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Landscaping in your area

Plants, design, functionality & security

Landscape to the conditions:

Don’t fight them!

Plants need water for growth and a suitable environment to establish.

Know your area

Understand its seasonal characteristics

Know your plants

Local is best

Local provenance plants are the best, wherever it's possible.

- Choose Tasmanian native plants that are suitable to your conditions & situation.
- Try and get your plants locally.

Assess & understand your local conditions

Time of the year

Directly impacts on how well your plants establish

Ideal temperature

Ideal temperatures, ideal plant growth

Suitable soils

Plant growth all starts with the soil

Location & aspect

Is the plant and the landscapes design, suited to the location

Animal predation

Understand your wildlife, when and why it eats your plants

Soils

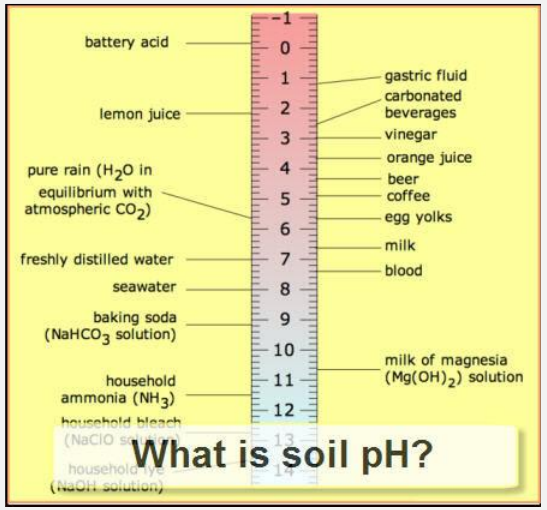
Soil structure

Sandy, loams and clay

The have their pro's and con's

pH and salinity

Soil chemistry



Soils & Nutrition

Organic

Blood and Bone + Chicken manure pellets 50/50mix;
rate - 200g m2

Osmocote

Native formulation,
Phosphate lower than 2%

Location and Aspect

Landform and shape

Conditions- aspect, winds, sun and shade.

Mounds and the low spaces between them, can visually and physically change the growing ecosystem.

- The low areas can act as swales, staying moist longer than the hills.
- Protection from winds.
- Protection from radiant heat, depending on their final height, mulch and plant selection.

Location and Aspect

Landform and shape

Mounds and the low spaces between them, can visually and physically change the growing ecosystem.

- Plants that require better drainage are planted higher up in the slope.
- Moisture loving plants thrive in the valley's and low points.

Location and Aspect

Landform and shape

Mounds, and the low spaces between them, can visually and physically change the growing ecosystem.

- When mounds have been suitably constructed, can have the potential to protect from radiant heat in a fire.
- Rock gravel mulches and low burn, fleshy foliage plants should be included.

Animal predation

Options

Plants have evolved natural deterrents to limit animal foraging.

- Plants have been shown to increase their levels of toxins when damaged, making them less palatable next time.
- Nursery stock growth e.g. grasses like *Poa* species, **grow them "Hard"**
- The most effective plant protection frames are best made from reusable wire mesh.

Animal predation

Options

Plants have evolved natural deterrents to limit animal foraging.

- Accept some level of plant damage to start with, most plants will bounce back.
- Plants get to a certain size and predation slows or stops all together.
- Be aware of seasonal impacts as predation is greater during certain conditions.

Landscape design pointers

Options

Feature plants

- Consider conditions- aspect, winds, sun and shade.
- Fire awareness and legislation
- Build a plant **matrix**, a layer of planting of one or two similar species of plants.
- Plant in **blocks** of the same plant, that can be repeated.
- Connect blocks to form **drifts** that lead the eye.
- Spot **feature** plants erupt from the base matrix.

Understanding the fire threat

Gardens in the fire zone

What we know

- ***All plants will burn, given the right conditions.***

- Plants vary in their flammability; some are more likely to burn than others.

- Plants that have been badly positioned may expose built structures to radiant heat and flame.

- Suitable plants with low flammability that are well positioned, can protect buildings and structures.

They can reduce:
> radiant heat,
> direct flame,
> wind speed around structures,
> deflect and neutralize embers.

Identifying the flammability of plants is not that simple

Issues

Flammability

- A plants age and health
- Its structure and chemical makeup, e.g. volatiles, oils
- Climate and time of the year
- Its location to immediate flammable materials
- The amount and density of flammable parts, (seasonal variations)

Plant selection

Features impacting flammability

- A plants moisture content
- Branching density
- Foliage texture (Fine, coarse)
- Foliage density
- Leaf type – Thicker & more succulent leaves, the slower the burn
- Bark type
- Volatiles- oils, waxes and resins
- Retention of dead material.

