

# Fire & Your Landscape

Firescaping Resources  
for Montana Homeowners



Montana Nursery & Landscape Association  
[www.plantingmontana.com](http://www.plantingmontana.com) • 888-220-1569

*this brochure compliments of  
your local MNLA member*

# Montana Nursery & Landscape Association

## Fire Safe Landscapes: Our members can help

### About Our Industry

The nursery and landscape industry in Montana includes a number of professions and trades involved in landscape architecture and design, the installation of landscape plants and structures, the growth and/or production of ornamental



landscape materials, and the maintenance of both residential and commercial landscapes and gardens. Our members work on projects ranging from the do-it-yourself garden to

public parks and streets and golf courses. They include the folks who planted and nurtured the tree in your front yard to those who set the stone in your retaining wall.

### Experts in Horticulture and Landscape Construction

You can get plants just about anywhere these days — the corner grocery, the hardware store, and your local produce stand. Unfortunately, good advice isn't always included.

MNLA members provide horticultural expertise and



quality, hardy plant materials. They can tell you how to improve plant survivability, help you to identify and treat plant disease and pests, and point you toward landscape solutions. Most importantly, MNLA members can assist you in identifying environmental factors that put your home and property at risk. These factors may include common plant pests

or diseases, slope, erosion, flooding, snow and ice, wind, and of course, fire.

### Fire is a Special Landscape Concern

Native landscapes of thick Ponderosa Pine, snowbush, and ninebark, as well as the prairie grasslands common to Montana make for attractive home sites. As more and more folks make their homes in the woods and prairies along the periphery of urban areas, fire becomes a larger threat to private property. In some Montana communities, landscapes where fire is a concern are present in suburban neighborhoods within city limits, as well as at the edge of town.



MNLA members can help you determine whether or not fire is a consideration for your landscape and help you to select plant materials and/or a design that take your environment into consideration. Whether you plan to do it yourself or want the assistance of a landscape designer, we can put you in touch with the people who have the expertise.

### Firescape – Fire Safe Landscape Design

Firescaping is a type of landscape design that reduces a home's vulnerability to wildfire. The goal is to develop and design a landscape with plants that offer fire protection and enhance the property. The idea is to surround the home with things that are less likely to burn. A firesafe landscape lets plants and garden elements reveal their natural beauty by leaving space between plants and groups of plants. Although fire-wise plants are preferred, regular landscape maintenance is far more important to fire prevention than the selection of plant material.

## How to Get in Touch with an MNLA Member Company

To find the MNLA nursery or landscape specialist closest to you, contact the Montana Nursery & Landscape Association toll free at 888-220-1569. Visit our website: [www.plantingmontana.com](http://www.plantingmontana.com) or e-mail us: [man@montana.com](mailto:man@montana.com).



# In the Nursery

Whether you are doing it yourself, or working with a landscape architect or designer, here's some information that will help you to select plant materials appropriate for landscaping with fire in mind.

Landscape maintenance is far more important to fire prevention than the selection of plant material. When planning your landscape, use the characteristics of fire-resistant plants along with site characteristics such as slope, aspect, hardiness zone and amount of precipitation to choose plant material suitable for your site.

Although there are no fire resistant plant materials, the following is a list of some plants that are less likely to burn. These should be used in landscaping for fire prevention.

## Fire-Wise Plant Material for the Northern Rocky Mountains

### TREES

#### common name

#### *Conifers:*

Calocedrus decurrens	Incense cedar
Thuja plicata	Western red cedar
Betula	Birch

#### *Deciduous:*

Acer spp.	Maple
Alnus spp.	Alder
Catalpa speciosa	Northern catalpa
Cornus florida	Flowering dogwood
Fagus spp.	Beech
Fraxinus spp.	Ash
Gleditsia tricanthos	Honeylocust
Malus spp.	Apple
Populus spp.	Aspen, cottonwood, poplar
Prunus spp.	Cherry
Quercus spp.	Oak (white, burr or red)
Robinia pseudoacacia	Black locust
Salix spp.	Willow

