

FIRE RETARDANT FLORA

There are many varieties of trees, shrubs and ground covers which resist intense burning and/or have less chance of contributing to ember attacks. These plants have a number of distinguishable features, including a high salt and moisture content and a low volatile oil content in the leaves.

Usually fire retardant trees have thick, well-defined bark and few branches which grow low to the ground. These trees and shrubs rarely shed large quantities of leaves and twigs and their seeds are usually enclosed in woody capsules.

It should be noted that under the right circumstances, such as a fire's intensity, that even fire retardant plants can and will burn. It is the degree of resistance and their ability to reduce airborne embers that make fire retardant plants attractive. Used in conjunction with other landscaping techniques (e.g. rocky outcrops) they can be an effective method of slowing and reducing the intensity of an approaching fire front.

Australian Trees that are fire retardant

<i>Acacia cyclops</i>	Coastal Wattle
<i>Acmena smithii</i>	Lilly Pilly
<i>Banksia marginata</i>	Banksia
<i>Casuarina obesa</i>	Swamp Sheoak
<i>Eucalyptus sargentii</i>	Salt River Gum

Non-Australian Trees that are fire retardant

<i>Acer campestre</i>	Common Maple
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box Elder Maple*
<i>Acer plantoides</i>	Norway Maple
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore*
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse Chestnut
<i>Alnus jorullensis</i>	Evergreen Alder
<i>Calandendrum capense</i>	Cape Chestnut
<i>Castanea dentata</i>	American Chestnut
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Carob
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas Tree
<i>Chamaecytisus proliferus</i>	Tagasaste*
<i>Coprosma repens</i>	Mirror Bush*
<i>Cornus capitata</i>	Evergreen Dogwood*
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolius</i>	Russian Olive
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Common Beech
<i>Fraxinus spp</i>	Ash*
<i>Juglans nigra</i>	Black Walnut
<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	Laurel
<i>Ligustrum spp</i>	Privet*
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip Tree
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Liquidamber
<i>Morus Spp</i>	Mulberry
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive*
<i>Photinia glabra</i>	Red Leaf Photinia
<i>Photinia serrulata</i>	Chinese Hawthorn*
<i>Pittosporum eugenoides</i>	Tarata*

<i>Plantanus orientalis</i>	Plane
<i>Populus spp</i>	Poplar*
<i>Prunus Laurocerasus</i>	Cherry Laurel*
<i>Prunua lusitanica</i>	Portugal Laurel*
<i>Quercus Canariensis</i>	Algerian Oak
<i>Quercus cerris</i>	Turkey Oak
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak
<i>Quercus robur</i>	English Oak
<i>Salix babylonica</i>	Weeping Willow*
<i>Schinus molle</i>	Pepper Tree
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan
<i>Tamarix aphylla</i>	Athel Pine*
<i>Tilia vulgaris</i>	Linden
<i>Ulmus spp</i>	Elm*

Shrubs that are hard to burn

<i>Acacia baileyana</i>	Cootamundra Wattle*
<i>Acacia dealbentaate</i>	Silver Wattle*
<i>Acacia glandulicarpa</i>	Hairy Pod Wattle*
<i>Acacia howitii</i>	Sticky Wattle*
<i>Acacia iteaphulla</i>	Flinders Range Wattle*
<i>Acacia melanoxyton</i>	Blackwood*
<i>Acacia pravissima</i>	Ovens Wattle *
<i>Acacia prominens</i>	Golden Rain Wattle *
<i>Acacia saligna</i>	Golden Wreath Wattle
<i>Acacia terminalis</i>	Cedar Wattle *
<i>Acacia verstita</i>	Hairy Wattle *
<i>Agonis juniperina</i>	Juniper Myrtle
<i>Angophora costata</i>	Apple Jack
<i>Anigozanthos species</i>	Kangaroo Paw
<i>Atriplex spp</i>	Saltbush
<i>Brachychiton populneus</i>	Kurrajong*
<i>Camellia cvs</i>	Camellia
<i>Casuarina cristate</i>	Belah
<i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i>	River She Oak
<i>Eremophila spp</i>	Poverty Bush
<i>Eucalyptus maculata</i>	Spotted Gum *
<i>Ficus macrophylla</i>	Moreton Bay Fig
<i>Ficus species</i>	Fig
<i>Grevillia aquifolium</i>	Prickly Grevillia
<i>Grevillia barklyana</i>	Gully Grevillia
<i>Grevillia robusta</i>	Silky Oak
<i>Grevillia victoae</i>	
<i>Hakea elliptica</i>	
<i>Hakea smilacifolia</i>	Willow Hakea
<i>Hakea suaveolens</i>	Sweet Hakea
<i>Heterodendrum oleifolium</i>	Cattlebush
<i>Hibiscus cvs</i>	Hibiscus
<i>Hymenosporum flavern</i>	
<i>Lagunaria patersonia</i>	Pyramid Tree

<i>Melaleuca lanceolata</i>	Moonah
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	White Cedar *
<i>Myoporum acuminatum</i>	Boobialla
<i>Myoporum insulare</i>	Blueberry Tree
<i>Myoporum pavifolium purpurea</i>	
<i>Olearia species</i>	
<i>Orthrosanthus species</i>	
<i>Patersonia species</i>	
<i>Tristania conferta</i>	Brush Box

Ground Covers that are hard to burn

<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugle
<i>Atilpex spp</i>	Saltbush
<i>Carpobrotus spp</i>	Pigface *
<i>Coprosma 'kirkii'</i>	
<i>Delosperma 'alba'</i>	
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	
<i>Drosanthemum floribundum</i>	
<i>Gazania spp</i>	Gazanias
<i>Hedera spp</i>	Clinging Types of Ivy
<i>Helianthemum spp</i>	Sunroses
<i>Kennedia spp</i>	Coral Peas
<i>Kochia spp</i>	Bluebushes
<i>Lampranthus multiradiatus</i>	Noonflower
<i>Myoporum parvifolium</i>	
<i>Portulacaria spp</i>	Jade Plants
<i>Pelargonium spp</i>	Geranium *
<i>Rhagodia spp</i>	Saltbush
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis prostrates</i>	Rosemary
<i>Santolina spp</i>	Lavender Cotton
<i>Sedum spp</i>	Stonecrops
<i>Verbena peruviana</i>	
<i>Vinca spp</i>	Periwinkles

* In some locations, plant species may be considered as a weed unless carefully managed. In all cases, you should consult with your local nursery to determine the suitability of plant species in your area.

