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Best practices for
landscaping for
bush fire resilience.

What to consider when planning

What to consider when Planning

The CFA have four main principles when designing your garden to reduce the risk of the garden contributing to house loss in a bushfire.

1. Create defensible space
2. Remove flammable objects from around the house
3. Break up fuel continuity
4. Carefully select, locate and maintain trees

Tips:

Utilize groundcovers with low flammability and low-growing succulents under trees to provide maximum separation between fuel at the ground level and the tree canopy.

Paving and toppings are good options to use around the building to keep plants and trees set back from the building.

When clumping trees ensure to leave a 1.5–2 metre distance between canopies to avoid the fire spreading easily.

Include lawn areas, to break up the planting and prevent fuel corridors.

Avoid tree canopies overhanging the building/roofline.

Veggie gardens if properly maintained can provide an area of low flammability.

Ensure a clear distance of vegetation between the boundary fence.

Grass must be short cropped and maintained during the declared fire danger period.

All leaves and vegetation debris must be removed at regular intervals during the declared fire danger period.

Within 10 metres of a building, flammable objects must not be located close to the vulnerable parts of the building.

Plants greater than 10 centimetres in height must not be placed within 3 metres of a window or glass feature of the building.

Shrubs must not be located under the canopy of trees.

Individual and clumps of shrubs must not exceed 5 square metres in area and must be separated by at least 5 metres.

Use Bal rated timbers such as Ironbark or silver top ash.

Water supply and access objectives:

A static water supply is provided to assist in protecting property.

Vehicle access is designed and constructed to enhance safety in the event of a bushfire.

Holding water is important to avoid dry vegetation during declared fire danger periods.

Document is in accordance with the Victorian Planning Schemes.

What to consider when planting

What to consider when Planting

Try to avoid plants that produce fine fuel which is easily ignited. This includes tree and shrub litter, leaves, twigs, bark strips, mulches, ferns, low plants, grass, decaying material and debris

Plant ideas for your area in Victoria:

Native plants for suburban areas:

Banksia blechnifolia (Creeping Banksia)
Correa pulchella (Salmon Correa)
Eremophila maculata (Emu Bush)
Brachyscome multifida (Cut-leaf Daisy)
Chrysocephalum apiculatum (Common Everlasting)

Plants for a rural area:

Casuarina cunninghamiana (River Oak)
Acmena smithii (Lily Pilly)
Kleinia mandraliscae (Blue Chalk Sticks)
Sedum pachyphyllum (Jelly Beans)
Buxus sempervirens 'Suffruticosa' (Dutch Box)
Sedum 'Matrona'

Plants for the hills:

Kleinia mandraliscae (Blue Chalk Sticks)
Citrus limon (Lemon)
Liriope Muscari (Turf Lily)
Viburnum davidii (Davids Viburnum)
Prunus persica (Peach Tree)

Plants for coastal areas:

Brachychiton x rosea (Hybrid Flame Tree)
Carpobrotus rossii (Karkalla)
Rhagodia candolleana (Coastal Saltbush)
Atriplex cinerea (Grey Saltbush)
Sedum 'Matrona' (White Correa)
Kleinia mandraliscae (Blue Chalk Sticks)
Ficus carica (Common Fig)
Lagerstroemia indica (Crepe Myrtle)
Agave parryi

Carpobrotus virescens (Pigface)
Einadia nutans ssp nutans (Nodding Saltbush)
Eremophila debilis (Creeping Emu-bush)
Myoporum parvifolium (Creeping Myoporum)
Rhagodia spinescens (Hedge Saltbush)
Scaevola calendulacea (Dune Fan-flower)

Plants that will not burn in the first wave of a bushfire, but may burn once dried out:

Acacia acinacea (Gold-dust Wattle)
Acacia buxifolia (Box-leaf Wattle)
Acacia implexa (Lightwood)
Acacia melanoxylon (Blackwood)
Alyxia buxifolia (Sea Box)
Brachychiton populneus (Kurrajong)
Bursaria spinosa (Sweet Bursaria)
Cheilanthes sieberi (Narrow Rock-fern)
Corymbia maculata (Spotted Gum)
Cyathea australis (Rough Tree-fern)
Dianella brevicaulis (Small-flower Flax-lily)
Dianella callicarpa (Swamp Flax-lily)
Dianella longifolia (Pale Flax-lily)
Dianella revoluta (Black-anther Flax-lily)
Dianella tasmanica (Tasman Flax-lily)
Dichondra repens (Kidney-weed)
Doodia aspera (Prickly Rasp-fern)
Doodia australis (Common Rasp-fern)
Eremophila saligna (White Emu-bush)
Eremophila santalina (Sandalwood Emu-bush)
Hymenosporum flavum (Native Frangipani)
Pittosporum angustifolium (Weeping Pittosporum)
Scleranthus biflorus (Twin-flower Knawel)
Syzigium (Acmena) smithii (Lilly Pilly)

Fire Resistant and Retardant Plants:

Fire Resistant Plants. Plants that will not burn in the face of continued flame:

Atriplex cinerea (Coast Saltbush)
Atriplex rhagodioides (Silver Saltbush)
Carpobrotus rossii (Karkalla)