

# Choose fire-resistant plants and trees

# Plants to avoid in the safety zone

Fire-resistant plants aren't fireproof but they do not readily ignite. They typically have the following characteristics:

- moist, supple leaves that decompose quickly
- slow-growing with loose open branches
- plant doesn't accumulate dead wood and dry material
- watery sap that doesn't have a strong odour
- low levels of sap or resin.



Highly flammable plants can have the following characteristics:

- accumulates fine, dry, or dead material such as twigs, needles and leaves
- aromatic leaves, twigs, and stems contain volatile waxes, terpenes or oils
- blade leaf or needle-leaf evergreens
- stiff, leathery, small or fine leaves
- sap is gummy, resinous and has a strong odour like turpentine
- loose, flaky or papery bark.



Marbleleaf (left) and broadleaf (above) are fire-resistant New Zealand native species.

Eucalyptus (below) and kānuka (right) are highly flammable and should not be planted in the safety zone.

Most deciduous trees and shrubs are fire-resistant. Some of these include:

- poplar
- maple
- ash
- birch
- willow.

Eucalyptus and many conifers are highly flammable and should not be within 10 metres of your home. Some species to avoid in your safety zone include:

- pine
- cypress
- cedar
- fir
- larch
- redwood
- spruce
- kānuka
- mānuka.

### Landscaping advice

Learn more about the flammability of native New Zealand species at:

[www.fireandemergency.nz/firesafelandscaping](http://www.fireandemergency.nz/firesafelandscaping)