



# Trees & shrubs

## Firewise Landscaping

Many naturally occurring plants in our area are highly flammable during the summer and can actually “fuel” a wildfire, causing it to spread rapidly. Removing flammable native vegetation and replacing it with low-growing, fire resistive plants is one of the easiest and most effective ways to create a defensible space.

Select landscape vegetation based on fire resistance and ease of maintenance, as well as visual enhancement of your property. In general, fire resistive plants:

- grow close to the ground;
- have a low sap or resin content;
- grow without accumulating dead branches, needles, leaves or other debris;
- are easily maintained and pruned; and
- are drought-tolerant in some cases.

If fire-resistive plants are not available, vary the height of your landscape plants and give them adequate spacing.

The taller the plants, the more widely they should be spaced. Contact your fire department, local nursery



or Colorado State Forest Service office to find out which fire resistive plants are adapted to the climate in your area. (Additional information is available on Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet 6.305).

## Other Firewise Precautions

After you have created defensible space around your home, additional **FireWise** precautions may be necessary.

- Work with neighbors to clear common areas between houses and prune areas of heavy vegetation that may pose a threat to everyone.



- Avoid planting trees under or near electrical lines (they may eventually grow into or touch the lines in high winds, thus causing a fire).
- If part of your property extends outside of the newly created defensible space and is heavily forested, thin trees to decrease fire hazard and improve forest health.
- Remove dead, weak or diseased trees and trees that are obviously leaning – leaving a healthy mixture of older and younger trees.