

FIREWISE

A Demonstration Garden For Southern Idaho



Protect your property from wildfire with firewise plants that are:

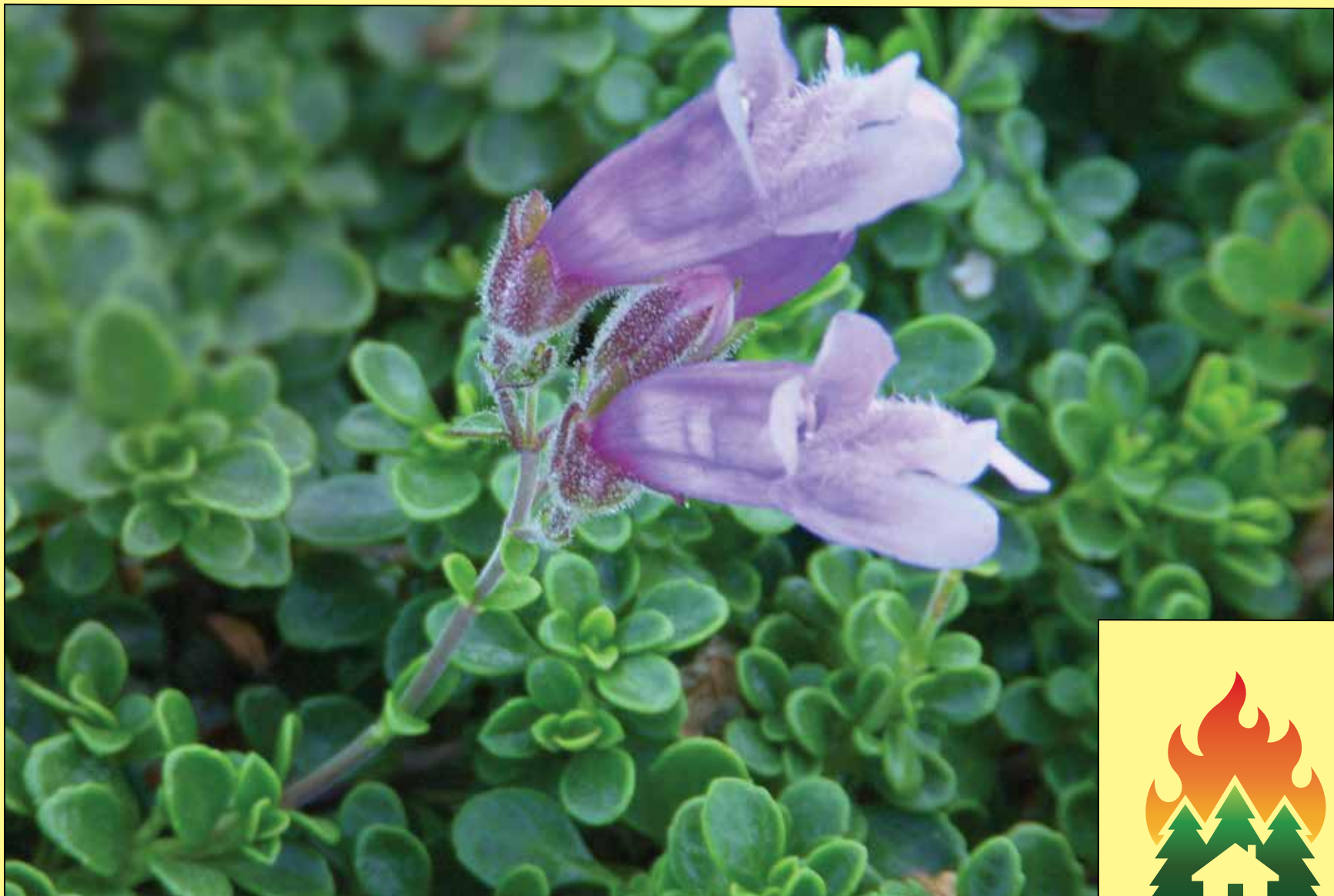
- Low growing
- Non-resinous
- High pectin or soap content
- High moisture content

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Attributes That Decrease Flammability

