

YOUR GARDEN

LAYOUT of your garden is an essential part of creating safer surroundings for your house. Prior to plant selection you should decide on where paths, garden beds and other features are to be located in relation to the house. The aims are to reduce the intensity of a wildfire by minimising fuel, shielding radiant heat, slowing wind and reducing the spread of embers. Your garden can act as a green shield around your house by using the following guidelines:

- Do not place shrubs or trees close to or touching the house.
- Install hard surfaces such as gravel or paving next to the house, especially on the north and west sides.
- Well-watered low-flammability ground covers can be used near the house.
- Develop a radiant heat shield, such as a stone wall, earth mound or hedge of fire-retardant shrubs, on the north side of the house.
- Place a pool, vegetable garden or other safe surface between the house and the expected fire direction.

FURTHER INFORMATION



**Open every day of the year
free of charge**

MONTROSE FIRE SAFETY GARDEN
Cnr Mt Dandenong
& Swansea Roads, Montrose

HOME PAGE:
www.vicnet.net.au/-yranges/mfghome.html

These gardens are maintained by the
Shire of Yarra Ranges, for further
information please contact:

CFA Yarra Area
Phone: (03) 9735 0511

Montrose Environmental Group
PO Box 7, Montrose 3765
Phone: (03) 9728 5841

Municipal Fire Prevention Officer
Shire of Yarra Ranges
Phone: 1300 368 333

MONTROSE

**FIRE
SAFETY**

Garden

INFORMATION & MAP

LANDSCAPING

MAINTENANCE of your garden is a key factor in minimising fire risk. There is no substitute for the regular chores involved in keeping the surrounds of your house tidy to reduce fuel that would feed a bushfire. Leading up to and during the summer fire risk season, you should be doing the following:

- Remove ground litter (leaves and sticks) close to the house.
- Slash, mow or brushcut grass close to the house.
- Water regularly to keep plants and lawns green. Ensure adequate sprinklers are available for bushfires.
- Selectively prune to keep shrub foliage separated from trees.
- Use low flammability mulches on garden beds.
- Locate wood-pile away from the expected fire direction.

THE GARDEN IS ONLY ONE COMPONENT OF PREPARING YOUR PROPERTY TO WITHSTAND WILDFIRE.

IT IS CRUCIAL THAT YOU REFER TO OTHER PUBLICATIONS FOR INFORMATION ON HOUSE DESIGN, WATER SUPPLY, PERSONAL FIRE SURVIVAL PLANS AND SEASONAL FIRE PROTECTION DUTIES



CHOOSING PLANTS

The best plants are ones that either:

- Don't catch alight easily;
- Produce little heat per kilogram of plant when alight;
- Produce more heat, but at a slow rate;
- Have sparse foliage and branches, so little fuel per unit volume;
- Have fairly dense foliage that shields against heat radiation;
- Provide wind break;
- Provide shady, moisture-conserving conditions (from trees to creepers); or
- Recover well after fire.

It's often hard to tell which plants have these features, but look for ones that have:

- High moisture content of leaves;
- Low oil content of leaves;
- Broad leaves;
- Smooth or tight bark texture;
- Low amount of dead leaves and twigs held on the plant;
- Thick bark protecting sap flow and dormant buds.

See if you can spot the desirable features in the plants used in the display garden.

References

Available from Montrose Library

Building in Bushfire Prone Areas – CSIRO

Living in the Bush – CFA

Bushfire in Australia – Luke/ McArthur

Bushfires – Joan Webster

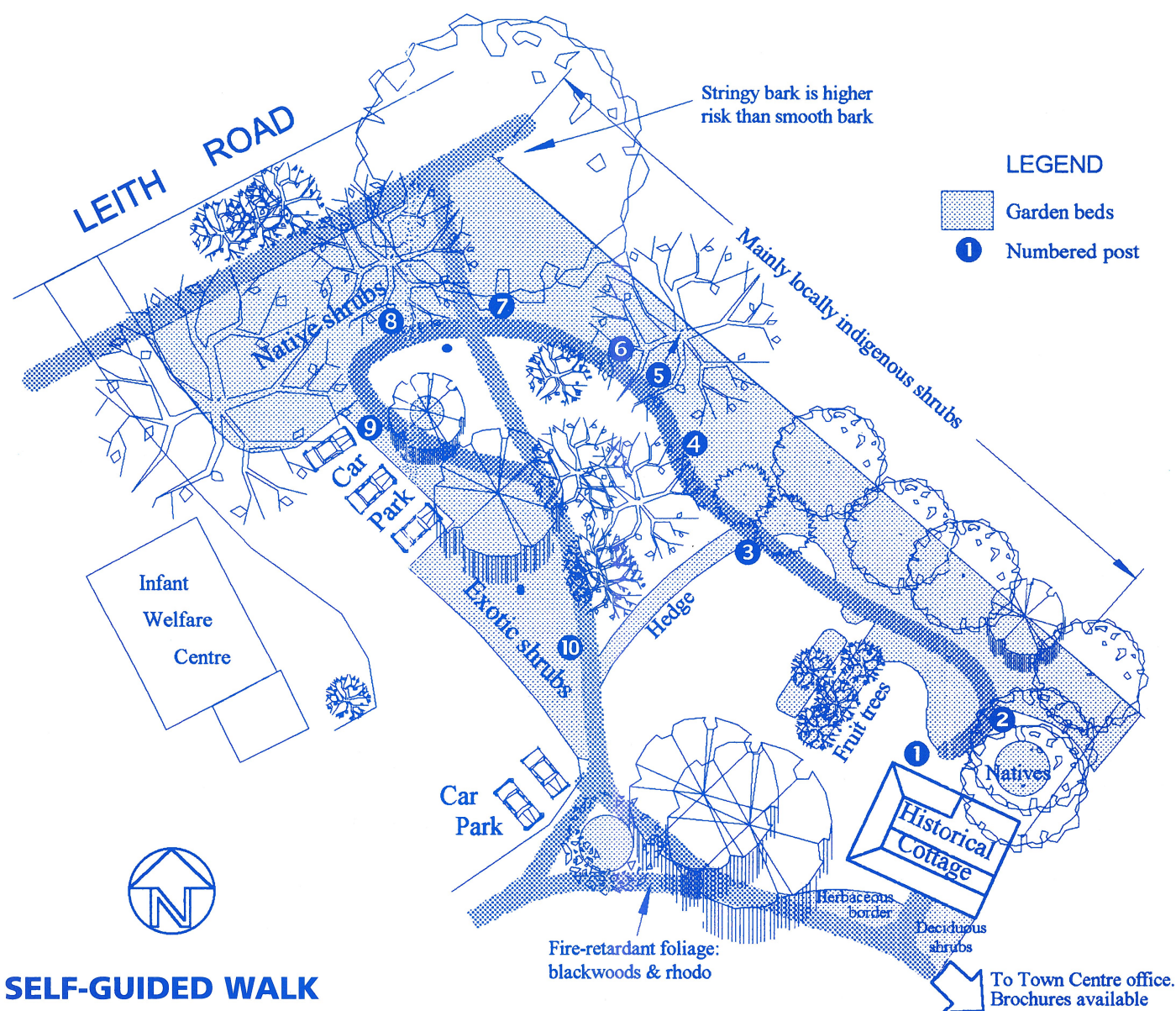
Overall Fuel Hazard Guide 3rd Edition – NRE

