

Fire & Your Landscape

Firescaping Resources
for Montana Homeowners



Montana Nursery & Landscape Association
www.plantingmontana.com • 888-220-1569

*this brochure compliments of
your local MNLA member*

Fire Safe Landscapes: Our members can help

About Our Industry

The nursery and landscape industry in Montana includes a number of professions and trades involved in landscape architecture and design, the installation of landscape plants and structures, the growth and/or production of ornamental



landscape materials, and the maintenance of both residential and commercial landscapes and gardens. Our members work on projects ranging from the do-it-yourself garden to

public parks and streets and golf courses. They include the folks who planted and nurtured the tree in your front yard to those who set the stone in your retaining wall.

Experts in Horticulture and Landscape Construction

You can get plants just about anywhere these days — the corner grocery, the hardware store, and your local produce stand. Unfortunately, good advice isn't always included.

MNLA members provide horticultural expertise and



quality, hardy plant materials. They can tell you how to improve plant survivability, help you to identify and treat plant disease and pests, and point you toward landscape solutions. Most importantly, MNLA members can assist you in identifying environmental factors that put your home and property at risk. These factors may include common plant pests

or diseases, slope, erosion, flooding, snow and ice, wind, and of course, fire.

Fire is a Special Landscape Concern

Native landscapes of thick Ponderosa Pine, snowbush, and ninebark, as well as the prairie grasslands common to Montana make for attractive home sites. As more and more folks make their homes in the woods and prairies along the periphery of urban areas, fire becomes a larger threat to private property. In some Montana communities, landscapes where fire is a concern are present in suburban neighborhoods within city limits, as well as at the edge of town.



MNLA members can help you determine whether or not fire is a consideration for your landscape and help you to select plant materials and/or a design that take your environment into consideration. Whether you plan to do it yourself or want the assistance of a landscape designer, we can put you in touch with the people who have the expertise.

Firescape – Fire Safe Landscape Design

Firescaping is a type of landscape design that reduces a home's vulnerability to wildfire. The goal is to develop and design a landscape with plants that offer fire protection and enhance the property. The idea is to surround the home with things that are less likely to burn. A firesafe landscape lets plants and garden elements reveal their natural beauty by leaving space between plants and groups of plants. Although fire-wise plants are preferred, regular landscape maintenance is far more important to fire prevention than the selection of plant material.

How to Get in Touch with an MNLA Member Company

To find the MNLA nursery or landscape specialist closest to you, contact the Montana Nursery & Landscape Association toll free at 888-220-1569. Visit our website: www.plantingmontana.com or e-mail us: man@montana.com.



In the Nursery

Whether you are doing it yourself, or working with a landscape architect or designer, here's some information that will help you to select plant materials appropriate for landscaping with fire in mind.

Landscape maintenance is far more important to fire prevention than the selection of plant material. When planning your landscape, use the characteristics of fire-resistant plants along with site characteristics such as slope, aspect, hardiness zone and amount of precipitation to choose plant material suitable for your site.

Although there are no fire resistant plant materials, the following is a list of some plants that are less likely to burn. These should be used in landscaping for fire prevention.

Fire-Wise Plant Material for the Northern Rocky Mountains

TREES

common name

Conifers:

Calocedrus decurrens	Incense cedar
Thuja plicata	Western red cedar
Betula	Birch

Deciduous:

Acer spp.	Maple
Alnus spp.	Alder
Catalpa speciosa	Northern catalpa
Cornus florida	Flowering dogwood
Fagus spp.	Beech
Fraxinus spp.	Ash
Gleditsia tricanthos	Honeylocust
Malus spp.	Apple
Populus spp.	Aspen, cottonwood, poplar
Prunus spp.	Cherry
Quercus spp.	Oak (white, burr or red)
Robinia pseudoacacia	Black locust
Salix spp.	Willow

SHRUBS

common name

Amelanchier spp.	Serviceberry
Atriplex canescens	Four wing saltbrush
Buddleia davidi	Butterfly bush
Caryopteris x clandonensis	Blue-mist spirea
Cornus sericea	Red osier dogwood
Cotoneaster spp.	Cotoneaster
Liqustrum	Privet
Mahonia spp.	Creeping grape holly

Pachistima canbyi
 Philadelphus spp.
 Rhamnus fragula
 Rhododendron spp.
 Ribes spp.
 Sheperdia argentea
 Symphoricarpos albus
 Viburnum trilobum
 Yucca spp.

Dwarf mountain lover
 Mock orange; syringa
 Buckthorn
 Azaleas, rhododendrons
 Currant
 Silver buffaloberry
 Snowberry
 Cranberry bush
 Yucca

PERENNIALS

common name

Achillea spp.
 Allium schoenoprasum
 Bergenia spp.
 Brodiaea spp.
 Coreopsis spp.
 Erysimum linifolium
 Eschscholzia spp.
 Fragaria spp.
 Geranium spp.
 Hemerocallis hybrids
 Heuchera spp.
 Iris spp.
 Kniphofia uvaria
 Lupinus spp.
 Oenothera spp.
 Penstemon spp.
 Solidago spp.
 Strachys byzantina

Yarrow
 Chives
 Bergenia
 Lilies
 Coreopsis
 Wall Flower
 California poppy
 Wild strawberries
 Geranium
 Daylillies
 Coral bells
 Iris
 Red hot poker
 Lupine
 Evening primrose
 Beard tongue
 Goldenrod
 Lamb's ear

GROUNDCOVERS

common name

Succulents:

Delosperma nubigenum
 Echeveria spp.
 Sedum spp.

Hardest ice plant
 Hens & chicks
 Stone crops

Non-succulents:

Achillea tomentosa
 Ajuga reptans
 Arctostaphylos uva-ursi
 Armeria maritima
 Cerastium tomentosum
 Cotoneaster dammeri
 Euonymus fortunei
 Potentilla tabernaemontanii
 Senecio cineraria
 Thymus praecox arcticus
 Verbena bipinnatifida

Woolly yarrow
 Carpet bugle
 Kinnikinnick
 Sea pink;thrift
 Snow in Summer
 Bearberry cotoneaster
 Winter creeper
 Spring cinquefoil
 Dusty miller
 Mother of thyme
 Verbena

Resources

Information on Montana nurseries and landscapers who can provide homeowners with information about fire safe landscapes.

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Information on fire management plans, plant materials for fire recovery, and general forestry information.

Service Forestry Bureau
Montana DNRC
<http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us> click on
Forestry

National Association of State Foresters
www.stateforesters.org

USDA Forest Service, Cooperative Forestry Staff
www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry/

www.firewise.org

www.firesafecouncil.org

www.fema.gov

www.nifc.gov

Information about funds available to assist with the removal of hazardous fuels and develop defensible space in high risk areas, and cost-share programs.

Hazardous Fuel Reduction
Cathy Scofield
406-329-3409

Community Planning
Dean Graham
406-329-3230

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
www.nrcs.usda.gov

USDA Farm Service Agency
www.fsa.usda.gov

Montana Nursery & Landscape Assn, Inc.

The mission of the Montana Nursery & Landscape Association (MNLA) is to provide programming, information, and other opportunities for professional development of direct benefit to its members. MNLA monitors and lobbies governmental agencies on issues relevant to the membership. MNLA promotes the nursery and landscape industry in Montana through education and community interaction.

P.O. Box 4553 • Missoula, MT 59806-4553
888.220.1569 • www.plantingmontana.com

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