

Living with Wildfire – Firewise Landscaping
Joy Inman – May, 2013

Introduction

Introduce myself
Overview of today's topics
Firewise Landscaping = Right Plant in the Right Place in the Right Condition
Show Allstate video (CD) – FL overview (5 min)

Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI)

Lots of people live here – where the wildland meets human populations

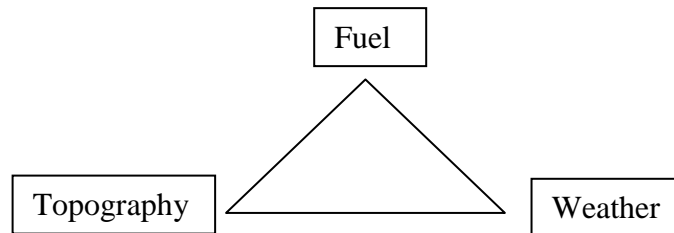
Defensible Space

Having enough space around your house and other structures so that firefighters can defend them

Survivable Space: Same as above, but without firefighter assistance

Fire Behavior

Fire is influenced by 3 primary factors:



Fuel: Amount, type, moisture content, arrangement, etc.

Topography: Slope percent, canyons

% slope = rise/run ($20'/100' = 20\%$, etc)

Weather: Dry, hot, windy

Also: Human factor (structures, roads, activities)

Creating Wildfire-Defensible/Survivable Space (see Extension handout #AZ1290)

Doesn't have to be unattractive

Zone approach:

1. Maximum modification ~ 30 feet from structures
 - Low vegetation, succulent, well-maintained (NOT resinous plants)
 - 3-5 ft clear next to buildings (NO bushes beneath windows)
 - Clusters of plants, not continuous vegetation
 - Decorative rock, stepping stones, etc.
 - Short grasses

2. Size of zone depends on % slope (see chart, p. 2). Up to 200 ft from building.
 - Thin trees to ≥ 10 feet between crowns
 - No “ladder” fuels beneath trees (shrubs, tall grasses)
 - Firewood stacks & propane tanks ≥ 30 ft from structure
 - Dispose of dead/down materials
3. Extends to edge of property
 - Can have denser vegetation; thin trees for stand health
 - More natural look

Plant Selection (see Fire-Resistant Landscaping handout Extension #AZ1291)

Different plants for different zones

Guidelines (pg. 2 of handout)

Plant groups (summarize from handout)

Specific plants for our elevations: See Firewise Plant Materials handout Extension #AZ1289)

Maintenance

Keep fuel loads down (remove dead, dry materials)

Mow/cut grasses

Keep succulent plants watered

Summary

Read main headings from brochure from Arizona Firewise Communities

(www.AzStateFire.org):

“The Seven Things That You Can Do To Help Protect Your Home From Wildfire”