

MANAGING BURNED LANDSCAPES

The summer of 2002 was the worst wildfire season in Colorado's recorded history. This devastating fire season was created by a combination of five years of continuous drought and an abnormally dry spring prior to the summer of 2002. By the end of August, nearly 320,000 acres were burned and nearly 280 structures were destroyed. Most of these structures were permanent homes.

Firefighting resources and personnel were stretched to their limits as fire managers worked to protect personal property and the forest. Over 80,000 people were evacuated from their homes while firefighters labored to put lines around the fires. Unfortunately, not every home could be saved, and many people returned to find their property partially burned or completely destroyed.

As public information agencies began working with these evacuees, they quickly discovered that there was a void when it came to information on rehabilitating burned landscapes. Published information was scarce on this particular subject.

The Colorado State Forest Service, with funding from the USDA Forest Service, began creating, assembling, and copying information for people whose property had been burned. This information is designed to educate homeowners about post-fire recovery.

This box contains 100 each of the following educational publications:

VEGETATION

- Plant description brochures for Aspen, Pinon/Juniper, Oak/Serviceberry, Ponderosa/Lodgepole pine and Douglas-Fir
- Fire Resistant Landscaping
- FireWise Plant Materials
- Grass Seed Mixes to Reduce Wildfire Hazard
- Proper Mulching Techniques
- Vegetation Recovery after Wildfire

PREVENTION

- Why Hire an Arborist
- Recognizing Tree Hazards
- Creating Wildfire-Defensible Zones
- Forest Home Fire Safety
- Soil Erosion Control after Wildfire
- Insects and Diseases Associated with Forest Fires

If you are interested in obtaining copies of the packets, please contact Keith Wood, Colorado State Forest Service, at kwood@lamar.colostate.edu or 303.438.9338, of Vince Urbina, Colorado State Forest Service, at vurbina@lamar.colostate.edu or 970.248.7326.

For more information on these topics, please refer to the publications, or visit the following websites:

www.firewise.org

www.smokybear.com

www.wflcenter.org

