Basic Tips:

- Avoid plants with volatile oils and resins like pine and juniper.
- Choose plants that use less water, are naturally smaller in size, and do not drop a lot of flammable leaves.
- Choose plants with a low growth form or a naturally high water, soap, or salt content.
- Clean out gutters. Take up leaves.
- Remove dead branches, plants, and weeds. Prune back and thin trees, shrubs, and perennials.
- Add gravel mulch around plants to help reduce soil water loss and discourage weed growth. Mulch reduces maintenance and the chance of weeds forming a more continuous fuel.

Attributes that decrease flammability
- Low oil or resin content
- High moisture content
- Low growth form
- Compact growth form
- High soap or salt content
- Green stems
- Drought tolerant

Attributes that increase flammability
- High oil or resin content
- Low moisture content
- Tall growth form
- Open growth form
- Low soap or salt content
- Woody stems
- High water needs

The Firewise garden shown above demonstrates landscape plants and maintenance tips that can help protect your home from the dangers of wildfires. Firewise landscaping can help reduce the risk of wildfire burning your home. The Firewise garden and the development of this brochure are a cooperative project between the College of Western Idaho Horticulture program, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Idaho Botanical Garden.

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BLM/PT-09/001+2824

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Design your Landscape to Defend Your Home
Your landscape can be attractive, low maintenance and fire resistant

Zone 1
Fire resistant plants only
A. Plant choice
Low-growing, fire-resistant plants, avoid conifers
B. Maintenance
Well-pruned plants
Remove dead plant material
Mow or weed-eat grasses
Gravel mulch
Keep well irrigated
C. Spacing
Use hardscapes, such as a stone patio or rock features to minimize continuous fuels

Zone 2
Reduce plant density
Low-growing fire-resistant plants & shrubs
Reduce volume of surface vegetation by cutting down tall grass & pruning trees & shrubs

Zone 3
Thin & prune existing plants
Most existing plants okay
Prune tree limbs 6-10 feet high
Reduce ladder fuels that help fire leap from grasses & shrubs to tree tops
Minimize overlapping branches between trees & shrubs

Fire travels faster uphill so increase these distances if your property slopes.

Basic Tips:
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Sulfur buckwheat *Eriogonum umbellatum*
- Extremely drought tolerant
- Non-resinous
- Low growing perennial

Blanket flower *Gaillardia grandiflora*
- Non-resinous
- Low growing perennial

Pink iceplant *Delosperma cooperi*
- High moisture content
- Non-resinous
- Low growing perennial

Firewitch Dianthus *Dianthus gratianopolitanus ‘Firewitch’*
- Non-resinous
- Low growing perennial

Western sandcherry *Prunus pumila*
- Drought tolerant
- Non-resinous
- 3'-5' tall, shrub

Mockorange *Philadelphus lewisii*
- High soap content
- Idaho’s state flower
- 7'-11' tall, shrub

Autumn Amber sumac *Rhus aromatica ‘Gro-Low’*
- Drought tolerant
- Non-resinous
- High moisture content
- 3' tall, shrub

Gro-Low sumac *Rhus aromatica ‘Powis Castle’*
- Drought tolerant
- Non-resinous
- High moisture content
- 1-2' tall, shrub

Prickly pear cactus *Opuntia spp.*
- Drought tolerant
- Non-resinous
- Low growing perennial

Silvermound *Artemisia arborescens ‘Powis Castle’*
- Drought tolerant
- Non-resinous
- Low growing perennial, 1-2' tall

Thrift-leaf perky sue *Hyssopus scoparius*
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