

# HILLS GARDEN

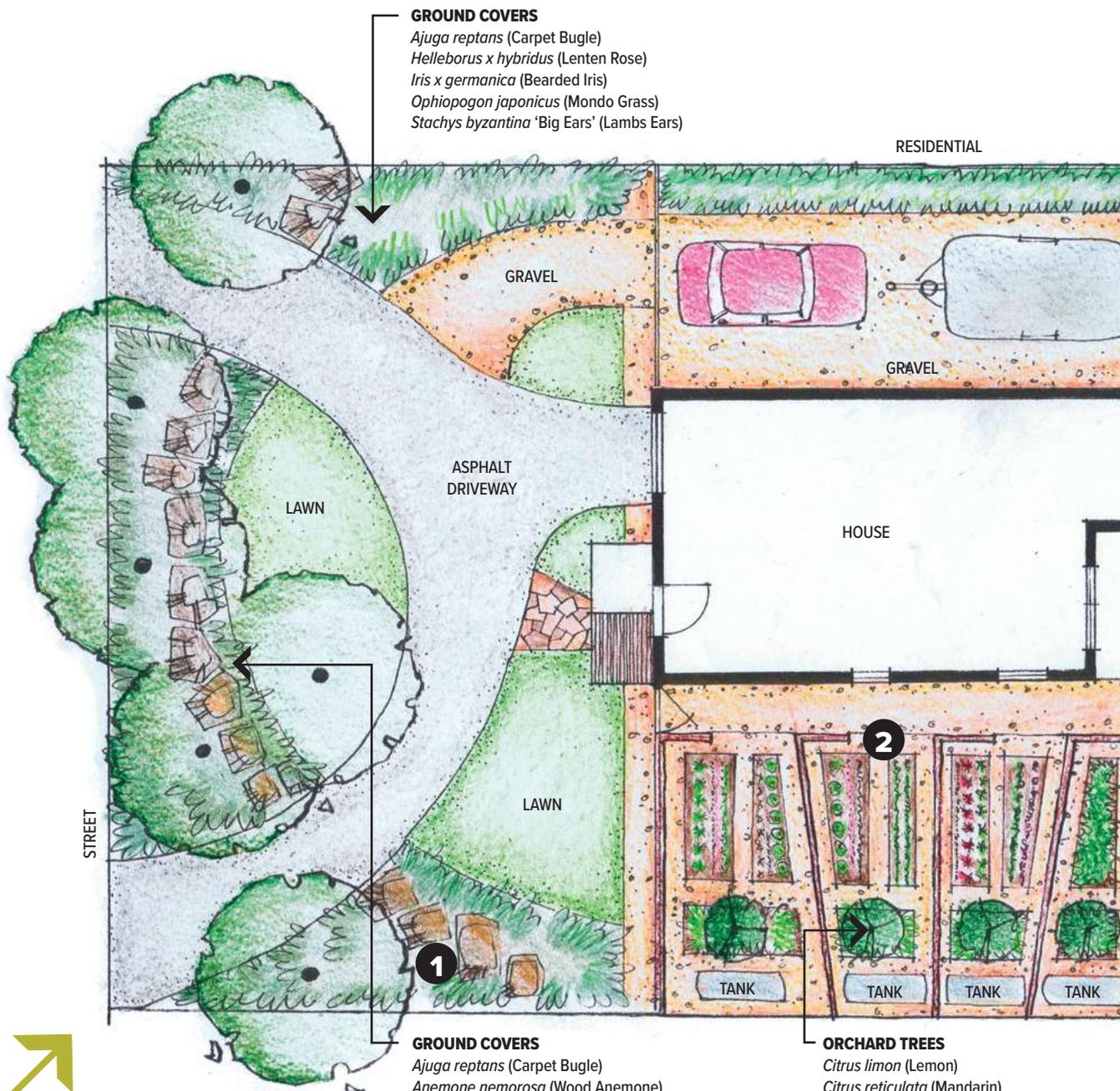
LANDSCAPING FOR BUSHFIRE:  
GARDEN DESIGN & PLANT SELECTION



[cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au)

OUR COMMUNITY • OUR CFA





**GROUND COVERS**

- Ajuga reptans* (Carpet Bugle)
- Helleborus x hybridus* (Lenten Rose)
- Iris x germanica* (Bearded Iris)
- Ophiopogon japonicus* (Mondo Grass)
- Stachys byzantina* 'Big Ears' (Lambs Ears)

**GROUND COVERS**

- Ajuga reptans* (Carpet Bugle)
- Anemone nemorosa* (Wood Anemone)
- Helleborus x hybridus* (Lenten Rose)
- Iris x germanica* (Bearded Iris)
- Ophiopogon japonicus* (Mondo Grass)
- Liriope Muscari* (Turf Lily)
- Stachys byzantina* 'Big Ears' (Lambs Ears)

**ORCHARD TREES**

- Citrus limon* (Lemon)
- Citrus reticulata* (Mandarin)
- Prunus salicina* cv. (Japanese Plum)
- Malus domestica* cv. (Apple)

  
**MOST LIKELY  
 FIRE DIRECTION**



**1**

Avoid planting shrubs under trees. Instead use groundcovers with low flammability and low-growing succulents under trees to provide maximum separation between fuel at the ground level and the tree canopy.

**2**

Keep veggie gardens well watered and avoid loose, dry mulch. If properly maintained they can provide an area of low flammability.

### SUCCULENTS

*Aeonium arboreum* 'Swartzkop'  
*Aloe x spinosissima* (Spider Aloe)  
*Cotyledon orbiculata* (Pigs Ears)  
*Kalanchoe tomentosa* (Pussy Ears)  
*Kleinia mandraliscae* (Blue Chalk Sticks)



3

Use paving and gravel around the house to separate plants from windows, doors and other vulnerable parts of the building.

4

Separate garden beds or groups of shrubs using decorative paving, gravel and lawn.

5

Trees must not overhang the roofline. Maintain any remnant indigenous trees in clumps at least 10 metres from the house.

The location and arrangement of vegetation within a garden has a greater impact on how a bushfire will spread than the flammability of individual plants.

Use these four principles when designing your garden to reduce the risk of the garden contributing to house loss in a bushfire.

- **create defensible space**
- **remove flammable objects from around the house**
- **break up fuel continuity**
- **carefully select, locate and maintain trees**

Remember, a holistic approach to bushfire preparation is critical. While garden design and maintenance can improve the chances of a house surviving a bushfire, do not rely on these in isolation. In bushfire risk areas, on **Extreme** and **Catastrophic** days leaving early is always the safest option.

For more detail and to use CFA's online Plant Selection Key visit **[cfa.vic.gov.au/plants](https://cfa.vic.gov.au/plants)** or call the VicEmergency Hotline on **1800 226 226**