- Green stems
- Low growth form
- Compact growth form
- High soap, latex, or pectin content
- High moisture content
- Low oil or resin content



Example: *Penstemon d. var. m*

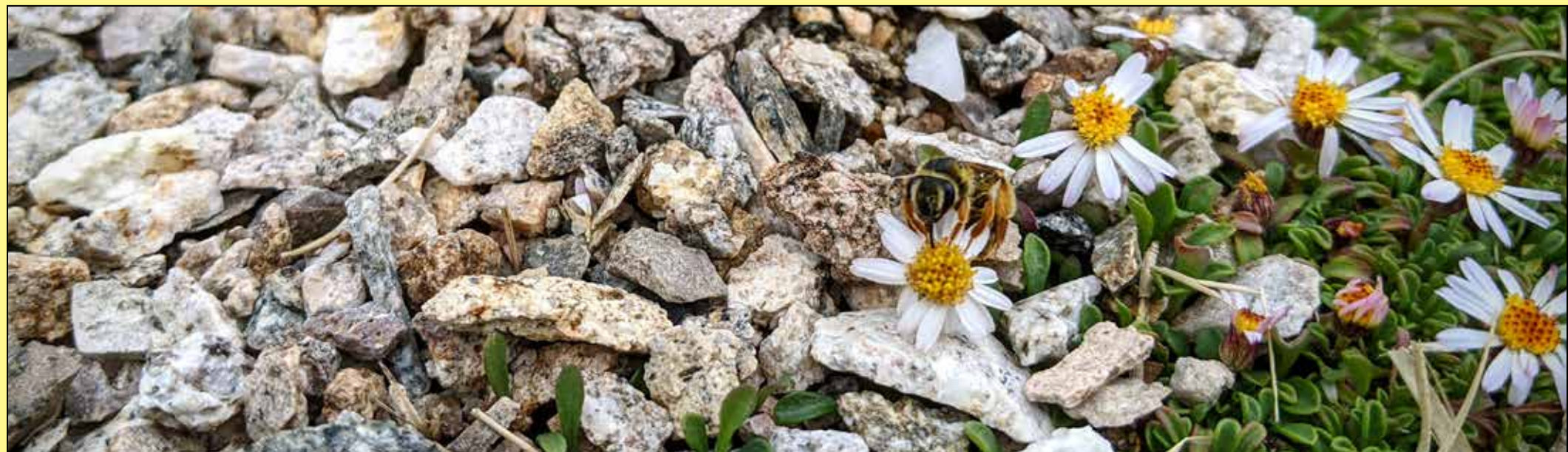


Commercial Mulch

In order to maximize the overall effectiveness of your mulch in a firewise landscape, consider the following:

- Use a fire resistant mulch such as sand or gravel and mulch to a depth of 3"
- Create a small trough at the base of your plants to prevent rotting and to further capture any precipitation

This demonstration garden utilizes native rock, lava rock and decomposed granite.



landscaping for fire safety



Sulphur Buckwheat

Eriogonum umbellatum

- Drought tolerant
- Non-resinous
- Native



Fertilizing

Fertilizers contain elements that are poisonous for human consumption. When overused, fertilizers drain into our drinking water and rivers, negatively affecting aquatic vegetation and wildlife.



Firewise plants do not require the addition of fertilizers.
Fertilizers are not used in this Firewise Demonstration Garden.



Idaho's State Flower, Syringa (Mock Orange)



Smokey Bear Approved Landscaping

Fire-Resistant Native Plants

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Many native plants have good fire resistance especially if watered appropriately during the growing season. Suitable native plant choices include mock orange, creeping Oregon grape, and low-growing perennials such as black-eyed Susan.

Be aware that some native plants are very flammable. *Avoid juniper, sagebrush, or pine* that burn easily when they dry out in late summer and fall.

Maintenance is also important - remove dead wood and cut back perennials each spring to renew their growth. This, in combination with appropriate irrigation, will reduce flammability and improve the appearance of your landscape.



