Quick Quide to Firewise Shrubs

How to incorporate Firewise shrubs into your landscape:

- Select the "right plant for the right place," by choosing plants that are well adapted to the specific conditions where they are to be planted. Also consider the shrub's flammability characteristics.
- Highly flammable shrubs should be planted beyond the defensible space, 30 feet or more from the house.
- Moderately flammable shrubs may be planted in isolated landscape beds within the defensible space, at least 15 feet from the house.
- Low flammability shrubs can be planted within the defensible space, 6 feet or more from the house.
- Conduct routine landscape maintenance, such as pruning shrubs, to maintain vertical and horizontal separation from other plants.

Did you know you can select shrubs based on their flammability?

Researchers at the USDA Forest Service, University of Florida, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology have developed flammability categories to indicate how easily and intensely a shrub will burn.

High Flammability

Plant these shrubs 30 feet or more away

from the house. Maintain them regularly.

Periodically remove dead or diseased plant material from plants within your home landscape.

 Remember, there are no "fireproof" plants. All plants and organic mulches burn in extreme weather or fire conditions.

Moderate Flammability

Use cautiously in isolated landscape beds within the defensible space, 15 feet or more from the house.



Ashe juniper Juniperus ashei



Azalea Azalea obtusum



Blue holly Ilex x meservea



Chinese juniper Juniperus chinensis



Dwarf yaupon
Ilex vomitoria



Boxwood Buxus microphylla var. koreana



Glossy abelia Abelia x grandiflora



Leyland cypress Cupressocyparis leylandii



Gallberry Ilex glabra



Mountain laurel Kalmia latifolia



Pipestem *Agarista populifolia*



Rhododendron Rhododendron x chionoides