

# Firewise Landscaping

Presented by

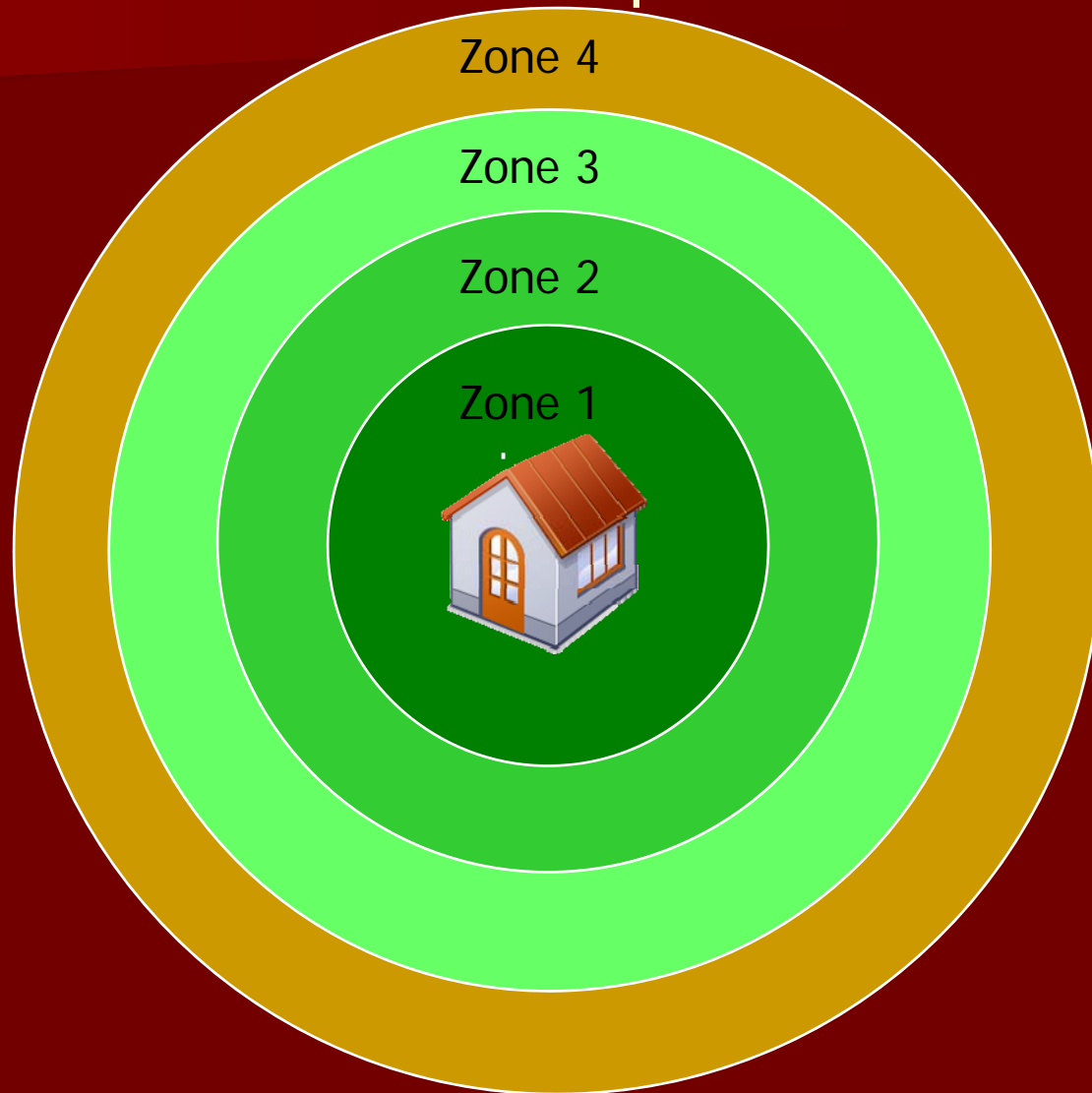
Texas Forest Service



# When designing and installing, consider the following:

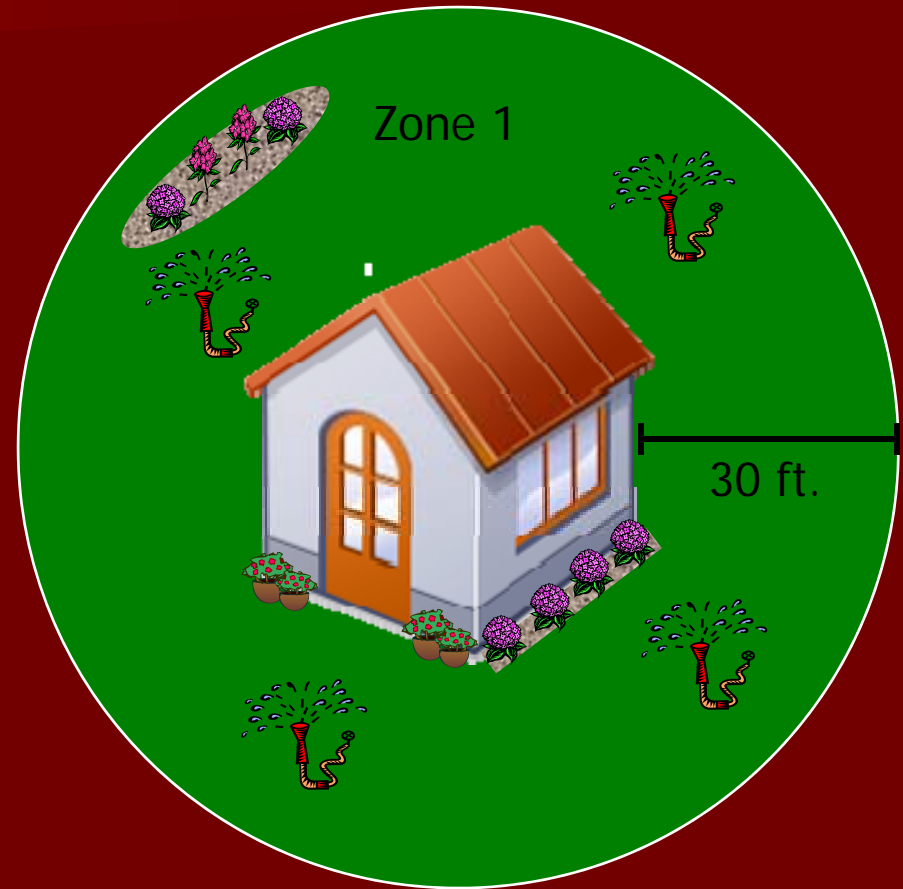
- Local area fire history.
- Site location and overall terrain.
- Prevailing winds and seasonal weather.
- Property contours and boundaries.
- Native vegetation.
- Plant characteristics and placement.
- Irrigation requirements.

To create a firewise landscape, remember the primary goal is fuel reduction. To accomplish this, initiate the zone concept.



