



IDAHO FIREWISE

Suggested Shrubs

FOR FIRE-RESISTANT
LANDSCAPING





Amelanchier, Serviceberry

Serviceberries are prized specimens and are useful for supporting wildlife. The native straight species can vary in height (averaging 8-12') and is often grown as a multi-stemmed large shrub. Tested species at the Idaho Firewise Garden include the straight species *Amelanchier alnifolia* and the dwarf cultivar 'Regent'. Hardy to USDA zone 2.

Recommended: compact cultivars are more appropriate especially if landscaping space is limited.



Berberis, Barberry

Barberry shrubs are tough, adaptable, and offer a low-maintenance shrub solution for the fire-resistant landscape. They are often rich in color and provide both spring and fall garden interest. Tested species at the Idaho Firewise Garden include *Berberis fendleri* and *Berberis thunbergii* 'Crimson Pygmy'. Hardy to zone 3.

Caution: most barberries have small thorns.



Buddleia, Butterfly Bush

While the butterfly bush may not be suitable for all regions of the country, it is very appropriate in lower rainfall states including Idaho. Butterfly bush thrives in sunny, hot climates and butterflies will find it irresistible. Pictured species, *Buddleia* x 'Miss Molly'. *Buddleia davidii* species are cold hardy to zone 5.

Recommended: compact cultivars with non-invasive characteristics.



Chaenomeles, Flowering Quince

Quince shrubs are known for their abundant blooms in early spring and fruit production in fall. Dwarf cultivars are recommended for the fire-resistant landscape as the straight species *Chaenomeles speciosa* can get quite large. Tested plant species at the Idaho Firewise Garden include *Chaenomeles* 'Jet Trail' and 'Spitfire'. Hardy to zone 5.



Cotoneaster, Cotoneaster

Cotoneaster shrubs are low-maintenance and adapt to various growing conditions such as soil pH and drought. They often have a much wider spread than height and many species can act as shrubby groundcover. All cotoneasters exhibit showy fall and winter berries and are useful for supporting wildlife. Hardy to zone 5.

Recommended: spreading types (versus hedge types) are suggested for the fire-resistant landscape.



Daphne, Rock Daphne

Rock Daphne is a compact broadleaf evergreen shrub only reaching 1 x 3'. Very useful as an early spring bloomer, this shrub will perform best in part shade with good drainage. Tested species at the Idaho Firewise Garden is *Daphne cneorum* 'Ruby Glow'. Hardy to zone 6.



Itea, Sweetspire

Sweetspires are easily grown in a variety of soil and water conditions and can tolerate both sun and part shade. This shrub features fragrant blooms in drooping racemes and turns varying shades of red, orange and gold in fall. Pictured is the straight species *Itea virginica*. Available compact *Itea* cultivars are also suggested and quite suitable for the fire-resistant landscape. Hardy to zone 5.



Mahonia, Creeping Oregon Grape

Mahonia repens is a broadleaf evergreen shrub solution for partial sun or shade. This sprawling native plant features leathery, spiny green foliage for much of the growing season. Bright yellow spring flowers are followed by clusters of blue-black fruit. Idaho Firewise recommends this compact species over the much larger *Mahonia aquifolium*. Hardy to zone 5.



Philadelphus, Mock Orange

Philadelphus lewisii is Idaho's state flower. The Idaho Firewise Garden has tested over a dozen mock orange species including 'Buckley's Quill' and 'Fallbrook'. All *Philadelphus* have a saponin, or soap content in its foliage which acts as a surfactant to fire ignition. Shape mock orange shortly following its June blooms. Mature specimens can handle occasional hard rejuvenation pruning to the base of the plant. Hardy to zone 4.



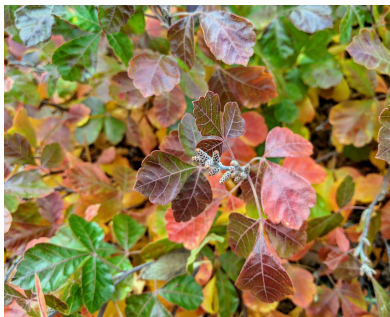
Potentilla, Cinquefoil

Shrubby cinquefoil is easily grown in sunny locations with well-drained soils. Once established, this native plant will tolerate moderate drought conditions. Mature specimens benefit from occasional rejuvenation pruning to the base of the plant. Pictured species, *Potentilla fruticosa* 'Pink Beauty'. Hardy to zone 3.



