

# PLANT AND TREE SPACING

The spacing between grass, shrubs, and trees is crucial to reduce the spread of wildfire. The spacing needed is determined by the type and size of the shrubs and trees, as well as the slope of the land. For example, a property on a steep slope with larger plant life will require greater spacing between trees and shrubs than a level property that has small, sparse vegetation.

## VERTICAL SPACING

**Remove all tree branches at least 6 feet from the ground.**

If shrubs are under trees, additional vertical space is needed. Lack of vertical space can allow a fire to move from the ground to the shrubs to the treetops like a ladder.



## FIRE-SAFE LANDSCAPING

Fire-safe landscaping isn't necessarily the same thing as a well-maintained yard. Fire-safe landscaping uses fire-resistant plants that are strategically planted to resist the spread of fire to your home.

The good news is that you don't need to spend a lot of money to make your landscape fire-safe. And fire-safe landscaping can increase your property value and conserve water while beautifying your home. For more information on fire-safe landscaping, visit: [ReadyForWildfire.org/landscaping](https://www.readyforwildfire.org/landscaping).

## MINIMUM VERTICAL SPACING BETWEEN TREES AND SHRUBS

To determine the proper vertical space between shrubs and the lowest branches of trees, use the formula below.

### Example:

A five-foot shrub is growing near a tree.

$3 \times 5 = 15$  feet of clearance needed between the top of the shrub and the lowest tree branches.

