



FireSmart™
Plant Program

FireSmart BC

Lower Risk Plants for

- Hedges
- Privacy
- Screening



BRITISH COLUMBIA
FireSmart™

Learn more at firesmartbc.ca



EXTENDED ZONE

10m to 30m

INTERMEDIATE ZONE

1.5m to 10m

IMMEDIATE ZONE

0m to 1.5m

HOME IGNITION ZONE



FireSmart™ Plant Program

Cedars and junipers have been used extensively to provide privacy. However, they are extremely flammable and often pose the most significant risk for ignition of homes and other structures. The good news is that there are alternatives. Although they may not all provide the exact screening characteristics of pyramid cedars and upright junipers, many will provide adequate privacy while offering ecological value and other aesthetically pleasing features. [See section 04 on this page for information on plant flammability.](#)

Location is very important when planting a hedge. Even the most fire-resistant plant should be no closer than 1.5 m to a house or any structure. [Click here for more information on the Home Ignition Zones.](#)

Since it is often quite narrow between houses, fencing may be a suitable choice for privacy, but fencing poses its own fire risk. [Click here for information on fencing.](#)

Legend Information

Priority Zones	
● Immediate 0-1.5 m	No plant material is recommended in this zone.
● Intermediate 1.5-10 m	
● Extended 10-30 m	
● Extended & Beyond 21-30+ m	
● Generally considered fire-resistant, however more research is required to determine which zone is appropriate for use. Use with caution as some may pose more risk than others.	

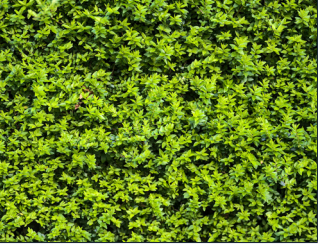
Trees

Photo	Common Name	Scientific Name	Approx. Height (m)	Approx. Spread/ Width (m)
	● Aspen - Swedish Columnar Aspen	Populus tremula 'Erecta'	12	1.5
	● Beech - Columnar Purple European Beech	Fagus sylvatica 'Dawyck Purple'	15	4.5
	● Crabapple - Green Wall Spire Crab	Malus x adstringens 'Jefwall'	6	1.8
	● Crabapple - Columnar Siberian Crab	Malus baccata 'Columnaris'	7.5	2.4

Trees

Photo	Common Name	Scientific Name	Approx. Height (m)	Approx. Spread/ Width (m)
	● Maple - Conquest Norway Maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i> 'Conzam'	9	2.1
	● Maple - Dwarf Red Pygmy Japanese Maple	<i>Acer palmatum</i> 'Red Pygmy'	2.4	2.4
	● Plum - Crimson Pointe Flowering Plum	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> 'Crimson Pointe'	6	2.4

Shrubs

Photo	Common Name	Scientific Name	Approx. Height (m)	Approx. Spread/ Width (m)
	● Abelia - Glossy Abelia	Abelia x grandiflora	0.9-1.8	0.9-1.8
	● Barberry - Royal Cloak Barberry	Berberis thunbergii 'Royal Cloak'	1.8	1.5
	● Blueberry / Huckleberry	Vaccinium sp.	1.8	1.8
	● Boxwood - Common Boxwood	Buxus sempervirens	1.5-4.6	2.4-3.6

Shrubs

Photo	Common Name	Scientific Name	Approx. Height (m)	Approx. Spread/ Width (m)
	Boxwood - Littleleaf Boxwood	Buxus microphylla	0.9-1.2	0.9-1.2
	Burning Bush	Euonymus alatus 'Compactus'	3	3
	California Lilac	Ceanothus impressus 'Victoria'	1.5-2.4	1.5-2.4
	Cotoneaster - Peking Cotoneaster	Cotoneaster acutifolius	1.8	1.8

Shrubs

Photo	Common Name	Scientific Name	Approx. Height (m)	Approx. Spread/ Width (m)
	● Cranberry Bush	Viburnum trilobum	3	2.4
	● Dogwood - Red Twig Dogwood	Cornus sericea	2.4	3
	● Dogwood - Yellow Twig Dogwood	Cornus sericea flaviramea	1.8	1.8
	● Elder - Laced Up Elderr	Sambucus nigra 'SNR1292'	3	1.2

Shrubs

Photo	Common Name	Scientific Name	Approx. Height (m)	Approx. Spread/ Width (m)
	● Firethorn - Orange Glow Firethorn	<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i> 'Orange Glow'	3	2.4
	● Flowering Quince	<i>Chaenomeles</i> sp.	1.8	1.8
	● Forsythia	<i>Forsythia</i> sp.	1.8	1.8
	● Fraser Photinia	<i>Photinia x fraseri</i>	4.5-6	2.4-3.6

Shrubs

Photo	Common Name	Scientific Name	Approx. Height (m)	Approx. Spread/ Width (m)
	● Japanese Pieris	Pieris japonica	2.7-3.6	1.8-2.4
	● Lilac - Common Lilac	Syringa vulgaris	3.6	2.7
	● Mock Orange	Philadelphus sp.	1.8	1.8

Shrubs				
Photo	Common Name	Scientific Name	Approx. Height (m)	Approx. Spread/ Width (m)
	● Ninebark	Physocarpus opulifolius	1.8	1.8
	● Privet - Straight Talk Privet	Ligustrum vulgare 'Swift'	3.5	0.6
	● Saskatoon - Standing Ovation Saskatoon	Amelanchier alnifolia 'Obelisk'	3.5	0.8

Photo credit: ebben.nl

Shrubs

Photo	Common Name	Scientific Name	Approx. Height (m)	Approx. Spread/ Width (m)
	● Siberian Peashrub	Caragana arborescens	4.5	3
	● Spirea	Spiraea sp.	1.2-1.8	1.2-1.8
	● Strawberry Tree	Arbutus unedo	1.8-4.5	1.8-4.5

Notes

- Fire-resistant plants are not fire-proof. All plants will burn when exposed to enough heat.
- Be sure to locate your hedge in such a way that it doesn't:
 - o become a ladder fuel - a term for vegetation that allows a fire to climb into the tree canopy
 - o become a path for fire to ignite a fence or building
- The height of plants affects flame height - generally shorter plants will produce shorter flames and taller plants will produce taller flames. Remember to maintain a 1.5 metre non-combustible zone, keeping branches out of this zone and out from under roof lines.
- Some of the plants in the list will not provide screening down to the ground. For plants that have lower branches, be sure to remove dead debris to reduce risk of ember ignition.
- While there are no conifers on this list, there are broadleaf evergreens that offer all-season screening. [Go to the Fire-Resistant Plants chart](#) to check which leaf type each has.
- Be sure to consider all plant selection factors. [See section 03 on this page for information on plant selection.](#)
- Plants are healthier when left to grow in their natural shape. This has to be balanced with preventing the hedge from becoming a ladder fuel, or a path for fire to ignite a structure. When plants are shaped, they start to form dense branching which can increase fire risk due to the accumulation of dead plant material. Regular removal of this material is important for reducing risk of ember ignition.
- Landscape maintenance (including watering) is key to keeping your landscape as fire-resistant as possible. [Check out the landscaping maintenance pointers in section 05 of this page.](#)
- This is not an exhaustive list. Not all the plants above are suitable across BC. Check with your local garden centre for available varieties and cultivars.
- Please take into consideration the risk of wildfire to your individual property and follow all FireSmart landscaping best practices.