

The Risk of Rosemary

In the world of landscaping, rosemary is often celebrated for its fragrant aroma, culinary uses, and attractive appearance. However, when it comes to planting in high fire risk areas, rosemary is not a firewise choice.

Here is what you need to know before you plant rosemary:



Flammability

Rosemary contains essential oils and resinous foliage can make it highly flammable, especially during dry and hot conditions. During a wildfire, wind blown embers can quickly ignite rosemary and contribute to the rapid spread of flames, posing a significant risk to nearby structures and vegetation.

Maintenance Challenges

Proper pruning and maintenance are essential to reducing risk of rosemary igniting. Without regular maintenance, rosemary plants can become overgrown and accumulate dead or dry vegetation, increasing the likelihood of ignition during wildfires.

Limited Water Content

Rosemary's low water content makes it susceptible to drying out during periods of drought or hot weather. Dry vegetation is more prone to ignition and can fuel the intensity and spread of wildfires, posing a greater risk to your home.

If you decide to keep rosemary in your yard, make sure it is more than 5 feet away from the house. Make sure to keep it well irrigated, and maintained free of dead, twiggy material. Remember that there are lots of beautiful, native plants that are more fire safe for your yard.



Learn more fire smart tips at
firesafemarin.org