Landscaping Zones

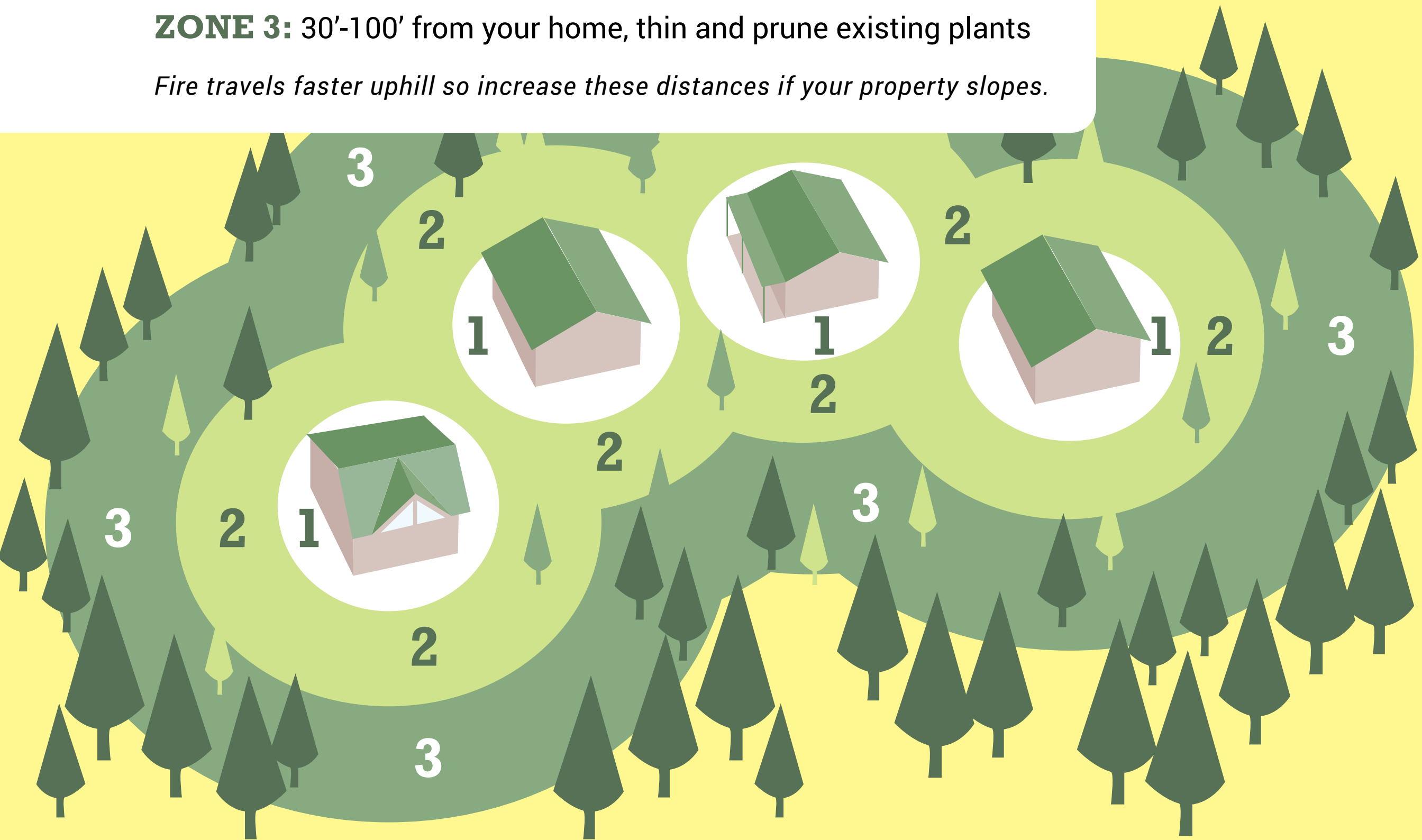
Anything on your property that can burn is potential fuel for a wildfire.

ZONE 1: 0'-5' from your home, use Firewise plants only

ZONE 2: 5'-30' from your home, reduce plant density

ZONE 3: 30'-100' from your home, thin and prune existing plants

Fire travels faster uphill so increase these distances if your property slopes.