Prunus Pawnee Buttes® Sand Cherry

This *Prunus* selection is hybridized from the western native sand cherry and features a low-growing, groundcover habit. This shrub does best if given plenty of room to spread out and tolerates occasional pruning to retain a beautiful shape. This tough shrub can handle a variety of soil conditions and is drought tolerant once established. Hardy to zone 3.



Rhus 'Gro-Low' Sumac

Rhus is a hardy genus that handles a variety of extreme conditions including poor soils and drought. 'Gro-Low' is an excellent cultivar that spreads wider than its height. Trifoliate leaves turn shades of orange, red and purple in fall. This shrub can handle any amount of pruning to retain the desired size. Hardy to zone 3.

Also recommended: Rhus 'Autumn Amber', highly useful in stabilizing slopes. Hardy to zone 4.



Rosa, Rose

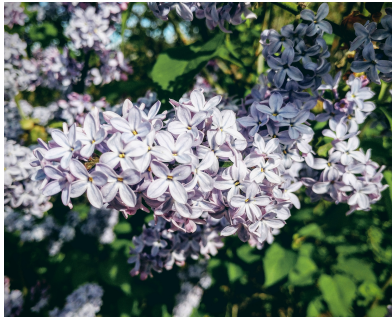
Roses are highly variable in size, habit, and flowering characteristics. Rose care is relatively easy if planted in a sunny location with good drainage. Prune established roses in early spring and shape after initial bloom if desired. Pictured species is *Rosa* 'John Cabot'. Most landscape roses are hardy to at least zone 5.

Caution: most roses have thorns.



Symphoricarpos, Dwarf Snowberry/Coralberry

While the straight species *Symphoricarpos albus* can be useful for fire-resistant landscaping in hotter, southern Idaho, this native shrub suckers to form large thickets in other areas of the state. Compact, lower maintenance cultivars are therefore strongly recommended. Pictured species, *Symphoricarpos x doorenbosii* 'Kolmcan' Candy™. Hardy to zone 4.



Syringa, Lilac

Lilacs are a great shrub choice for drought tolerance and fire-resistance. They are prized for their fragrant, abundant May blooms. For best results, select appropriately sized cultivars based on landscaping location as *Syringa vulgaris* hybrids vary in size and flower color. Prune spent blooms immediately after flowering if desired which promotes excellent blooming each spring. Hardy to zone 3.



Yucca, Yucca

Yuccas have a saponin, or soap content which acts as a surfactant to fire ignition. They thrive in full sun, can adapt to most soil types, and are an evergreen choice for the fire-resistant landscape. Pictured species, *Yucca filamentosa* 'Ivory Tower'. Hardy to zone 5.

Recommended: remove spent foliage one leaf blade at a time in its entirety, thick gloves work best. Spent flower stalks can be removed with loppers each season.



Firewise Zone 1: Immediate Zone - Your Buildings and the First 5-feet

In Zone 1, take steps to eliminate ignition potential. Use gravel mulch in this zone and use only the most fire resistant plant material - e.g. short, high moisture content plants such as flowering annuals or perennial succulents hardy to your USDA zone. The home itself should be constructed using ignition resistant building materials. Screen any openings with 1/8" metal mesh to block embers from collecting inside the home or under decks. Be aware of anything that could be flammable in this zone such as leaf litter, dead vegetation, and pine needles.



Firewise Zone 2: Intermediate Zone 5-30'

Zone 2 should consist of a well-maintained greenbelt. Surround islands of fire resistant plant material with rock and/or well-watered turf. Keep lawns mowed to a height of four inches and clear vegetation regularly to keep the landscape 'lean, clean, and green'. Water plants and lawns appropriately to keep them from becoming dry. Trees and shrubs in this zone should be limited to small clusters to break up the continuity of the vegetation across the landscape. Consider using hardscapes, dry river beds, or water features as a means of beautifying the landscape as well as making it more fire-resistant.



Firewise Zone 3: Extended Zone 30-100'+

Keep in mind that your property line may end prior to 100 feet. In these instances working collaboratively with your neighbor is important in helping to protect multiple properties. In Zone 3, remove highly flammable vegetation and replace it with fire-resistant species. Maintain Zone 3 by thinning and pruning, removing dead and dying plants, and periodic fertilization and irrigation, as needed.

Idaho Firewise, Inc. is a non-profit organization that coordinates, supports, and promotes statewide wildland fire education to broaden the understanding of wildfire's role in ecosystems and encourages those who live in or visit Idaho to take responsibility in reducing the risk of loss from wildfire. Visit us at www.idahofirewise.org

