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DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE

NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
CONSERVATION  
SERVICE

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DATE: 8/16/2001

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SUBJECT: Tree/Shrub species list indicating fire tolerance/survival and regrowth estimates for eastern Washington & eastern Oregon

This is a partial list of woody species, additional native species will occur in eastern Oregon and Washington. Levels of fire tolerance/survival and regrowth rating estimates: none, poor, fair, good, excellent.

Species' fire ratings will vary depending on fire intensity, duration of fire, time of year and tree/shrub maturity. Hot, intense, slow-burning fires will kill more trees/shrubs than less intense, fast-burning fires. Fires in the spring usually do less than damage to plants than late summer fires. Older, mature trees can withstand wildfire better than young trees. Sometimes fast-burning fires that burn herbaceous plants may not kill trees/shrubs.

- big sagebrush *Artemisia tridentata* (native)  
MLRAs: B7, B8            MAP: 8 to 14 inches  
Fire tolerance/survival: poor  
Regrowth after fire: very poor
- rubber rabbitbrush *Chrysothamnus nauseosus* (native)  
MLRAs: B7, B8            MAP: 7 to 14 inches  
Fire tolerance/survival: good to very good  
Regrowth: excellent; readily resprouts/suckers
- Cusick's serviceberry *Amelanchier alnifolia* ssp. *cusickii* (native)  
MLRAs: B8, B9, E43, E44    MAP: at least 14 inches  
Fire tolerance/survival: poor to fair  
Regrowth: poor
- western clematis *Clematis ligusticifolia* (native)  
MLRAs: B6, B8, B9, E44    MAP: at least 12 inches  
Fire tolerance/survival: good  
Regrowth: good
- Douglas' hawthorn (black) *Crataegus douglasii* (native)  
MLRAs: B8, B9, E44    MAP: at least 14 inches  
Fire tolerance/survival: poor to fair  
Regrowth: poor

- snow buckwheat *Eriogonum niveum* (native)  
 MLRAs: B6, B7, B8, B9 MAP: 7 to 16 inches  
 Fire tolerance/survival: fair (a test planting at the ALES site near Hanford  
 was destroyed by a wildfire in the 1990's)  
 Regrowth: good
- Rocky Mountain juniper *Juniperus scopulorum* (native)  
 MLRAs: B8, B9, E44 MAP: at least 12 inches  
 Fire tolerance/survival: good - mature trees; fair - young trees  
 Regrowth: fair
- western juniper *Juniperus occidentalis* (native)  
 MLRAs: B6, B7 MAP: at least 9 inches  
 Fire tolerance/survival: good  
 Regrowth: good
- Rocky Mountain maple *Acer glabrum* (native)  
 usually riparian areas MAP: at least 25 inches  
 Fire tolerance/survival: good; but intense fire - poor to fair  
 Regrowth: good; will readily re-sprout from crown or roots
- Ponderosa pine *Pinus ponderosa* (native)  
 MLRAs: B9, E43, E44 MAP: at least 14 inches  
 Fire tolerance/survival: good to excellent for mature trees  
 Regrowth: good from live seed
- western chokecherry *Prunus virginiana* var *melanocarpa* (native)  
 MLRAs: B6, B9, E44 MAP: at least 16 inches  
 Fire tolerance: fair to good  
 Regrowth: good from root suckers or live seed
- blue elderberry *Sambucus cerulea* (native)  
 MLRAs: B6, B9, E43, E44 MAP: at least 14 inches  
 Fire tolerance: fair to good  
 Regrowth: good
- mockorange *Philadelphus lewisii* (native)  
 MLRAs: B9, E43, E44 MAP: at least 14 inches  
 Fire tolerance: fair  
 Regrowth: fair
- oceanspray *Holodiscus discolor* (native)  
 MLRAs: E43, E44 MAP: at least 16 inches  
 Fire tolerance: fair  
 Regrowth: fair
- baldhip rose *Rosa gymnocarpa* (native)  
 MLRAs: B8, B9 MAP: at least 14 inches  
 Fire tolerance: good  
 Regrowth: good from root suckers

- Nootka rose     *Rosa nutkana* (native)  
 MLRAs: B6, B8, B9, E43, E44     MAP: at least 14 inches  
 Fire tolerance: good  
 Regrowth: good
- Woods' rose     *Rosa woodsii* var. *ultramontana* (native)  
 MLRAs: B6, B9, E44     MAP: at least 14 inches  
 Fire tolerance: good  
 Regrowth: good; re-sprouts from live roots or live seed
- common snowberry     *Symphoricarpos albus* (native)  
 MLRAs: B9, E43, E44     MAP: at least 14 inches  
 Fire tolerance: good  
 Regrowth: good from live roots
- bitterbrush     *Purshia tridentata* (native)  
 MLRAs: B6, B7, B10     MAP: 8 to 18 inches  
 Fire tolerance: poor  
 Regrowth: very poor; regrowth is fair when live seed survives
- Winterfat     *Ceratoides lanata* (native)  
 MLRAs: B6, B7     MAP: 7 to 12 inches  
 Fire tolerance: poor  
 Regrowth: poor

Abbreviations: MLRA - Major Land Resource Area (USDA NRCS)  
 MAP - mean annual precipitation

