acacia pravissima
- Acacia vestita
- Banksia marginata
- Bursaria lasiophylla
- Camellia cultivars
- Davesia mimosoides
- Escallonia species
- Grevillea aquifolium
- Grevillea shiressii
- Grevillea victoriae
- Hakea salicifolia
- Hydrangea species
- Laurus nobilis
- Solanum linearifolium

Trees

- Acacia melanoxylon
- Acacia howittii
- Allocasuarina verticillata
- Brachychiton populneus
- Casuarina cunninghamiana
- Cercis siliquastrum
- Laurus nobilis
- Magnolia grandiflora
- Melia azedarach var. australasica
- Syringia vulgaris