Landscaping for Fire Safety

This garden demonstrates landscape plants and maintenance tips that can help protect your home from the dangers of wildfire. Firewise landscaping can help reduce the risk of wildfire burning your home.



BASIC TIPS:

- Avoid plants with volatile oils and resins like pine and juniper.
- Choose plants that use less water, are naturally smaller in size, and do not drop a lot of leaves.
- Choose plants with a low growth form or a naturally high water, soap, latex, or pectin content.
- Remove dead branches, plants, and weeds. Prune back and thin trees, shrubs, and perennials.
- Add gravel mulch around plants to help reduce soil water loss and discourage weed growth.
- Clean out gutters. Rake up leaves.

ZONE 3 Native Plantings

Zone 3 native plantings, including sagebrush, should be thinned, pruned, and maintained to reduce underlying grasses. Other brush plants that are native to our sagebrush-steppe ecosystem include bitterbrush and rabbitbrush. Sagebrush is flammable because of its oil content and should not be located in the zones closer to homes (Zone 1 and Zone 2).



Sagebrush



Bitterbrush



Rabbitbrush

Nature's Mulch

Throughout the Great Basin deserts you will see natural “mulches” such as sand, gravel, and biological mulches.



These biological mulches consist of lichens, mosses, and cyanobacteria that are sometimes hard to see, but serve an important role in ecosystems. All mulches provide:

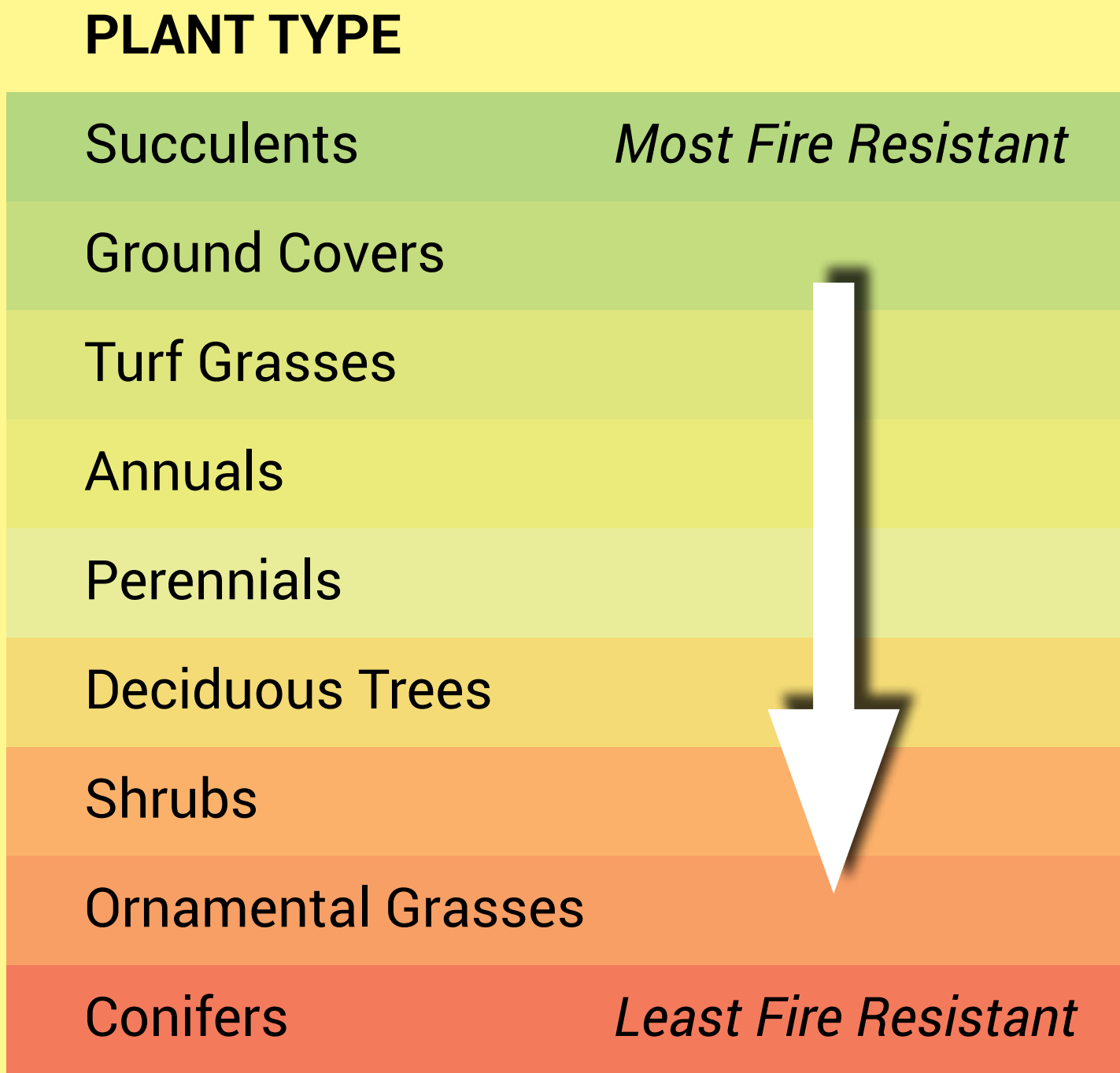
- Reduced growth of non-desirable annual plants (weed abatement)
- Protection of the soil from wind and water erosion
- Increased water infiltration



