The what, where and how of managing landscaping in ezones

How you can plant, prune and remove plants to reduce the risk of wildfire on your property.

Is your property in an environmental zone? If so, this information will help you understand what plants you can prune, remove and plant to reduce the risk wildfire around your home.

The illustration below shows management areas in relation to a structure. To reduce the risk of wildfire, different landscaping techniques are recommended. In all areas, the use of fire-resistant native plants in landscaping is recommended – see page 2.



1: Defensible Space (light green): 0-10 ft from existing structures

2: Intermediate Zone (blue): 10 - 30 ft from existing structures

3: Management Area (yellow): More than 30 ft from existing structures

The requirements for each area are listed below. In all areas, removal of trees 6 inches or greater in diameter, measured at 4 feet 6 inches off the ground, must be replaced per Title 11; and tree topping is prohibited. Visit <u>www.portlandoregon.gov/trees</u> for more information.

Area 1: Defensible Space (0-10 ft from existing structures)

- All trees and tree branches, as well as all non-native vegetation, can be removed.
- Areas within 5 ft of a structure can be left as bare soil, replaced with gravel or decorative rocks, or replanted with non-nuisance plants.
- Areas of bare soil between 5-10 ft of a structure must be replanted with native plants, except in approved permanent disturbance areas where non-nuisance plants may be also be used.

Area 2: Intermediate Zone (10-30 ft from existing structures)

- Dead or dying trees, as certified by an arborist, that pose an immediate danger can be removed.
- All non-native vegetation can be removed. All areas of bare soil must be replanted with native plants, except in approved permanent disturbance areas where non-nuisance plants may also be used.
- Tree branches may be pruned to 6 ft above the ground.
- In a Wildfire Hazard Zone, coniferous tree branches can be pruned. It is recommended that branches be pruned to create a 10-ft separation between individual trees.

Area 3: Management Area (more than 30 ft from existing structures)

- Dead or dying trees, as certified by an arborist, that pose an immediate danger can be removed.
- All non-native vegetation can be removed. All areas of bare soil must be replanted with native plants, except in approved permanent disturbance areas where non-nuisance plants may also be used.
- Tree branches may be pruned to 6 ft above the ground.
- Other vegetation pruning to abate an immediate danger is allowed.

Landscaping to reduce wildfire risk

- 1. Remove invasive plants, especially ivy, from tree trunks, and remove ivy and blackberry from under tree branches.
- 2. Replace invasive plants with fire-resistant native plants.

Recommended native plants to reduce wildfire risk

Ground Cover

Kinnikinnick Wild Strawberry Oregon Grape Lupine Evening Primrose Sedum/Stonecrop Sedges

<u>Shrubs</u>

Salal Oceanspray Snowberry Western Spirea Vine Maple

Deciduous Trees

Oregon White Oak Oregon Ash Flowering Dogwood Western Crabapple Bigleaf Maple Red Alder

<u>Coniferous Trees</u> Ponderosa Pine

Additional Resources:

"Fire-resistant Plants for Home Landscapes"

catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/pnw590.pdf "Fire-resistant Landscape Plants for the Willamette Valley" catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/supplemental/em9103/em9103print.pdf

