

Firewise Landscaping Plants for Maryland

The following list contains landscape plants that can be grown in Maryland, are commercially available, and are relatively resistant to fire. There is no such thing as a fireproof plant; however, these species exhibit a stronger resistance to ignition by wildfires. This list is not comprehensive, but rather, a guide to some suggested fire resistant species. If there are other landscaping plants that interest you, be sure they are Firewise by meeting the following criteria:

- A high moisture content in the leaves
- A low oil or resin content (avoid pines, junipers, and other evergreens)
- Minimal litter and debris production/accumulation
- Few dead branches, leaves, or twigs
- Resistant to drought
- Grows well in your climate and soil type
- An open, loose branching habit

There is also an extensive online searchable database of Firewise plants for the northeast United States, complete with pictures and plant descriptions. It is called the *Fire Performance Plant Selector*, and can be found at www.fireplantselector.org.

To promote the use of native plants, all species on the Maryland exotic-invasive species list have been removed from this list, and species native to Maryland are indicated with an “N” in the column labeled “Native”. Exotic-invasive species are quickly becoming a threat by invading and overtaking natural areas, and out-competing native plants. To address concerns of deer browse, a column has been added to indicate the tendency for each species to be damaged by deer. Very few plants are immune to deer browse and deer will eat almost any plant if their preferred food sources are unavailable. The deer damage column is therefore a guideline for use under most normal conditions. A column has been added indicating the most common use(s) for each species, as well as a column with pertinent comments about each plant. Below is a key to the abbreviations used in the deer damage and plant use columns.

Key to Abbreviations:

Deer Damage Ratings:

- R = Rarely Damaged
- S = Seldom Damaged
- O = Occasionally Damaged
- F = Frequently Damaged

Landscaping Uses:

- S = Shade
- O = Ornamental
- Sc = Screen
- F = Foundation Cover
- H = Hedge
- G = Ground Cover



Deciduous Trees

Scientific Name	Common Name	Native	Deer	Use	Comments
<i>Acer palmatum</i>	Japanese Maple		F	O	Requires a sheltered location. Not heat or drought tolerant
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple	N	O	S, O	Tolerates wet soils
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Silver/River Maple	N	O	S	Brittle, weak wood is easily broken in wind and ice storms
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar Maple	N	O	S, O	Susceptible to acid rain damage and road salt. Not heat tolerant
<i>Acer spicatum</i>	Mountain Maple	N	O	S, O	Best in wooded conditions
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horsechestnut		O	S, O	Susceptible to many diseases, not heat tolerant. pH adaptable
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	Shadbush / Serviceberry	N	S	O, Sc	Tolerant of drought but not air pollution
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River birch	N	S	S, O	Tolerates wet soils, not tolerant of pH above 6.5
<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	Paper/White Birch	N	R	S, O	Not tolerant of heat, poor soils, or pollution. Insect problems
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	Hornbeam	N	O	S	Tolerates wet soils and periodic flooding
<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	Pecan		O	S	Valuable for nuts
<i>Carya tomentosa</i>	Mockernut Hickory	N	O	S	Tolerates various soils
<i>Castanea mollissima</i>	Chinese Chestnut		F	S, O	Tolerates hot, dry climates
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Common Hackberry	N	S	S	Tolerates poor soil, adapts to pH
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern Redbud	N	F	S, O	Adapts to urban conditions
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	Fringetree	N	F	O	Tolerates partial shade and air pollution
<i>Cladrastis kentuckea</i>	Yellowwood		O	S, O	Prune in summer. Not heat tolerant
<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering Dogwood	N	S	S, O	Not good for hot, dry, exposed areas, or poorly drained soils
<i>Cornus kousa</i>	Kousa/Chinese Dogwood		S	O, S	Intolerant of wet soils. More heat tolerant than other dogwoods
<i>Crataegus spp.</i>	Hawthorn	N	S	S	Not drought resistant
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Persimmon	N	O	S	Tolerates poor soil, adapts to pH
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American Beech	N	S	S, O	Roots easily damaged by construction, needs good soil
<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	White Ash	N	O	S	Good resistance to heat and drought
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green Ash	N	O	S	Tolerates drought, high soil pH, salt, and poor soils
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Ginko, Maidenhair Tree		S	S, O	Urban Tolerant. Use male trees
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> <i>var. inermis</i>	Thornless Honeylocust	N	S	S	Tolerates drought, salt, and high pH. Use thornless forms
<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	Kentucky Coffeetree	N	O	S	Tolerates drought & urban setting
<i>Halesia carolina</i>	Carolina Silverbell		O	O	Prefers moist soil. Understory tree
<i>Juglans nigra</i>	Black Walnut	N	S	S	Prime timber tree. Phytotoxic to some other plants
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweetgum	N	O	S, O	Tolerates wet soils
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Yellow Poplar, Tulip Poplar, Tulip Tree	N	F	S	Does not tolerate poor growing conditions
<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	Cucumber Magnolia	N	O	S, O	Intolerant of very wet or dry soils

