

Fire Resistant and Wildlife Friendly Trees and Shrubs for the Spencer Butte Area

These trees and shrubs grow well in our area, provide cover and food for birds and other wildlife, and are fire-resistant. Plant them in well-spaced islands 5-30' from buildings, and larger and more closely spaced islands further away from buildings.

Name	Description, Link to OSU Description, & Typical Maximum Height
Pacific Yew <i>Taxus brevifolia</i>	Native evergreen conifer that forms red berries rather than cones. Animals can eat the berries but people cannot. The wood is very hard. 40' – 50' https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/taxus-brevifolia
Pacific Crabapple <i>Malus fusca</i>	Native apple with beautiful white blossoms and abundant fruit that animals enjoy in the winter and spring. 30' https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/malus-fusca
Hawthorn Black: <i>Crataegus douglasii</i> English: <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Locally there are native Black Hawthorn, English Hawthorne, and their hybrids. Both species have abundant fruit and especially the English version has spectacular flowers. English Hawthorn can be invasive. Many kinds of animals eat the fruit in late winter and spring. 30' – 40'; 20' – 30' https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/crataegus-douglasii https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/crataegus-monogyna
Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	Native hearty small tree with prolific white flowers in the spring that turn into a blueberry like fruit in the late summer that makes an excellent jelly or jam. The wood is very hard and dense therefore not prone to burning. Nice fall colors. 20' – 30' https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/amelanchier-alnifolia
Oso Berry (Indian Plum) <i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>	First shrub to bloom in the late winter with a white flower. This turns into a hard fruit which animals enjoy. It is also relatively easy to propagate. 15' – 20' https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/oemleria-cerasiformis
Pacific Ninebark <i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>	Native shrub with clusters of flowers that turn into hard seeds that attract birds through the winter. The wood is dense and hard. It provides good cover and protection for many kinds of wildlife. 5' – 20' https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/physocarpus-capitatus
Mock Orange <i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	Showy native shrub that blooms in the early summer giving off a wonderful fragrance. The seeds are favorite food for many kinds of small birds through the winter. 5' – 10' https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/philadelphus-lewisii
Vine Maple <i>Acer circinatum</i>	A hearty small tree is good in the understory of a forest or in direct sunlight. Squirrels enjoy the seeds and it is very colorful in the Autumn. 6' https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/acer-circinatum-sunglow

<p>Creeping Barberry (Oregon Grape)</p> <p><i>Mahonia repens</i> (<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>)</p>	<p>Evergreen shrub. Showy yellow fragrant flowers in the spring and dark purple berries in the fall. Its shiny green leaves turn red in the fall. The inner bark has medicinal uses. (Name changed to Creeping Barberry, <i>Mahonia repens</i> 2016.) 3' – 10'</p> <p>https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/mahonia-repens https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/mahonia-aquifolium</p>
<p>Salal</p> <p><i>Gaultheria shallon</i></p>	<p>Evergreen with high pectin purple fruit which make excellent jam, especially when mixed with apples or pears. Grows less than 2 ft tall in full sun and poor soil, but 4-10 ft in shade and good soil. 2' – 10'</p> <p>https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/gaultheria-shallon</p>
<p>Compact Oregon Grape</p> <p><i>Mahonia aquifolium</i></p>	<p>Low growing form of Oregon Grape, grows wild in the forest understory. Spike-like clusters of yellow flowers followed by blue fruit. 2' – 3'</p> <p>https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/mahonia-aquifolium-compacta</p>
<p>Snowberry</p> <p><i>Symphoricarpos albus</i></p>	<p>Low shrub that provides good cover for birds, has fragrant flowers and white berries that the birds enjoy. 1.5' – 7'</p> <p>https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/symphoricarpos-albus https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/symphoricarpos-albus-variegatus</p>
<p>Kinnikinnick, Bearberry</p> <p><i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursa</i></p>	<p>Good ground cover, sweet smelling flowers, good food for birds and other animals. 1' – 6'</p> <p>https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/arctostaphylos-uva-ursi-massachusetts</p>
<p>Oregon Boxwood</p> <p><i>Paxistima myrtifolia</i></p>	<p>Native low growing shrub, good in relatively dry places. 8" – 36"</p> <p>https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/paxistima</p>

Also consider other trees that are fire resistant and wildlife friendly: Big Leaf Maple, Red Alder, Oregon Ash, Chokecherry, Mountain Ash, Willow, Quaking Aspen, Cascara.

MORE INFORMATION

For a much more extensive list of trees and plants and discussion of this topic:

- ***Fire Resistant Plants For Home Landscapes, Oregon State University Extension Publication PNW590***
<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/pnw590.pdf>
- ***Fire-Resistant Plants for Oregon Home Landscapes*** from OSU
https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsbdev3_035872.pdf

Most of these trees and shrubs are available at specialty nurseries. Oregon Association of Nurseries website provides plant availability at www.nurseryguide.com