

FIREWISE RESOURCES:

Fire Adapted Communities of Kittitas County:

www.kccd.net/Fire%20Adapted%20Community%20BookletWeb.pdf

Toolkit for homeowners:

<http://www.firewise.org/wildfire-preparedness/firewise-toolkit.aspx>

Firewise Landscaping Resources from Chelan County Extension:

http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/files/public-works/documents/firewise_landscaping_resource

WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of non-compliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension office. Trade names may have been used to simplify the presentation of information. No endorsement of products is intended.

**For more information
visit the Master Gardener
Diagnostic Clinic**

**May through September
Tuesdays 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

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FIREWISE LANDSCAPING



Master Gardener Program

Be Firewise—Act Now to Prevent Future Fire

WILDFIRE THREAT IS REAL

Forest and brushfires pose a real threat to homeowners in both upper and lower Kittitas County. The Taylor Bridge Fire, the Table Mountain Fire, and fires in the Colockum and Manastash Ridge areas destroyed homes and yards, killed pets and livestock, and threatened people's lives.

Wildfire that starts out as slow moving and non-threatening can quickly grow into a raging forest or brush fire when fanned by hot, dry winds and fed by grassy, weedy overgrowth, and inappropriate landscape plants.



WHY DO WE HAVE THIS PROBLEM?

Kittitas County continues to experience rapid population growth with many homeowners choosing rural or forested settings located in sage and grassland areas. Fire equipment has limited access to homes situated on hillsides and canyon faces, and fire fighting agencies are not situated in close proximity to new developments and isolated dwellings. Incorrect landscape design and haphazard maintenance increase the danger.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

- Prune or remove brush close to the house.
- Prune out low hanging tree limbs, 10 feet from ground.
- Avoid plants that create and collect a lot of plant litter and dry matter (leaves, pine needles, dry grass etc.).
- Well-spaced plants are less likely to carry fire. Planting groups of shrubs and trees close together should be avoided.
- Coniferous evergreens like fir, pine, or juniper are resinous and highly flammable. If you use conifers, plant them 30 feet away from structures and each other.
- Maintain a “greenbelt” of irrigated turf area for at least 50-100 feet around structures, depending on the slope. Fire moves faster up slopes, so maintain a larger greenbelt on hills.
- Use fire resistant groundcovers or low growing grasses, keeping them well watered and/or mowed during the fire season.

- Use mineral or rock mulches instead of flammable bark or straw.
- If using groundcovers to control erosion on slopes, consider plants that are fire resistant. A low growing or discontinuous groundcover produces less fuel, lessening the fire hazard.
- Fire tends to race uphill, so locate the driveway on the downhill side of your property and between your house and landscaping.

REMEMBER!

Taking the time to understand wildfire and implement appropriate landscaping will help greatly reduce the risk of wildfire threatening your home.

