

# Fire Retardant Plants for Canberra

**Bushfires are a common occurrence in summer for most Australians, and protecting your family, pets and property does not have to be difficult if you plan ahead. Here are some tips for establishing a fire retardant garden.**

**REMEMBER - fire retardant plants are only one aspect of preparing your property to withstand fire. Seek information on house design, water use and personal fire plans from your local authorities.**

**Having a garden containing fire retardant plants will not necessarily stop a fire from damaging your house, but may help slow the fire and reduce radiant heat.**

## **Maintenance can make a difference**

- remove lower branches from trees
- remove dry or dead material from around the plants
- prune shrubs to keep foliage fresh and green
- replace lawns and grass areas around buildings with succulent groundcovers, such as *Myoporum parvifolium*
- cut back Australian grass tufts and water regularly for a flush of green growth

## **Plant choices**

- Smooth-barked trees will not burn as readily as stringy or rough-barked trees
- Plants with a high moisture or salt content, or with a low oil content, will take a much greater time to ignite and will burn slowly.
- A well watered hedge on the fire-prone side of the house can reduce radiant heat and the spread of fire to the house
- Inorganic mulches, such as granite or gravel on the fire-prone side of the house will help slow the spread of fire.

## **Look for the following features when choosing plants**

- broad or fleshy leaves
- smooth bark
- high moisture content in leaves
- low oil content (hold a leaf up to the sun and look through it – you can sometimes see little spotty oil glands)



**GROUNDCOVERS**

*Ajuga species*  
*Blechnum Penna Marina*  
*Bulbine bulbosa*  
*Microlaena stipoides*  
*Myoporum parvifolium*  
*Scleranthus biflorus*  
*Selliera radicans*  
*Viola hederacea*

**SMALL PLANTS (to 1.5m)**

*Agapanthus species*  
*Anigozanthus species*  
*Atriplex nummularia*  
*Correa alba*  
*Correa reflexa*  
*Crocea saligna*  
*Dianella tasmanica*  
*Hebe species*  
*Myoporum viscosum*  
*Pelargonium species*  
*Rhagodia spinescens*  
*Thelionema grande*

**SHRUBS**

*Acacia cultriformis*  
*Acacia iteaphylla*  
*Acacia pravissima*  
*Acacia vestita*  
*Banksia marginata*  
*Bursaria lasiophylla*  
*Camellia cultivars*  
*Davesia mimosoides*  
*Escallonia species*  
*Grevillea aquifolium*  
*Grevillea shiressii*  
*Grevillea victoriae*  
*Hakea salicifolia*  
*Hydrangea species*  
*Laurus nobilis*  
*Solanum linearifolium*

**TREES**

*Acacia melanoxylon*  
*Acacia howittii*  
*Allocasuarina verticillata*  
*Brachychiton populneus*  
*Casuarina cunninghamiana*  
*Cercis siliquastrum*  
*Laurus nobilis*  
*Magnolia grandiflora*  
*Melia azedarach var. australasica*  
*Syringia vulgaris*



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**PLEASE NOTE** – these plant lists are a small example of plants that are suitable for a fire retardant garden. Contact your local council or government authority for more information.

Go to [www.montrosecfa.com.au/garden](http://www.montrosecfa.com.au/garden) to see a *fabulous fire retardant garden!*



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