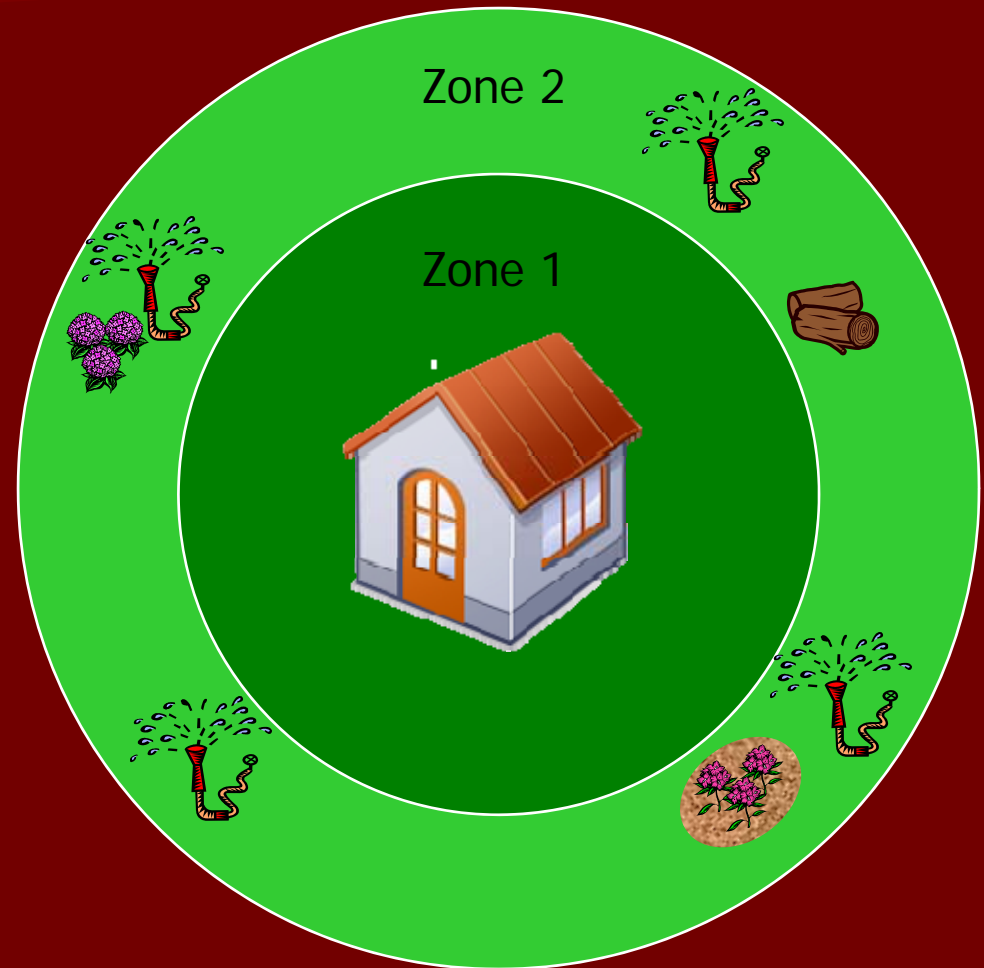
# Zone 1

- Well-irrigated area
- Encircles structure at least 30' on all sides
- Provides space for fire suppression equipment in the event of an emergency
- Plantings should be limited to carefully spaced low flammability species



