FIREWISE LANDSCAPING

A landscape is a dynamic system that constantly grows and changes. Plants considered fire-resistant and that have low fuel volumes can lose these characteristics over time. Your landscape, and the plants in it, must be maintained to retain their Firewise properties.

- Always keep a watchful eye towards reducing the fuel volumes available to fire. Be aware of growth habits of the plants within your landscape and of the changes that occur throughout the seasons.

- Remove annuals and prune perennials after they have gone to seed or when the stems become overly dry.

- Rake up leaves and other litter as it builds up through the season.

- Mow or trim grasses to a low height within your defensible space.

- Remove plant parts damaged by snow, wind, frost, or other agents.

- Prune all plants, trees, and shrubs in a timely manner; this is critical. Pruning not only reduces fuel volumes but also maintains healthier plants by producing more vigorous growth.

- Maintain your landscaping. This is a critical part of your home’s defense system.

- Maintain your defensible space or it will be compromised through lack of maintenance.

Maintenance provides fire safety. Over time, plants grow and spread; mulches dry out; leaves and pine needles accumulate. All contribute to the fuels from which a fire grows. Proper maintenance improves the appearance and helps protect your home from wildfire.

There are no fireproof plants, but some are more fire-resistant than others.

Suggested species for Firewise landscaping include:

- Ash
- Basswood
- Birch
- Blackgum
- Buckeye
- Buttonbush
- Catalpa
- Cherry
- Crabapple
- Dogwood
- Elm
- Hackberry
- Hawthorn
- Hazelnut
- Hickory
- Hophornbeam
- Horsechestnut
- Ky. Coffeetree
- Locust
- Magnolia
- Maple
- Mulberry
- Oak
- Pawpaw
- Peach
- Persimmon
- Plum
- Poplar
- Redbud
- Sassafras
- Serviceberry
- Spicebush
- Sweetgum
- Walnut

http://forestry.ky.gov/wildlandfiremanagement/Pages/KentuckyFirewiseProgram.aspx