<i>Magnolia tripetala</i>	Umbrella Magnolia	N	O	O	Coarse texture
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Sweetbay Magnolia	N	F	S, O	Tolerates wet soil but not drought
<i>Malus spp.</i>	Apples & Crabapples		F	O	Prone to insect and disease problems Do Not plant <i>Malus pumila</i>
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black Gum, Black Tupelo, Sour Gum	N	R	S	Not tolerant of air pollution or high pH soil. Tolerates wet soils
<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	Sourwood, Sorrel Tree	N	O	S, O	Not resistant to drought or air pollution
<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	London Planetree		S	S	Very tolerant of urban conditions
<i>Populus grandidentata</i>	Big-Toothed Aspen	N	F	S	Tolerates dry soil
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black Cherry	N	F	S	Common at higher elevations. pH adaptable
<i>Prunus subhirtella</i>	Weeping/Rosebud Cherry		O	S, O	Not drought tolerant
<i>Pyrus communis</i>	Common Pear		F	S, O	Prone to fireblight – use resistant types Do Not plant <i>Pyrus calleryana</i>
<i>Quercus alba</i>	White Oak	N	O	S	Very susceptible to construction damage. Tolerates various soils
<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Swamp White Oak	N	O	S	Tolerates wet, acidic soils
<i>Quercus coccinea</i>	Scarlet Oak	N	O	S	Less tolerant than other oaks to adverse conditions
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin Oak	N	O	S	Tolerates wet conditions. Maintain pH below 6.0
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Northern Red Oak	N	O	S	Moderately drought tolerant. Maintain pH below 6.0
<i>Salix babylonica</i>	Weeping Willow		O	S, O	Grows in wet soil. Vigorous, shallow roots can be a problem
<i>Salix nigra</i>	Black Willow	N	O	S	Grows in wet soils
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Littleleaf Linden		O	S, O	Prone to Japanese Beetle damage, pH adaptable
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American Elm	N	F	S	Susceptible to Dutch Elm Disease. Use new resistant varieties
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	Blackhaw Viburnum	N	O	Sc, O	Adaptable to many soil types
<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	Japanese Zelkova		F	S	Tolerant of drought & air pollution, pH adaptable

Deciduous Shrubs

Scientific Name	Common Name	Native	Deer	Use	Comments
<i>Aesculus parviflora</i>	Bottlebrush Buckeye	N	R	O, Sc	Well-suited for use under shade trees
<i>Alnus rugosa</i>	Speckled Alder	N	O	Sc	Tolerates wet soils; shade intolerant; short-lived
<i>Alnus serrulata</i>	Smooth Alder	N	O	Sc	Tolerates wet soils; shade intolerant; short-lived
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry, Kinnickinick	N	R	G	Very adaptable, prefers well-drained soils
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	Red Chokeberry	N	O	Sc	Well adapted to many soil types and to warm or cold climates
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Black Chokeberry	N	O	Sc	Adaptable to soil type; subject to weed invasion
<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	Butterfly Bush		S	O, Sc	Attracts butterflies
<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	Beautyberry	N	F	O, Sc	Best in warm climates. Showy fruit
<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	Sweetshrub; Carolina Allspice	N	S	O, Sc	Aromatic flowers and stems

