

FIRE RESISTANT PLANTS APPROPRIATE FOR ORCAS HIGHLANDS

What are fire-resistant plants? These are plants that do not readily ignite from a flame or other ignition source. Their foliage and stems don't contribute significantly to a fire. They will be found with the following characteristics:

- Moist, supple leaves
- Little accumulation of dead wood or other material
- Water-like, odor-free sap

Note that most deciduous trees and shrubs are fire resistant.

Plant characteristics to avoid:

- Tendency to house fine, dry or dead material within the plant
- Stems, leaves or twigs with volatile waxes, terpenes or oils
- Aromatic odor when leaves are crushed
- Gummy, resinous sap
- Loose, papery bark

Examples of fire-prone plants are ceanothus, juniper and rosemary. Keep those well away from your house.

The following is a representative list of vegetation that is 'Firewise' for the Orcas Highlands.

Groundcovers (18" and lower)

Kinnikinnick	Creeping phlox
Hens & chicks	Sedum
Wild strawberry	Creeping/wooly thyme
Japanese pachysandra	Vinca

Perennials (18" and taller)

Yarrow	Coral bells
Chives	Hostas
Sea thrift	Iris
Basket of gold	Blue flax
Coreopsis	Lupine
Fireweed	Penstemon
Daylilies	Lamb's ear

Shrubs (broadleaf evergreen)

Cotoneaster	Oregon grape
Daphne	Rhododendron
Salal	Azalea
Privet	Yucca

Shrubs (deciduous)

Vine maple
Service berry
Butterfly bush
Spirea
Burning bush

Mockorange
Sumac
Flowering currant
Snowberry
Lilac

Trees (deciduous)

Bigleaf maple
Other maple varieties
Horse chestnut
Alder
Birch

Flowering dogwood
Sweet gum
Crabapple
Fruit trees of many varieties

Remember that good placement of fire-resistant trees can, in fact, help protect your home by blocking intense heat.