

FIRE RETARDANT PLANTS

All plants will ultimately burn, but these plants are slow to ignite and burn slowly. Those containing large concentrations of salts are particularly fire retardant.

UP TO TWO METRES

Agapanthus
Comfrey
Grevillea rosemarinafolia
Rosmarinus officinalis (Rosemary)

THREE TO SIX METRES

Acacia pravissima (Ovens Wattle)
Banksia marginata (Silver Banksia)
Laurus nobilis (Bay Laurel) - frost tender when young
Olea europea (Olive) - protect against hard frost
Photinia glabra (Chinese Hawthorn)
Prunus laurocerasus (Cherry Laurel) - This is a weed in the Blue Mountains, but not in Hartley

OVER SIX METRES

Acer negundo (Box Elder) (deciduous)
Juglans regia (European Walnut)
Magnolia grandiflora (Bull Bay Magnolia)
Quercus ilex (Holm Oak)
Sorbus aucuparia (Mountain Ash or Rowan) Deciduous

Generally, qualities that DECREASE the danger of wild fire:

Winter deciduous species
Succulent species
Smooth barked species
Trees which inhibit understorey growth (eg Walnuts)
Known species which "steam" in fires (eg Silver wattle, willow, blackcurrant)
Short grazers (sheep, geese, goats, alpacas)
Paths and roads
Creeks, ponds, lagoons,
Stone walls, earth banks, concrete & brick buildings
Irrigated land - annual crops
Thin, decomposed mulch, rock mulches

Fire Danger is INCREASED by

Summer deciduous species (eg. Eucalyptus)
Dry leaf accumulators (eg gorse, pampas)
Shaggy bark species (Ribbon Gum, Scribbly Bark)
High volatile oil species (Conifers, eucalyptus, myrtles)
Long grazers (eg cattle, horses)
Trackless, Waterless,
Paling fences, wooden trellises & wooden buildings
Thick un-decomposed sheet mulch

Sourced from Permaculture texts (Bill Mollison), Australian Plant Study Group's, Grow What Where
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