Plant selection

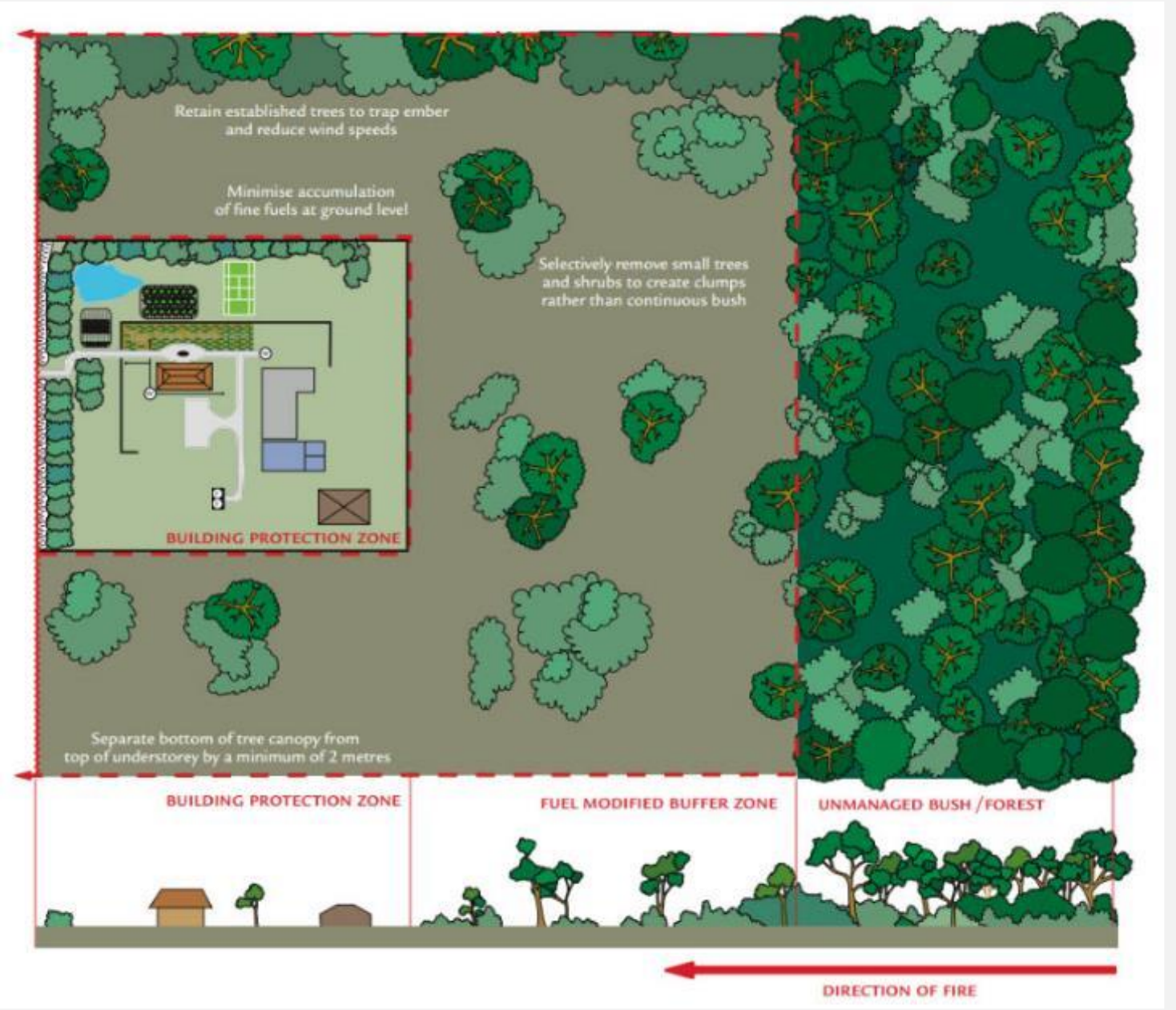
Features impacting flammability

- Plant height – lower ground hugging forms
- Mixed design plantings – Grasses with succulent ground cover surrounds.

Modified landscapes

Make a plan

- Selective small groupings of vegetation
- Gravel and nonflammable mulches
- Paths and driveways
- Lawns and sand surfaces
- Pools and water features
- Courts
- Vegetable and fruit orchards



Gravel mulches

Red gravels

Dolerite rock, crushed in various grades, large to fine

Mudstone gravels

Softer rock, lighter colours, whites, brown and grey, in various grades

Modified landscapes

Landforming

Modifies the environment

- Protection from winds, wind diversion
- Develops microclimates
- Builds suitable habitats for plants, that might not otherwise be grown
- Planted with fleshy foliaged and mixed plantings to provide radiant heat buffers

Modified landscapes

Plantforming

- Fleshy groundcovers, modifies the environment. Moisture holding
- High pruning of lower branches, to 2 metres or above.
- Examples of plants:

Bowers spinach, *Tetragonia implexicoma*
Native pigface, *Carpobrotus rossii*
Small/round leaf pigface
Disphyma crassifolium

- Landscape to the conditions
- Choose local plants that are climate suited and appropriately placed in the landscape.
- Consider landforming and plantforming practices.
- Design for fire
- Don’t introduce weeds
- WORTHWHILE RESOURCES
  Landscaping for bushfire - https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/documents/20143/72271/landscaping_for_bushfire.pdf

  Tas Fire service https://www.fire.tas.gov.au/publications/Bush_Guide.pdf

Summary

Plan your design

Verdant Way

Thank You

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