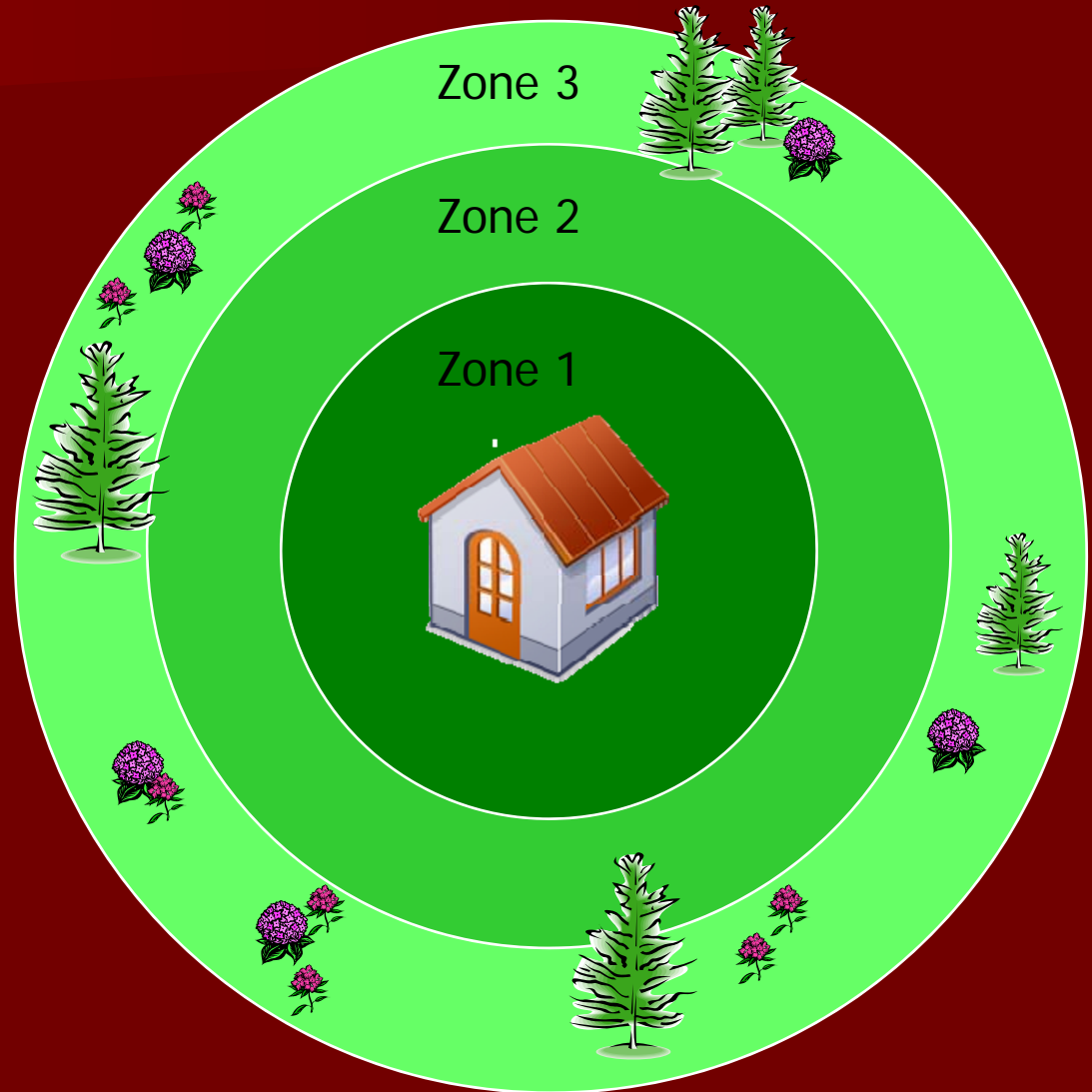
# Zone 2

- Use low flammability plant materials.
- Plants should be low-growing.
- Extend irrigation system to this area.



