

LESSER SLAVE LAKE REGION FIRESMART GUIDE TO LANDSCAPING

Homeowners building and living near the forest must take special precautions to protect their lives and property.

In addition to the actual building design and construction material used to construct your home, the type of plant material and the design of the landscape immediately adjacent to your home is a critical factor in determining the likelihood of your home surviving a wildfire. It is important to select fire resistant plant material and design your landscape to reduce the risk, while maintaining a functional and water smart landscape appropriate to your growing zone.

What are Fire Resistant Plants?

Fire resistant plants are those that do not readily ignite from flame or other ignition sources. These plants can be damaged or even killed by fire; however, their foliage and stems do not significantly contribute to the fuel and fire intensity.

Characteristics of fire-resistant plants:

- Moist, supple leaves
- Little dead wood and tendency not to accumulate dead material
- Water-like sap with little or no odour
- Low amount of sap or resin material

Characteristics of highly flammable plants:

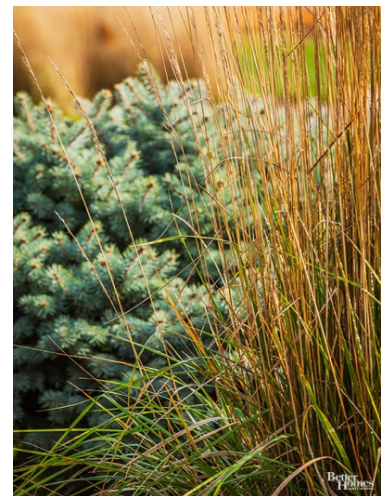
- Contain fine, dry, dead material within the plant
- Plant stem, branches and leaves contain volatile waxes, terpenes or oils
- Leaves are aromatic
- Gummy, resinous sap with a strong odour
- Loose papery bark

*Avoid landscaping with highly flammable plants around your home.



Plants to Avoid

Scientific Name	Common Name
■ Cortaderia selloana	Pampas Grass
■ Genista sp.	Broom
■ Ilex spp.	Holly
■ Juniperus spp.	Juniper
■ Pennisetum spp.	Fountain Grass
■ Picea pungens	Colorado Spruce
■ Pinus sp.	Pine
■ Taxus spp.	Yew
■ Thuja spp.	Cedar, Arborvitae



Plan your Landscape for Water Use

There are many beautiful trees, shrubs and flowers with low water requirements that are also FireSmart (see the FireSmart plant list). If you choose FireSmart plants with higher water requirements, group them together so you can water your yard more efficiently.

Your Lawn

A well maintained lawn can serve as an effective firebreak as part of your FireSmart landscape. Lawns can also add to the enjoyment of your yard, to property values, and help cool your home in the summer, reducing energy for air-conditioners. However, most lawns are much larger than required and consume high amounts of water in comparison to most other plantings.

Take a look at your lawn and ask yourself these questions:

1. How much of my lawn is actually walked or played on?
2. Is it there because I don't know what else to do with that area?
3. Are there areas that are difficult or dangerous to mow?
 - Could sections of the lawn be replaced by groundcovers, shrubs or ornamental grasses that need less water and maintenance?
 - Are there areas where hard surfaces like walkways or decks would make the living space more practical?



Caution: Bark Mulch and Pine Needle Mulch

Bark mulch, pine needle mulches and other plant-based mulches offer many benefits to gardens. However, these mulches are susceptible to ignition from wildfire embers or cigarettes, increasing the fire threat to your home. When landscaping against your home, consider using gravel mulch, rock mulch, or a combination of plant mulch and decorative rock mulch to reduce the risk.



Fire-resistant does not mean fireproof!

Even fire-resistant plants will burn if not well maintained. Be sure to keep all of your landscape plants healthy with appropriate watering, proper pruning, etc.