<i>Castanea pumila</i>	Chinkapin, Chinquapin	N	F	Sc	Nuts for wildlife
<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	Choenothus, Buckbrush, New Jersey Tea	N	S	O, Sc	Prefers dry soils and full to partial sun
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush	N	O	Sc	Well suited for use in wet or moist soils
<i>Chaenomeles speciosa</i>	Japanese Flowering Quince		O	O, H, Sc	Very adaptable. Has spines. Susceptible to leaf diseases
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Summersweet Clethra	N	O	O, Sc	Well suited for wet soils
<i>Comptonia peregrina</i>	Sweetfern	N	O	O	Adapted to dry, sandy soils
<i>Cornus amomum</i>	Silky Dogwood	N	F	O, Sc	Provides erosion control on slopes. Prefers moist soil
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Gray Dogwood	N	F	O, Sc	Provides erosion control on slopes. Tolerates moist soil
<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	Redosier Dogwood	N	F	O, Sc	Prefers moist soils; cold hardy
<i>Corylus americana</i>	American Hazelnut	N	O	Sc	Provides food for wildlife. Very adaptable
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	European Filbert		O	Sc	Prized for its nut production
<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	Smokebush		O	O, Sc	Well adapted to many conditions
<i>Cotoneaster spp.</i>	Cotoneaster		O	F, G	Tolerates wind, dry, poor soil; very pH adaptable
<i>Daphne spp.</i>	Daphne		S	O	Requires full to partial sun
<i>Deutzia gracilis</i>	Slender Deutzia		O	O, Sc	Well adapted to many conditions
<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	Dwarf Bush-Honeysuckle	N	S	G, H, Sc	Tolerates exposed sites; cold hardy; less vigorous
<i>Diervilla sessilifolia</i>	Southern Bush-Honeysuckle		S	H, Sc	Tolerates exposed sites
<i>Euonymus americanus</i>	Wahoo, Strawberry Bush	N	O	O, Sc	Insect susceptible; adaptable to wet or dry soil conditions
<i>Forsythia spp.</i>	Forsythia		S	O, H, Sc	Tolerant of urban conditions, pH adaptable
<i>Hamamelis vernalis</i>	Vernal Witchhazel		O	O, Sc	Tolerates poorly drained soils
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Common Witchhazel	N	O	O, Sc	Very adaptable to climatic conditions
<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>	Rose-of-Sharon		R	O, Sc	Adaptable to many conditions. Susceptible to insect problems
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	Smooth Hydrangea	N	O	O, Sc	Suckers freely from roots; will cover large areas if not pruned
<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>	Bigleaf Hydrangea		F	O, Sc	Plants are poisonous. Tolerates shade
<i>Hydrangea paniculata</i>	Panicle Hydrangea		O	O, Sc	Plants are poisonous. Very adaptable
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	Oakleaf Hydrangea	N	F	O, Sc	Plant parts are poisonous. Tolerates shade. Rugged plant
<i>Hypericum prolificum</i>	St. Johnswort		S	G, F	Excellent plant for dry, heavy soils
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry Holly	N	F	O, Sc	Tolerates wet soils
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia Sweetpire	N	O	O, Sc	Tolerates wet soils
<i>Jasminum nudiflorum</i>	Winter Jasmine		S	O, H	Drought tolerant, used in erosion control
<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	Crapemyrtle		O	O, Sc	Tolerant of drought and urban conditions. Not cold tolerant
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush	N	S	Sc	Tolerates shade
<i>Mahonia spp.</i>	Grape Holly		S	O	Tolerates partial shade
<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i>	Sweet Mockorange		S	O, Sc	Adapts to almost any soil condition

