Australian Plants for Fire Prone Central Coast Gardens

Fire has been part of the Australian landscape for hundreds of thousands of years, with the plants adapting to its occurrence.

All plant material will eventually burn if subjected to enough heat for a long enough time.

However, some are able to resist the force of fire better than others. These fire resistant plants are able to slow the progress of a fire and thus help with fire control.

Select trees with low oil and resin content in their leaves, smooth bark and high leaf moisture content such as in many of the rainforest plants.

Angophora hispida, Sydney Red Gum

With careful planning, planting and regular maintenance, we can make our properties safer:

- Plant an 'ember catcher' - a row of tall rainforest trees to catch embers and slow the fire.
- Regularly clean leaves from gutters and roof valleys.
- Allow for a clear space around the house. If possible this should be at least 5 metres wide and it needs to be a hard surface or lawn.
- Don't allow branches to overhang buildings. Avoid growing plants up against the walls of buildings.

- A fire break can be created by positioning a tennis court, swimming pool, lawn or car parking area between your home and the direct line of a fire threat.
- Maintain a regular tree and shrub maintenance program, removing excessive growth, dead wood and rake up fallen leaves and sticks.
- Avoid having a continuous canopy of trees which allows the fire to be carried through the tree tops.
- Avoid growing rough fibrous bark trees e.g. *Syncarpia glomulifera*, Turpentine, or trees that produce long ribbon strips of bark, e.g. *Eucalyptus viminalis*, Manna Gum.
- Fit all external doors with draft sealers, screens to all windows. If possible, avoid using a combustible doormat.
- Always position your gas bottle with the vent pointing away from the house. If fire threatens and your home uses bottled gas - turn off, disconnect and remove the gas bottles to a fire safe location.

The following list of plants have all shown some resistance to fire:

- by acting as a windbreak,
- by absorbing and deflecting the heat,
- by trapping burning embers and sparks from a fire.

Fire resistant native plants

Prostrate and low growing plants

Botanic name	**Common name**
Ajuga australis	Austral Bugle
Chrysocephalum apiculatum	Common Everlasting
Carpobrotus glaucescens	Pigface
Dichondra repens	Kidney Weed
Grevillea 'Bronze Rambler'	
Grevillea x *gaudichaudii*	
Grevillea 'Royal Mantle'	
Hardenbergia violacea	False Sarsaparilla
Kennedia prostrata	Running Postman
Myoporum parvifolium	Creeping Boobialla
Myoporum debile	Amulla
Scaevola aemula	Fairy Fan Flower

Shrubs

Botanic name	Common name
Acacia iteaphylla	Flinders Range Wattle
Acacia sophorae	Coastal Wattle
Anigozanthos sp.	Kangaroo Paw
Banksia marginata	Silver Banksia
Banksia spinulosa	Hair-pin Banksia
Correa glabra	Rock Correa
Eremophila maculata	Emu Bush
Hakea salicifolia	Willow Leafed Hakea
Myoporum insulare	Boobialla
Philotheca myoporoides syn. *Eriostemon myoporoides*	Long Leaf Wax Flower
Solanum lanceolatum	Kangaroo Apple

Trees

Botanic name	Common name
Acacia howittii	Sticky Wattle
Acacia saligna	Golden Wreath Wattle
Acacia pravissima	Ovens Wattle
Acacia terminalis	Sunshine Wattle
Angophora costata	Dwarf Apple
Angophora hispida	Sydney Red Gum
Banksia integrifolia	Coastal Banksia
Brachychiton acerifolius	Flame Tree

Botanic name	Common name
Lophostemon confertus	Brush box
Pittosporum undulatum	Sweet pittosporum
Pittosporum phillyreoides	
Pittosporum rhombifolium	

Rainforest trees

Botanic name	Common name
Acmena smithii	Lillypilly
Buckinghamia celsissima	Ivory Curl Tree
Cuttsia viburnea	Native Elderberry
Callicoma serratifolia	Black Wattle
Elaeocarpus reticulatus	Blueberry Ash
Glochidion ferdinandi	Cheese Tree
Grevillea robusta	Silky Oak
Hymenosporum flavum	Native Frangipani
Melia azederach	White Cedar
Podocarpus elatus	Plum Pine
Stenocarpus sinuatus	Firewheel Tree

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