



# Fire Resistant Plants & Garden

## What are “fire-resistant” plants?

The *Fire-resistant Plants for Home Landscapes* guide created by OSU Extension (2006) defines fire-resistant plants as “plants that do not readily ignite from a flame or other ignition source”. Fire-resistant plant landscaping and removal of flammable material (gorse, dead plants, maintenance of landscaping) is a means of creating “defensible space” around a home. Defensible space is “the area between your home or other structures, where potential fuel (materials or vegetation) have been modified, reduced, or cleared to create a barrier and slow the spread of wildfire toward your home”. These protective measures could significantly increase the chance of your home surviving a fire.

The Gorse Action Group has installed a fire-resistant plant demonstration garden at the Bandon Community Youth Center, available for self-guided tours. Please see the back of this handout for more information.



**Gorse & fire**

Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), an invasive species found on the south coast of Oregon, is not only detrimental to land managers and native habitats, but is also extremely flammable. Gorse plants contain a high amount of natural oil which makes it extremely flammable. Gorse was the main cause of the town of Bandon burning down in 1936 and caused fires as recently as 2007 and 2015. The seeds are resistant to fire, leaving a source for plants to recolonize after fire. In Coos and Curry Counties, this flammable weed poses a serious risk to over 80,000 residents and 30,000 structures so large-scale control efforts are essential to maintaining public safety.

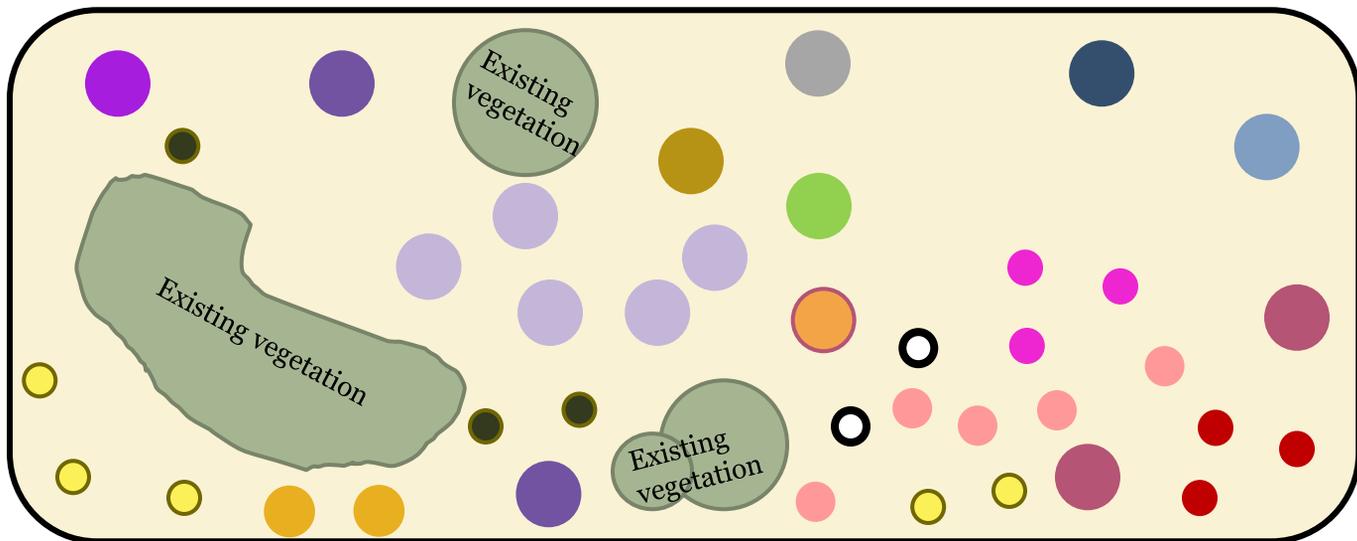


Gorse regrowth after 2015 fire at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort

# Fire Resistant Plant Demonstration Garden

## Bandon Community Youth Center

101 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Bandon, OR  
Just west of Hwy 101 on 11th



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|--|---|--|---|
|  Beach strawberry<br><i>Fragaria chiloensis</i> |  Coral bells<br><i>Heuchera micrantha</i>                |  Western azalea<br><i>Rhododendron occidentale</i>  |  Point Reyes<br><i>Ceanothus</i><br><i>Ceanothus gloriosus</i> |
|  Sea pink<br><i>Armeria maritima</i>            |  Creeping Oregon grape<br><i>Mahonia repens</i>          |  Oceanspray<br><i>Holodiscus discolor</i>          |  Kinnikinnick<br><i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>               |
|  Oregon stonecrop<br><i>Sedum oreganum</i>    |  Tall Oregon grape<br><i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>        |  Blueblossom<br><i>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus</i>     |  Rhododendron<br><i>Rhododendron macrophyllum</i>            |
|  Yarrow<br><i>Achillea millefolium</i>        |  Snowberry<br><i>Symphoricarpos alba</i>               |  Red flowering currant<br><i>Ribes sanguineum</i> |   |
|  Sword fern<br><i>Polystichum munitum</i>     |  Evergreen huckleberry<br><i>Vaccinium parviflorum</i> |  |   |



This is a Gorse Action Group project funded by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation.



**References:** (1) Fire-Resistant Plants for Home Landscapes. 2006. Oregon State University Extension.

[http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/20921/\\*pnw590.pdf](http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/20921/*pnw590.pdf)