Fire in the Australian Landscape – NRE

Web Site:

HYPERLINK

<http://www.vicnet.net.au/~yranges/mfghome.html>



SELF-GUIDED WALK

The Montrose Fire-Safety Garden displays some ideas about how to create a garden that is safer in bushfire-prone areas. Follow the numbered posts to see some of the ways you can landscape your garden and some of the plants you can choose.

- 1 Build paths or grow lawn close to the house to minimise fuel. Fruit trees or similar low flammable plants a little further away can protect against wind and radiation.
- 2 Smooth-barked trees are preferable because they are less flammable, but loose-barked trees can be used away from the house and clear of shrubs.
- 3 A low flammability hedge can retard the wind and shield radiation and embers. Long-leaf Wax-flower is a low-flammability shrub that is suitable.
- 4 Correa is a suitable native plant which has low flammability because it carries minimal dead material.

- 5 Do not plant environmental weeds like Sycamore Maple and Sweet Pittosporum, even though they may be fire resistant.
- 6 Musk Daisy-bush is an indigenous shrub that is good at screening radiant heat, and it recovers well after fire. Note the lush broad leaves. Small indigenous plants that remain lush are no fire hazard, such as violets and trigger-plants.
- 7 Tasman Flax-lily is native ground layer plant that is fire-retardant.
- 8 Large quantities of leaves dropped by trees must be cleared away.
- 9 In-organic mulch reduces hazard by retaining soil moisture. Gravel is non-flammable; large pine bark chips are less flammable than eucalyptus mulches.
- 10 Hydrangea's have low flammability because of their large moist leaves, and they recover well after fire.

INDIGENOUS

<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Acacia myrtifolia</i>	Myrtle Wattle
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Arthropodium strictum</i>	Chocolate Lily
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i>	Mother Spleenwort
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Banksia spinulosa</i>	Hairpin Banksia
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Blechnum cartilagineum</i>	Gristle Fern
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Bulbine bulbosa</i>	Bulbine Lily
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Correa reflexa</i>	Common Correa
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Dianella tasmanica</i>	Tasman Flax-lily
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Dichondra repens</i>	Kidney Weed
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny-headed Mat-rush
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	Weeping Grass
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Olearia argophylla</i>	Musk Daisy Bush
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Pandorea pandorana</i>	Wonga-vine
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Patersonia occidentalis</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Pittosporum bicolor</i>	Banyalla
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Pomaderris aspera</i>	Hazel Pomaderris
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Solanum aviculare</i>	Kangaroo Apple
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Spyridium parvifolium</i>	Dusty Miller
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Stylidium graminifolium</i>	Grass Trigger Plant
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Thelionema caespitosum</i>	Tufted Lily
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Viola hederacea</i>	Native Violet

NATIVE

<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Correa alba</i>	White Correa
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Correa baeuerlenii</i>	Chef's Cap Correa
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Crowea saligna</i>	Willow-leaved Crowea
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Diplarrena moraea</i>	Butterfly Flag
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Eriostemon myoporoides</i>	Long-leaf Wax Flower
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Eucalyptus maculata</i>	Spotted Gum
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Myoporum parvifolium</i>	Creeping Boobiolla
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Orthrosanthus multiflorus</i>	Morning Flag

EXOTIC

<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Artemisia 'Powis Castle'</i>	Wormwood
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Choisya ternata</i>	Mexican Orange Blossom
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cydonia oblonga</i>	Common Quince
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Hebe albicans</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Hydrangea paniculata 'Grandiflora'</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	Oak Leaf Hydrangea
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Liriope muscari 'Big Blue'</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Malus ioensis</i>	Lowa Crab
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Prunus species</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Rhododendron species</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Stachys byzantia</i>	Lamb's Ears
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Viburnum davidii</i>	