Lesser Slave Lake Region FireSmart Landscaping Guide - Zones 1- 3

Table Legend:

* NATIVE PLANTS THAT MAY NOT BE COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE

SUN /SHADE

- Prefers full sun fs
- Prefers full sun to part shade fs-psh
- Part sun ps
- Prefers full shade sh

IRRIGATION REQUIREMENTS DURING GROWING SEASON:

- Less than 350 mm (14") Very Low
- About 350-450 mm (14-18") Low
- About 450 mm+ (18"+) Medium
- About 500 cm+ (20"+) High

Some plants fit into more than one water use category as they are more adaptable.

Lesser Slave Lake Region FireSmart Landscaping Guide

Zones 1-3

Grasses		Hardiness Zone (s)	Sun/ Shade	Approx. Mature Height	Water Use Category			
					Very low	Low	Med.	High
Scientific Name	Common Name							
<i>Agropyron cristatum</i>	Wheatgrass, Crested, Western	3	fs	50 - 100 cm	x			
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	Mosquito Grass, Blue Grama Grass	3	fs	30 cm	x	x		
<i>Elymus elymoides</i> *	Squirreltail Grass	3	ps	30 - 60 cm		x		
<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	Fescue, Tall	2	fs-psh	1.2 m			x	x
<i>Poa fendleriana</i> *	Muttongrass	3	ps	30 - 60 cm	n/a			
<i>Poa secunda</i> *	Sandberg Bluegrass	2	fs	30 cm	n/a			
<i>Scirpus atrovirens</i> *	Bulrushes	3	fs	1 - 1.5 m	n/a			
<i>Heterostipa comata</i> *	Porcupine Grass, Needle-and-thread Grass	3	psh	90 cm		x		

Turf grass is in a category all itself - it uses 890 - 1020 mm (35-40 inches) of water per year.

- *Poa pratensis*, Kentucky Bluegrass

Vines and Ground Cover		Hardiness Zone (s)	Sun/ Shade	Approx. Mature Height	Water Use Category			
					Very low	Low	Med.	High
Scientific Name	Common Name							
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Kinnickinnick	2	fs-psh	10 - 20 cm	x	x		
<i>Artemisia stelleriana</i>	Beach Wormwood, Dusty Miller	3	fs	20 cm		x		
<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>	Snow-In-Summer	3	fs-psh	15 - 30 cm		x		
<i>Clematis</i> spp.	Clematis	3 - 5	ps	1.5 - 1.8 m				x
<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	Wintergreen	3	fs-psh	15 cm			x	
<i>Lamium</i> sp.	Dead Nettle	3	fs-psh	10 - 30 cm			x	
<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>	Perennial Sweet Pea	3	fs-psh			x		
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia Creeper	3	fs-sh	9 - 15+ m		x	x	
<i>Sedum</i> sp.	Stonecrop, Sedum (creeping)	3	fs-psh	5 - 30 cm	x			
<i>Thymus praecox</i>	Creeping Thyme	3 - 4	fs-psh	2.5 - 10 cm		x	x	
<i>Thymus pseudolanuginosus</i>	Wooly Thyme	3	fs	7.5 - 10 cm		x		
<i>Thymus</i> spp.	Thyme	3 - 5	fs	1 cm		x		
<i>Vinca minor</i>	Periwinkle	3	fs - sh	7 - 15 cm			x	

