

# TIPS FOR FIREWISE LANDSCAPING

How to design and maintain your yard to **reduce wildfire hazards** and **enjoy the benefits of trees** like cooling shade, reduced energy costs and moisture & soil retention.

## RIGHT TREE

**Tree Selection:** Choose the right plants and trees for your yard.

- The right trees can help buffer against a fire rather than being fire hazards.
- Fires are fueled by dried grasses, woody debris, and dried leaves.
- Use native and canoe plants that are specially adapted to local conditions and require less water to keep green.
- When planting a seedling, ensure it has space to mature and grow.
- Avoid invasive fire-promoting plants and trees like paperbark tea tree, formosan koa, and lantana.

Check out the [Weed Fire Risk Assessment for Hawai'i](#) to determine which plants to exclude or remove from your yard. [Plant Pono](#) & [SelecTree](#) (click on "Search Pacific Islands") can help you find the best trees for your yard and conditions.

## RIGHT PLACE

**Site selection:** Choose the right place for trees in your yard.

- Allow for space between tree canopy and your home. Branches should not touch home.
- Create a "fire-free" area within 5 feet of your home using gravel, cinder, etc. or well-hydrated plants.
- Keep maximum distance between tree clusters/canopies to reduce the risk of wildfire spreading between vegetation.

### Think "Lean, Clean, Green"

#### LEAN

Limit the amount of flammable vegetation

#### CLEAN

Remove dead or dry flammable debris

#### GREEN

Create a well-irrigated yard using native or drought-tolerant vegetation



# RIGHT CARE

## How to care for and maintain your yard:

- Regularly remove dried grasses, woody debris, and dried leaves.
- Regularly trim branches away from your home and other trees.
- Pruning to allow light and air between branches can promote tree health and resilience to pests.
- Keep plants and trees well-hydrated and healthy. Native and drought-resistant plants tend to require less water and upkeep.

## NOTES & RESOURCES



Weed Fire Risk  
Assessment



Plant Pono



SelecTree



**FIREWISE USA®**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

The national Firewise® USA program offers a framework for neighbors in fire-prone areas to get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and communities. Scan the QR code to learn more about the program in Hawai'i.



**These messages are brought to you by Kaulunani, the urban and community forestry program for the State of Hawai'i, and the Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO).**