landscaping for fire safety

Fire Resistance by Plant Type

The chart below illustrates different types of plants and their relative fire resistance. Succulents and ground covers are generally more fire resistant than other plant types, are inexpensive and require less maintenance.



landscaping for fire safety



Principles of Firewise Landscaping

HAVE A PLAN

- Look at other landscapes
- Talk to fire & landscape professionals



ZONE 1: 0'-5' from your home

- Non-combustible zone
- Use rock mulches

ZONE 2: 5'-30' from your home

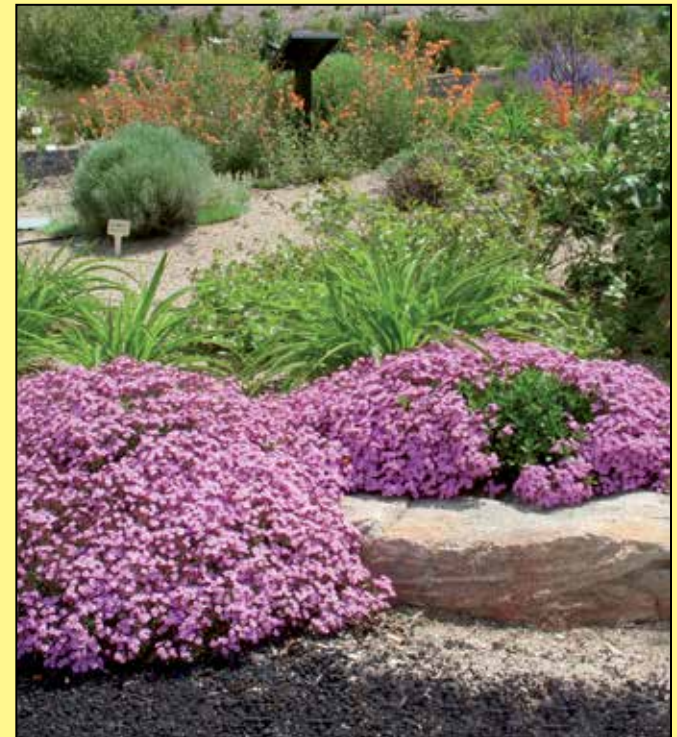
- Create manageable turf areas
- Use firewise plants only, avoid conifers
- Integrate hardscape or rock mulch
- Remove all dead plant material