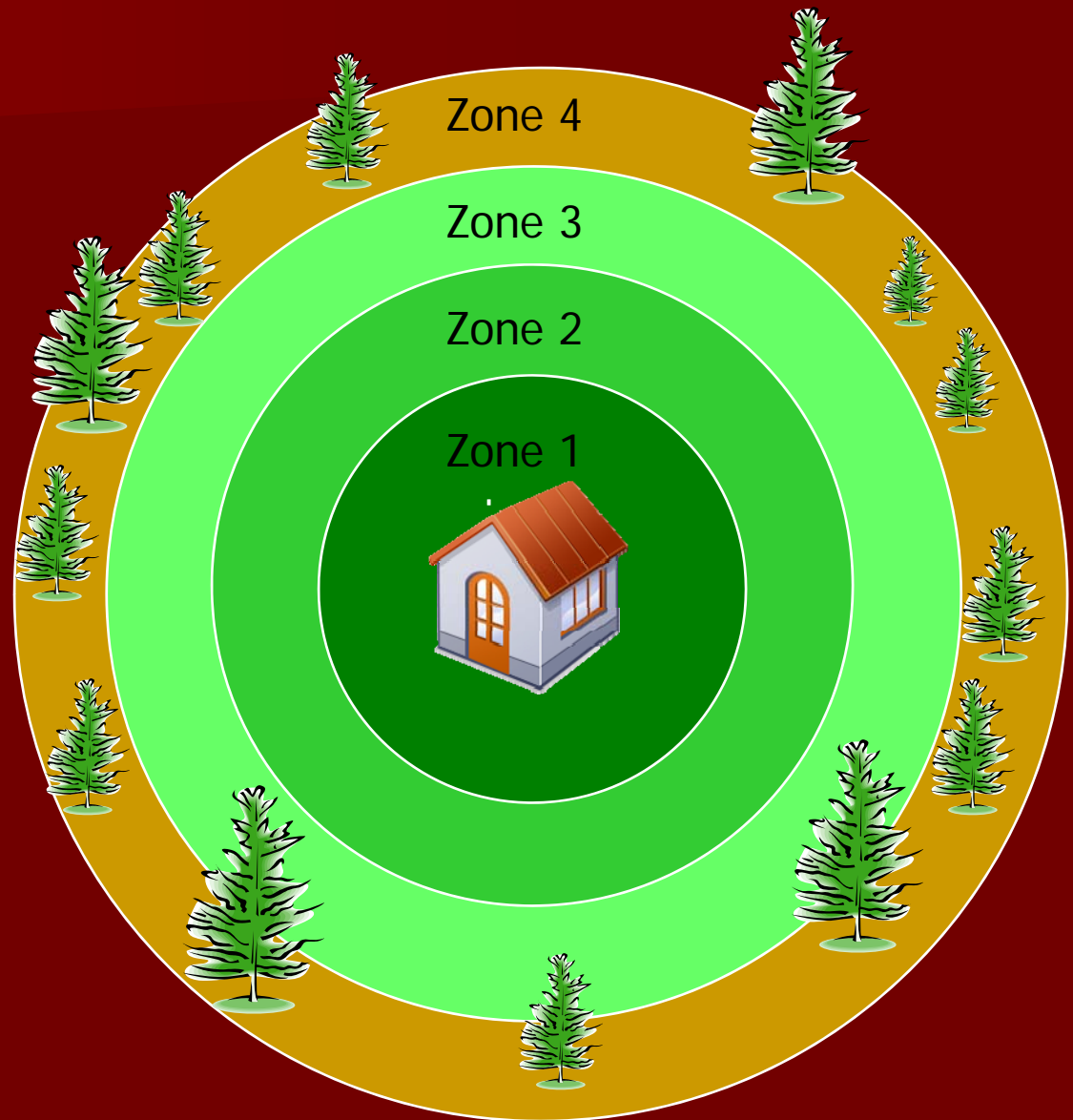
# Zone 3

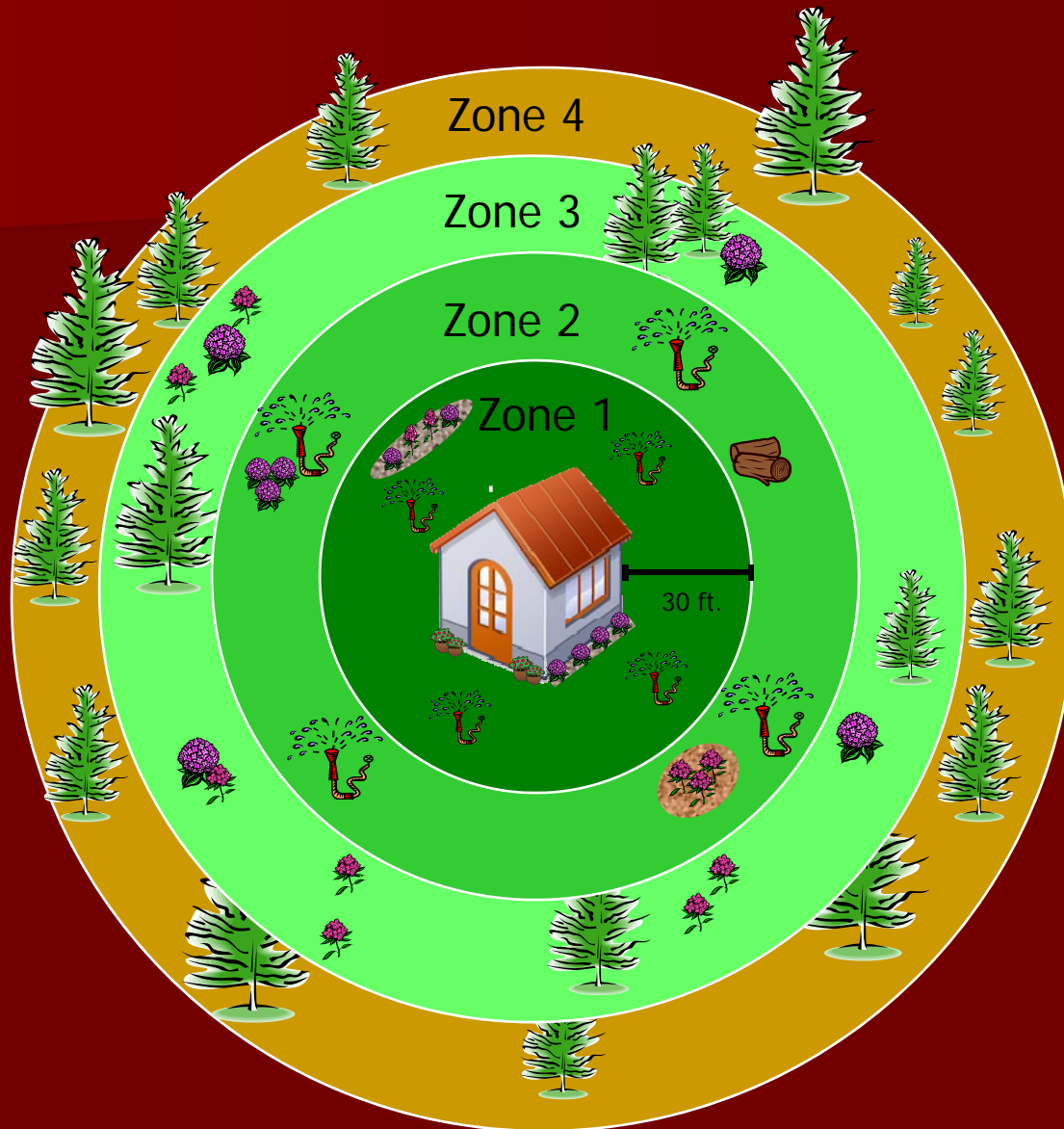
- Low-growing plants
- Well-spaced trees
- Remember to keep volume of vegetation low.



# Zone 4

- Furthest area from the structure is a natural area.
- Selectively prune and thin all plants.
- Remove all highly flammable vegetation.







# Remember:

- Leave a minimum of 30 feet around the house to accommodate fire equipment.
- Widely space and carefully situate the trees you plant.
- Remove “ladder fuels” – vegetation that serves as a link between grass and tree tops.
- Give yourself added protection with “fuel breaks” – driveways, gravel walkways, lawns.

# Maintaining the landscape:

- Keep trees and shrubs properly pruned.
- Remove leaf clutter and dead and overhanging branches.
- Mow the lawn regularly.
- Dispose of cutting and debris promptly.
- Store firewood away from the house.
- Be sure the irrigation system is well maintained.
- Use care when refueling garden equipment and maintain it regularly.
- Store and use flammable liquids properly.
- Dispose of smoking materials carefully.
- Become familiar with local regulations – vegetation clearances, disposal of debris, and fire safety requirements for equipment.
- Follow manufacturers' instruction when using fertilizers and pesticides.

# For more information:

- Texas Forest Service
  - [www.texasfirewise.com](http://www.texasfirewise.com)
- Firewise
  - [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)