Trees – Deciduous (leaf)		Hardiness Zone (s)	Sun/ Shade	Approx. Mature Height	Water Use Category			
					Very low	Low	Med.	High
Scientific Name	Common Name							
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	3	fs	12 - 15 m			x	x
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple	3	fs	12 - 18 m				x
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Silver Maple	3	fs	15 - 21 m			x	x
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horsechestnut	3	fs	12 - 15 m			x	x
<i>Betula</i> spp.	Birch	2 - 9	fs	9 - 12 m				x
<i>Betula occidentalis</i> *	Water Birch	2	fs-sh	6 - 9 m				x
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Common Hackberry	2	fs-psh	12 - 15 m			x	
<i>Crataegus</i> spp.	Hawthorn	3 - 4	fs	4.5 - 6 m			x	
<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	White Ash	3	fs	12 - 18 m			x	
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green Ash	3	fs	12 - 18 m		x	x	x
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Ginkgo, Maidenhair Tree	3	fs	15 - 25 m			x	
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	Honeylocust	3	fs	9 - 21 m		x		
<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	Kentucky Coffee Tree	3	fs	12 - 15 m			x	
<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	Butternut	3	fs	12 - 18 m			x	
<i>Maackia amurensis</i>	Amur Maackia	3	fs	6 - 9 m			x	
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Blackgum, Black Tupelo	3	fs-psh	9 - 15 m				x
<i>Phellodendron amurense</i>	Amur Corktree	3	fs	9 - 14 m				x
<i>Populus</i> spp. *	Cottonwood	2 - 3	fs	40 m			x	
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Trembling Aspen	1	fs-psh	9 - 12 m			x	x
<i>Prunus maackia</i>	Amur Cherry	2	fs-psh	10.5 - 13.5 m			x	
<i>Prunus padus commutata</i>	Mayday Tree	3	fs-psh	9 - 12 m			x	
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black Cherry	3	fs-psh	15 - 18 m			x	
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Chokecherry	2	fs	6 - 9 m			x	
<i>Prunus virginiana</i> 'Schubert'	Schubert Chokecherry	3	fs-psh	6 - 9 m			x	
<i>Quercus alba</i>	White Oak	3	fs	15 - 25 m				x
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Bur Oak	2	fs	21 - 24 m			x	
<i>Rhus typhina</i>	Staghorn Sumac	3	fs-psh	4.5 - 7.5 m		x	x	
<i>Robinia psheudoacacia</i> 'Purple Robe'	Purple Robe Locust	3	fs	9 - 12 m		x		
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	European Mountain Ash	3	fs-psh	6 - 9 m		x	x	
<i>Sorbus scopulina</i> *	Western Mountain Ash	2 - 4	fs-psh	15 - 25 m			x	



Shrubs		Hardiness Zone (s)	Sun/ Shade	Approx. Mature Height	Water Use Category			
					Very low	Low	Med.	High
Scientific Name	Common Name							
Aronia spp.	Chokeberry	3 - 4	fs-psh	1.8 - 3 m			x	
Caragana arborescens	Siberian Peashrub	2	fs-psh	4.5 - 6 m	x	x		
Chrysothamnus spp.	Rabbitbrush, Rabbitbush	3	fs	1 m	x			
Cornus sericea	Red-twig Dogwood, Redosier Dogwood	2	fs	2.1 - 3 m		x	x	x
Elaeagnus commutata	Silverberry	2	fs	1.8 - 3.5 m		x		
Hamamelis spp.	Witchhazel	3 - 5	fs-psh	1.8 - 9 m			x	
Lonicera tatarica	Tatarian Honeysuckle	3	fs-psh	3 - 3.5 m			x	
Mahonia aquifolium	Oregon Grape	3	fs-psh	1.5 - 1.8 m		x	x	
Mahonia repens	Creeping Holly	3	fs-psh	30 - 45 cm			x	
Physocarpus opulifolius	Ninebark	2	fs-psh	1.5 - 3 m		x	x	
Potentilla fruticosa	Potentilla, Cinquefoil	2	fs-psh	0.3 - 1.2 m		x	x	
Prunus besseyi	Western Sandcherry	3	fs-psh	1.2 - 1.8 m			x	
Prunus cistena	Purple-Leaf Sand Cherry	2	fs-psh	2 - 3 m			x	
Prunus tomentosa	Nanking Cherry	2	fs-psh	1.8 - 3 m			x	
Prunus triloba	Flowering Almond / Double Flowering plum	3	fs-psh	3.5 - 4.5 m		x	x	
Purshia tridentata *	Antelope Bitterbrush	3	fs	1 - 2 m			x	
Prunus virginiana melanocarpa*	Western Chokecherry	2	fs-psh	5.5 - 7.5 m			x	
Rhamnus frangula	Tallhedge Glossy Buckthorn	2	fs-psh	2.5 - 3.5 m			x	
Rhus aromatica	Fragrant Sumac	3	fs-psh	0.6 - 1.8 m	x			
Rhus glabra	Smooth Sumac	2	fs-psh	2.75 - 4.5 m		x		
Ribes alpinum	Alpine Currant	2	fs-psh	0.90 - 1.8 m		x	x	
Rosa rugosa 'Hansa'	Rugosa Rose	2	fs-psh	1.5 - 1.8 m		x	x	
Rubus sp.	Raspberry	3 - 5	fs-psh	2 - 150 cm			x	
Salix spp.	Willow e.g. Blue Fox	2	fs	1.8 - 3 m				x
Sambucus spp.	Elderberry	3 - 5	fs-psh	1.5 - 9 m		x		
Shepherdia spp.	Buffaloberry	2	fs	1.8 - 3.0 m	x			
Spiraea alba *	Meadowsweet	3	fs-sh	0.9 - 1.8 m			x	
Spiraea spp.	Spiraea	3	fs-psh	0.60 - 1.2 m		x	x	
Symphoricarpos albus	Snowberry	3	fs-psh	1.2 - 1.8 m		x		
Syringa vulgaris	Common Lilac	3	fs-psh	1.5 - 4.5 m		x	x	
Vaccinium spp.	Blueberry	2 - 8	fs-psh	0.15 - 3.5 m			x	
Viburnum acerifolium	Maple Leaf Viburnum	3	sh	1.2 - 1.8 m			x	
Viburnum trilobum	Cranberry Bush	2	fs-psh	1.2 - 3.5 m			x	