<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Nine-bark	N	R	Sc, O	Drought resistant, pH adaptable
<i>Poncirus trifoliata</i>	Hardy-Orange			O, Sc	Has thorny stems. Soil adaptable
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	Shrubby cinquefoil		F	O, F	Adapts poorly to hot, humid locations
<i>Prunus glandulosa</i>	Flowering Almond		O	H, F	Very adaptable, showy, and weedy
<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	Firethorn		O	O, Sc	Drought tolerant
<i>Rhus copallina</i>	Shining Sumac	N	O	O, Sc	Useful for dry, rocky sites
<i>Ribes spp.</i>	Currant, Gooseberry	N	S	O	Prefers higher elevations. Shade tolerant
<i>Rosa spp.</i>	Garden Rose Hybrids		F	O	Insect & disease susceptible, thorny stems. Do Not plant <i>Rosa multiflora</i> , <i>R. canina</i> , <i>R. eglanteria</i> , <i>R. gallica</i> , <i>R. micrantha</i> , <i>R. rugosa</i> , or <i>R. wichurainia</i>
<i>Salix discolor</i>	Pussywillow	N	O	O, Sc	Tolerates poorly drained soil. Short lived
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Elderberry	N	R	Sc, O	Tolerates both wet and dry soils
<i>Sarcococca hookerana var. humilis</i>	Sweetbox, Dwarf Sweet Christmas Box		R	G	Tolerates air pollution
<i>Spirea bumalda</i>	Bumald Spirea		O	O, F	Needs well-drained soil
<i>Spirea prunifolia</i>	Bridalwreath Spirea		O	O, Sc	Heavy pruning will destroy this shrubs natural arching habit
<i>Staphylea trifolia</i>	American Bladdernut	N	O	O	Shade tolerant; urban adaptive
<i>Symphoricarpus orbiculatus</i>	Indian Coralberry	N	S	O, Sc	Shade Tolerant
<i>Syringa persica</i>	Persian Lilac		O	O, Sc	Heat Tolerant
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	Common Lilac		S	O, Sc	Not heat tolerant. Prone to powdery mildew. Requires high soil pH
<i>Vaccinium angustifolia</i>	Lowbush Blueberry	N	F	Sc, H	Prized for its berries
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Highbush Blueberry	N	F	Sc, H	Tolerates acid, sandy soil conditions. Wildlife food
<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	Mapleleaf Viburnum	N	O	O, Sc	Tolerates shade and poor soils
<i>Viburnum carlesi</i>	Koreanspice Viburnum		S	O, H, Sc	Early, fragrant flowers
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrowwood Viburnum	N	S	Sc	Tolerates high pH, heavy soils, and cold temperatures
<i>Vitex angus-castus</i>	Chastetree, Vitex		S	O, Sc	Adaptable to poor soils & dry sites
<i>Weigela florida</i>	Weigela		S	O, H, Sc, F	Very tolerant of air pollution

Ground Covers

Scientific Name	Common Name	Native	Deer	Use	Comments
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry, Kinnickinick		R	G	Very adaptable, likes well-drained soils
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Sweet Woodruff		R	G, O	Very shade tolerant. Attractive, delicate white flowers
<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	Wintergreen	N	R	G	Good for woodland sites
<i>Hosta spp.</i>	Hosta		O	G	Tolerates variable moisture
<i>Hypericum calycinum</i>	St Johnswort		S	G	Used in erosion control. Poisonous

