

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 many of the rainforest plants.

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 eg. *Syncarpia glomulifera* -Turpentine tree or trees that produce long ribbon strips of bark, eg. *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

Botanical Name

Common Name

Prostrate and low growing plants

Ajuga australis	Austral bugle
Chrysocephalum apiculatum	Common everlasting daisy
Carpobrotus glaucescens	Pigface
Dichondra repens	Kidney weed
Grevillea "Bronze Rambler"	
Grevillea x gaudichaudii	
Grevillea "Royal Mantle"	

Hardenbergia violacea
 Kennedia prostrata
 Myoporum parvifolium
 Myoporum debile
 Scaevola aemula

False sarsparilla
 Running postman
 Creeping boobialla
 Amulla
 Fairy fan flower

Shrubs

Acacia iteaphylla
 Acacia sophorae
 Anigozanthos species
 Banksia marginata

Flinders Range wattle
 Coastal wattle
 Kangaroo paw
 Silver Banksia

Banksia spinulosa
 Correa glabra
 Eremophila maculata
 Hakea salicifolia
 Myoporum insulare
 Philotheca myoporoides
 syn. Eriostemon myoporoides
 Solanum lanceolatum

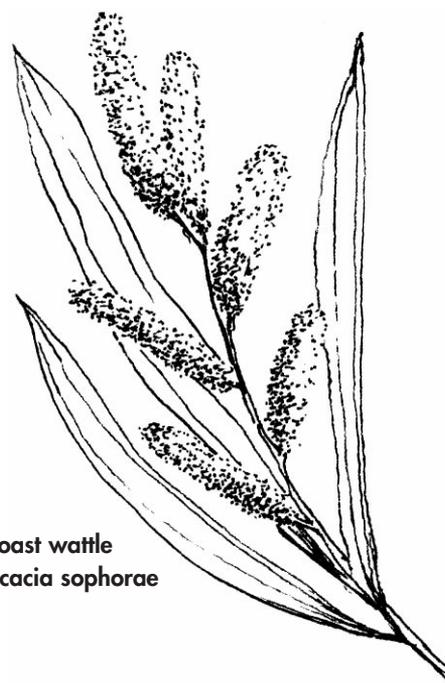
Hair-pin Banksia
 Rock Correa
 Emu bush
 Willow leafed Hakea
 Boobialla
 Long leaf wax flower
 Kangaroo apple

Trees

Acacia howittii
 Acacia saligna
 Acacia pravissima
 Acacia prominens
 Acacia terminalis
 Angophora costata
 Angophora hispida
 Banksia integrifolia
 Brachychiton acerifolius
 Lophostemon confertus

Sticky wattle
 Golden wreath wattle
 Ovens wattle
 Gosford wattle
 Sunshine wattle
 Sydney red gum
 Dwarf apple
 Coastal Banksia
 Flame tree
 Brush box

**Banksia
 marginata**



**Coast wattle
 Acacia sophorae**

Pittosporum undulatum Sweet pittosporum
 Pittosporum phillyreoides
 Pittosporum rhombifolium

Rainforest trees

Acmena smithii Lilly pilly
 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

Produced by the Australian Plants Society, Central Coast Group in conjunction with the Central Coast Waste Board, Gosford City Council and Wyong Shire Council.