Perennials and Biennials		Hardiness Zone (s)	Sun/ Shade	Approx. Mature Height	Water Use Category			
					Very low	Low	Med.	High
Scientific Name	Common Name							
Aconitum spp. *	Monkshood	3	fs-psh	45 - 60 cm				x
Alcea rosea	Hollyhock	3	fs	120 - 180 cm			x	x
Alchemilla sp.	Lady's Mantle	3	ps	30 cm			x	
Aquilegia sp.	Columbine	3	fs-psh	25 - 90 cm			x	
Arabis sp.	Rockcress	3	fs	<30cm			x	
Armeria maritima	Sea Pinks	3	fs-psh	15 - 30 cm			x	
Artemisia frigida *	Pasture Sage, Fringed Sage	3	fs	30 - 60 cm	x			
Asclepias incarnata	Swamp Milkweed	3	fs-psh	1.2 m			x	
Aster puniceus *	Swamp Aster	2	fs-psh	0.5 – 1.0 m			x	
Aster spp.	Aster	3	fs	0.15 - 1.8 m			x	
Aurinia saxatalis	Basket of Gold	3	fs	20 - 45 cm		x	x	
Bergenia cordifolia	Bergenia	3	fs-psh	30 - 35 cm				x
Campanula rotundifolia	Common Harebell	3	fs-psh	15 - 30 cm			x	
Convallaria majalis	Lily-of-the-valley	2	sh	< 30 cm				x
Coreopsis auriculata var. Nana	Coreopsis, Dwarf Mouse Ear	3	fs	30 - 60 cm		x		
Coreopsis sp.	Coreopsis, Tickseed	3	fs-psh	25 - 60 cm		x		
Delphinium sp.	Delphinium	3	fs-psh	30 - 210 cm			x	
Dianthus sp. Dianthus,	Garden Carnation, Pinks	3	fs-psh	5 - 30 cm			x	
Echinacea purpurea	Purple Coneflower	3	fs	60 - 90 cm			x	
Epilobium angustifolium *	Fireweed	3	fs-psh	60 - 90 cm		x		
Erysimum asperum *	Western Wallflower	3	fs-psh	30 cm			x	
Eupatorium perfoliatum	Boneset	3	fs-psh	50 - 100 cm			x	
Euphorbia epithymoides	Cushion Spurge	3	fs	30 - 45 cm		x		
Gaillardia sp.	Blanket Flower	3	fs	20 - 90 cm		x		
Geranium sanguineum	Cranesbill, Blood-red	3	fs-psh	10 - 30 cm			x	
Helianthemum nummularium	Sun Rose	3	fs-psh	30 - 50 cm		x		
Hemerocallis hybrids	Daylily	3	fs-psh	30 - 120 cm		x	x	
Heuchera sanguinea	Coral Bells, Heuchera	3	fs-psh	30 - 50 cm		x	x	
Hosta sp.	Hosta, Plantain Lily	3	fs-psh	15 - 90 cm				x
Iberis sempervirens	Candytuft	3	fs	23 - 30 cm			x	
Iris hybrids	Iris	3	fs	40 - 60 cm		x	x	
Iris missouriensis *	Rocky Mountain Iris	3	fs	30 - 60 cm			x	
Liatriis punctata *	Dotted Gayfeather	3	fs	30 - 60 cm				