<i>Iberis sempervirens</i>	Candytuft		F	G	Prefers loam soil, and full sun or partial shade. pH adaptable
<i>Liriope muscari</i>	Bigblue Liriope, Lilyturf		S	G	Semi-tolerant of drought. Potentially invasive. Do Not plant <i>Liriope spicata</i>
<i>Ophiopogon japonicus</i>	Monkeygrass, Dwarf Mondo Grass		S	G	Good for erosion control in warm climates. Drought tolerant
<i>Opuntia spp.</i>	Prickly Pear		F	G	Native to arid regions, but is very adaptable. Has spiny stems
<i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>	Pachysandra, Japanese Spurge		R	G	Not tolerant of foot traffic or full sun conditions
<i>Phlox subulata</i>	Phlox, Moss-phlox	N	F	G	Prefers dry soils
<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	Fragrant Sumac	N	R	G	Drought tolerant
<i>Sarcococca hookerana var. humilis</i>	Sweetbox, Dwarf Sweet Christmas Box		R	G	Tolerates air pollution
<i>Sedum spp.</i>	Sedum, Stonecrop		F	G	Drought tolerant and maintenance free
<i>Vinca major</i>	Bigleaf periwinkle		O	G	Good for erosion control, tolerates drought
<i>Viola spp.</i>	Violet	N	F	G	Native and cultivated varieties, adapting to many conditions

Herbaceous Annuals and Perennials

Scientific Name	Common Name	Native	Deer	Use	Comments
<i>Achillea spp.</i>	Yarrow	N	R	O	Adaptable to various soil types and moistures
<i>Aconitum spp.</i>	Monkshood	N	R	O	Prefers moist soils. Shade tolerant
<i>Allium christophii</i>	Star of Persia		R	O	Prefers sun or partial shade. Do Not plant <i>Allium vineale</i>
<i>Anemone spp.</i>	Anemone Hybrids		R	O, G	Plants are poisonous – do not eat. Prefers partial sun and moist soils.
<i>Anemonella thalictroides</i>	Rue Anemone, Windflower	N	R	O	Plants are poisonous – do not eat. Prefers moist soils and partial shade
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Columbine		R	O	Plants are poisonous – do not eat. Adapts to full sun or partial shade and rocky soils
<i>Arabis spp.</i>	Rock Cress	N	R	O	Many varieties, adaptable to many conditions
<i>Artemisia spp.</i>	Wormwood, Sage	N	S	O	Many native and cultivated varieties. Prefers dry soils. Do Not plant <i>Artemisia vulgaris</i> , or <i>A. stelleriana</i>
<i>Asarum canadense</i>	Wild Ginger	N	R	O	Not tolerant of highly acid soils
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Weed	N	R	O	Plants are poisonous – do not eat. Drought tolerant; shade intolerant
<i>Aster spp.</i>	Asters	N	S	O	Many types, both native and cultivated
<i>Aubrietia deltoidea</i>	False Rock Cress		R	O	Prefers full sun
<i>Bergenia spp.</i>	Bergenia		R	O	Drought tolerant
<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Lily-of-the-Valley		R	O, G	Plants are poisonous – do not eat. Shade tolerant
<i>Delphinium spp.</i>	Delphinium, Larkspur	N	S	O	Plants are poisonous. Cultivated and native varieties. Prefers high pH soils
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple Coneflower		R	O	Prefers full sun; tolerates partial shade