ZONE 3: 30'-100'+ from your home

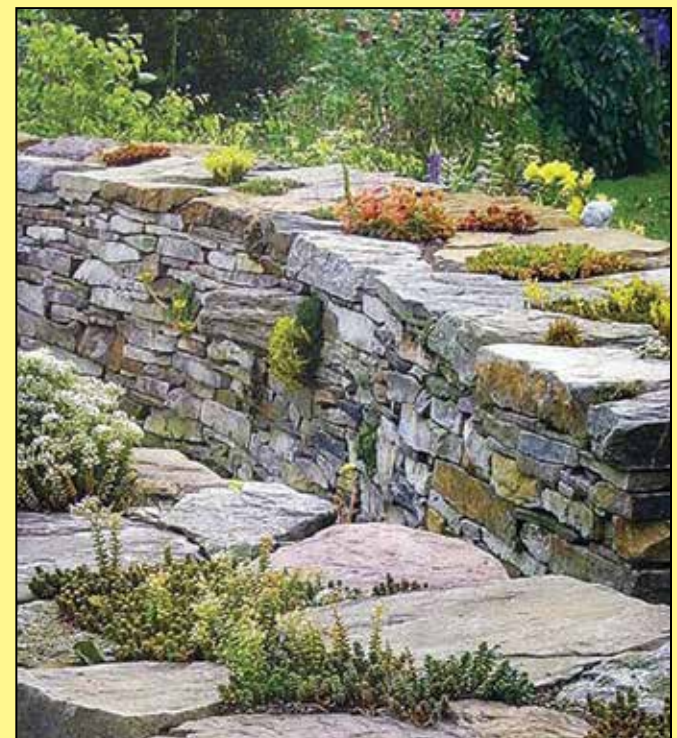
- Thin existing plants
- Prune tree limbs 6 -10 feet high
- Minimize overlap between trees and shrubs

IRRIGATE EFFICIENTLY

- Use properly-designed water systems
- Water appropriately



Zone 1 Example: Soapwort



Zone 2 Example: Hardscape

Rocky Mountain Penstemon

Penstemon strictus

- Drought tolerant
- Non-resinous
- Native



Turfgrass

A well-maintained lawn can be a great choice for designing a firewise landscape.



These plots show turf options for lawns or naturalized areas.

The plots decrease in irrigation needs from left to right and progress from cool to warm season turf options.

Some portions have not been mowed to show the natural form of the grass species.

Mowing decreases flammability.

Sod donated by The Turf Company
Seed sources from Nature's Seed and Western Native Seed
Plug source from High Country Gardens



'Autumn Amber' Sumac

Rhus trilobata

- High moisture content
- Vine-like shrub
- Non-resinous



Syringa

Philadelphus lewisii

- High soap content
- Non-resinous
- Native





Orange Globemallow

Sphaeralcea munroana

- Drought tolerant
- Non-resinous
- Native



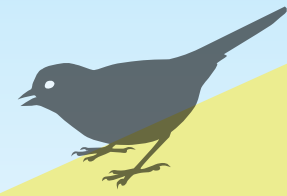
Soapwort

Saponaria ocymoides

- High soap content
- Low growing



Green Roof



This model home demonstrates how a living roof might be incorporated into a fire-resistant building.

A home's ability to survive wildfire is determined by:

1. Roofing material
2. Quality of its defensible space

Green roofs are modified to support plant growth. Plant choice is critical.



The flammability of a conventional roof.



Why choose sedums for your roof?

Sedums are succulents, the most fire-resistant plant type. Many cold hardy Sedums produce fall color and retain their foliage through winter.



Other green roof benefits include:

- Habitat for birds & butterflies



- Reduced storm water run-off



- Decreased urban heat



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**YOU
ARE
HERE** ★



Increase these plant distances from your home if it's located on a hill because fire will travel faster uphill toward your property.

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Plant Select® Idaho Firewise Garden