### SHRUBS

#### common name

Amelanchier spp.	Serviceberry
Atriplex canescens	Four wing saltbrush
Buddleia davidi	Butterfly bush
Caryopteris x clandonensis	Blue-mist spirea
Cornus sericea	Red osier dogwood
Cotoneaster spp.	Cotoneaster
Liqustrum	Privet
Mahonia spp.	Creeping grape holly

Pachistima canbyi  
 Philadelphus spp.  
 Rhamnus fragula  
 Rhododendron spp.  
 Ribes spp.  
 Sheperdia argentea  
 Symphoricarpos albus  
 Viburnum trilobum  
 Yucca spp.

Dwarf mountain lover  
 Mock orange; syringa  
 Buckthorn  
 Azaleas, rhododendrons  
 Currant  
 Silver buffaloberry  
 Snowberry  
 Cranberry bush  
 Yucca

### PERENNIALS

Achillea spp.  
 Allium schoenoprasum  
 Bergenia spp.  
 Brodiaea spp.  
 Coreopsis spp.  
 Erysimum linifolium  
 Eschscholzia spp.  
 Fragaria spp.  
 Geranium spp.  
 Hemerocallis hybrids  
 Heuchera spp.  
 Iris spp.  
 Kniphofia uvaria  
 Lupinus spp.  
 Oenothera spp.  
 Penstemon spp.  
 Solidago spp.  
 Strachys byzantina

#### common name

Yarrow  
 Chives  
 Bergenia  
 Lilies  
 Coreopsis  
 Wall Flower  
 California poppy  
 Wild strawberries  
 Geranium  
 Daylilies  
 Coral bells  
 Iris  
 Red hot poker  
 Lupine  
 Evening primrose  
 Beard tongue  
 Goldenrod  
 Lamb's ear

### GROUNDCOVERS

#### *Succulents:*

Delosperma nubigenum  
 Echeveria spp.  
 Sedum spp.

#### common name

Hardest ice plant  
 Hens & chicks  
 Stone crops

#### *Non-succulents:*

Achillea tomentosa  
 Ajuga reptans  
 Arctostaphylos uva-ursi  
 Armeria maritima  
 Cerastium tomentosum  
 Cotoneaster dammeri  
 Euonymus fortunei  
 Potentilla tabernaemontanii  
 Senecio cineraria  
 Thymus praecox arcticus  
 Verbena bipinnatifida

Woolly yarrow  
 Carpet bugle  
 Kinnikinnick  
 Sea pink;thrift  
 Snow in Summer  
 Bearberry cotoneaster  
 Winter creeper  
 Spring cinquefoil  
 Dusty miller  
 Mother of thyme  
 Verbena

# Resources

*Information on Montana nurseries and landscapers who can provide homeowners with information about fire safe landscapes.*

Montana Nursery & Landscape Association, Inc.  
888-220-1569 toll free • [www.plantingmontana.com](http://www.plantingmontana.com)



*Information on fire management plans, plant materials for fire recovery, and general forestry information.*

Service Forestry Bureau  
Montana DNRC  
<http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us> click on  
Forestry

National Association of State Foresters  
[www.stateforesters.org](http://www.stateforesters.org)

USDA Forest Service, Cooperative Forestry Staff  
[www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry/](http://www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry/)

[www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)

[www.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.firesafecouncil.org)

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

[www.nifc.gov](http://www.nifc.gov)

*Information about funds available to assist with the removal of hazardous fuels and develop defensible space in high risk areas, and cost-share programs.*

Hazardous Fuel Reduction  
Cathy Scofield  
406-329-3409

Community Planning  
Dean Graham  
406-329-3230

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)

USDA Farm Service Agency  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## Montana Nursery & Landscape Assn, Inc.

The mission of the Montana Nursery & Landscape Association (MNLA) is to provide programming, information, and other opportunities for professional development of direct benefit to its members. MNLA monitors and lobbies governmental agencies on issues relevant to the membership. MNLA promotes the nursery and landscape industry in Montana through education and community interaction.

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