<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	Blanket Flower	N	S	O	Drought and sun tolerant; intolerant of moist soils
<i>Galium spp.</i>	Bedstraw, Woodruff, Cleavers	N	R	O	Many native and cultivated varieties. Prefers dry soils. Do Not plant <i>Galium mollugo</i> or <i>G. verum</i>
<i>Geranium spp.</i>	Hardy Geraniums	N	O	O	Many varieties, both native and cultivated. Shade tolerant
<i>Helianthus spp.</i>	Sunflower	N	F	O	Many varieties to suit all conditions. Do Not plant <i>Helianthus petiolaris</i>
<i>Hypericum calycinum</i>	St Johnswort		S	G, O	Used in erosion control. Poisonous
<i>Iberis sempervirens</i>	Candytuft		F	G, O	Prefers loam soil, and full sun or partial shade. pH adaptable
<i>Iris spp.</i>	Iris	N	S	O	Plants are poisonous. Cultivated and native varieties. Prefers full sun. Do Not plant <i>Iris pseudacorus</i>
<i>Lamium spp.</i>	Dead Nettle	N	R	O	Native and cultivated varieties. Do Not plant <i>Lamium amplexicaule</i> , <i>L. maculatum</i> , or <i>L. purpureum</i>
<i>Lavandula spp.</i>	Lavender		R	O	Prefers full sun
<i>Liatris spp.</i>	Gayfeather, Blazing Star	N	R	O	Prefers full sun
<i>Liriope muscari</i>	Bigblue Liriope, Lilyturf		S	G, O	Semi-tolerant of drought. Potentially invasive. Do Not plant <i>Liriope spicata</i>
<i>Lupinus spp.</i>	Lupine		S	O	Plants are poisonous. <i>Lupinus perennis</i> is native, other varieties are cultivated. Prefers full sun and dry soil
<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	Virginia Bluebells	N	R	O	Tolerates shade and moist soils
<i>Monarda spp.</i>	Bee Balm	N	O	O	Sun loving; disease susceptible
<i>Ophiopogon japonicus</i>	Monkeygrass, Dwarf Mondo Grass		S	G, O	Good erosion control, drought tolerant. Prefers warm climates
<i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>	Pachysandra, Japanese Spurge		R	G, O	Not tolerant of foot traffic or full sun conditions
<i>Papaver orientale</i>	Oriental Poppy		R	O	Prefers full sun to partial shade
<i>Phlox subulata</i>	Phlox, Moss-phlox	N	F	G, O	Prefers dry soils
<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	Obedient Plant	N	S	O	Tolerates moist to wet soils; urban tolerant; full sun
<i>Potentilla spp.</i>	Potentilla, Cinquefoil	N	S	O	Native and cultivated varieties, adaptable to many conditions
<i>Rudbeckia spp.</i>	Coneflower	N	R	O	Many native and cultivated species
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed Susan	N	R	O	State flower of Maryland
<i>Salvia spp.</i>	Sage	N	R	O	Several native and cultivated varieties
<i>Sedum spp.</i>	Sedum, Stonecrop		F	G, O	Drought tolerant and maintenance free
<i>Solidago spp.</i>	Goldenrod	N	R	O	Many varieties. Prefers dry soils
<i>Thymus spp.</i>	Thyme		R	O	Planted and used as a spice
<i>Veronica spp.</i>	Speedwell	N	S	O	Native and cultivated varieties, adapting to many conditions. Do Not plant <i>Veronica baccabunga</i> , <i>V. hederifolia</i> , or <i>V. serpyllifolia</i>
<i>Viola spp.</i>	Violet	N	F	O, G	Native and cultivated varieties, adapting to many conditions

Mulch

Landowners often prefer to place mulch around the home and in planting beds. Many commonly used mulches, however, can be quite flammable and pose the threat of ignition by windborne embers in the event of a wildfire. With the proximity that mulch usually has to the home, the risk becomes even more significant. For this reason, a table of the most commonly used mulching materials is included below, along with the relative ignitability of each. Some organic mulches also become more easily ignited after having time to dry out, therefore a column has been included which shows the ignitability of each mulching material after one year.

Mulching Material	Initial Ignitability	Ignitability After 1 Year
Bluegrass Sod	Very Low	Very Low
Brick Chips	Nonflammable	Nonflammable
Cocoa Shells	Very Low	Low
Composted Yard Waste	Moderate	High
Decorative Ground Rubber	Very High	Very High
Ground Recycled Pallets	High	High
Marble / Limestone Chips	Nonflammable	Nonflammable
Oat Straw	Very High	Low
Oyster Shells	Nonflammable	Nonflammable
Pine Bark Nuggets (1" – 2")	Low	Moderate
Pine Bark Nuggets ($\frac{1}{2}$ " – 1")	Low - Moderate	Moderate - High
Pine Straw (Needles)	High	Very High
Shredded Cypress Bark	High	High
Shredded Hardwood Bark	High	High
Shredded Pine Bark	Moderate	High