

General Plant Adaptations to Fire

Fire Intolerant Plants

Flammable foliage is killed by fire.
If adapted, rely on fire-activated seeds, or seed banks. The seedlings out-compete other species in burned sites.

Examples: lodgepole pine and many other conifers

Fire Tolerant Plants

Re-grow from undamaged buds in the roots or stems.

Examples: resprouters such as aspen, chokecherry, western wheatgrass, and goldenpea

Fire Resistant Plants

Tall crowns well above the flaming front and heat.
Thick bark protects live tissue from fire damage.

Examples: most pines, but especially ponderosa pine