Perennials and Biennials		Hardiness Zone (s)	Sun/ Shade	Approx. Mature Height	Water Use Category			
					Very low	Low	Med.	High
Scientific Name	Common Name							
<i>Linum perenne</i>	Perennial Flax	2	fs-psh	30 - 50 cm		x		
<i>Lupinus argenteus</i> *	Silver Lupine	3	ps	30 - 90 cm		x		
<i>Mertensia lanceolata</i> *	Narrow-leaved Chiming Bells	3	ps	30 - 60 cm	n/a			
<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	Virginia Bluebells	3	ps	50 cm				x
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild Bergamot, Native Beebalm	3	fs-psh	30 - 60 cm		x		
<i>Nepeta racemosa</i>	Catmint	3	fs	30 - 60 cm		x	x	
<i>Oenothera</i> spp.	Primrose	3	fs-psh	15 - 30 cm		x		
<i>Opuntia polycantha</i> *	Prickly Pear Cactus	3	fs	5 - 60 cm		x		
<i>Papaver orientale</i>	Oriental Poppy	3	fs-psh	60 - 90 cm			x	
<i>Penstemon</i> spp.	Penstemon, Beardtongue	3	fs-psh	10 - 120 cm		x		
<i>Phlox subulata</i>	Moss Phlox	3	fs	10 - 15 cm			x	
<i>Platycodon grandiflorus</i>	Balloon Flower	3	fs	75 - 90 cm			x	
<i>Polemonium</i> spp.	Jacob's Ladder	2	fs-psh	30 - 90 cm			x	
<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>	Prairie Coneflower, Mexican Hat	3	fs	60 cm			x	
<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>	Black-eyed Susan	3	fs	60 - 90 cm			x	
<i>Salvia</i> spp.	Sage, Perennial Salvia	3 - 5	fs	30 - 120 cm		x	x	
<i>Saponaria</i> sp.	Soapwort	2	fs	10 - 23 cm		x		
<i>Sedum spectabile</i>	Stonecrop, Sedum (upright)	3	fs-psh	30 - 45 cm		x		
<i>Solidago missourinensis</i>	* Prairie Goldenrod, Missouri Goldenrod, Smooth Goldenrod	3	fs	30 - 60 cm			x	
<i>Thermopsis montana</i>	False Lupine	3	fs-psh	60 - 90 cm			x	
<i>Verbena hastata</i>	Blue Vervain	3	fs	50 - 150 cm		x		
<i>Veronica spicata</i>	Veronica, Speedwell	3	fs-psh	2.5 - 15 cm		x		
<i>Viola canadensis</i> *	Canadian Violet	3	fs-psh	30 cm			x	

Most Annuals are a good choice for a FireSmart landscape because of the high water content and green leafy appearance. For greatest success and efficient water use, group plants together with similar water requirements.

Not all plants are suitable for every area. Check plant specific requirements.

Information for this document was provided by the Partners in Protection, FireSmart Guide to Landscaping available at www.firesmartcanada.ca