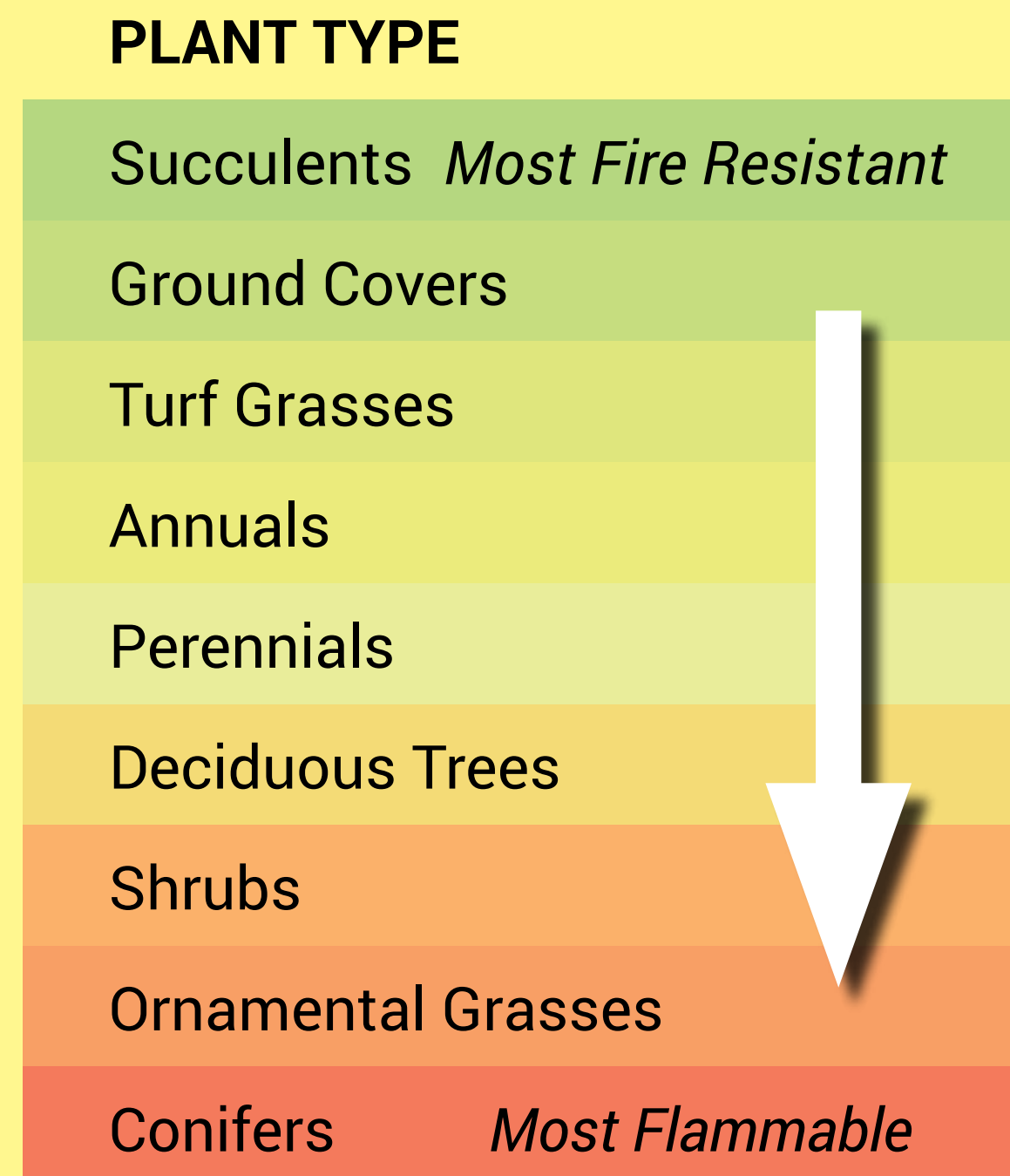
Plant Select® species exhibit eight attributes.

These plants:

- flourish with less water
- thrive in a broad range of conditions
- are habitat-friendly
- are tough and resilient in challenging climates
- are one of a kind or unique
- resist disease and insects
- have long-lasting beauty
- are non-invasive

Fire travels faster uphill. Using fire resistant plants and rock mulch can protect your home from wildfire.

Fire Resistance by Plant Type



To decrease flammability, select plants that have:

- green stems
- low growth form
- compact growth form
- high moisture content
- low oil or resin content
- high soap, latex, or pectin content

The Right Plant
The Right Place
PLANT SMARTER!



Fire Spinner® Ice Plant | *Delosperma*



Turkish Veronica | *Veronica liwanensis*



Denver Daisy | *Rudbeckia hirta*

