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.

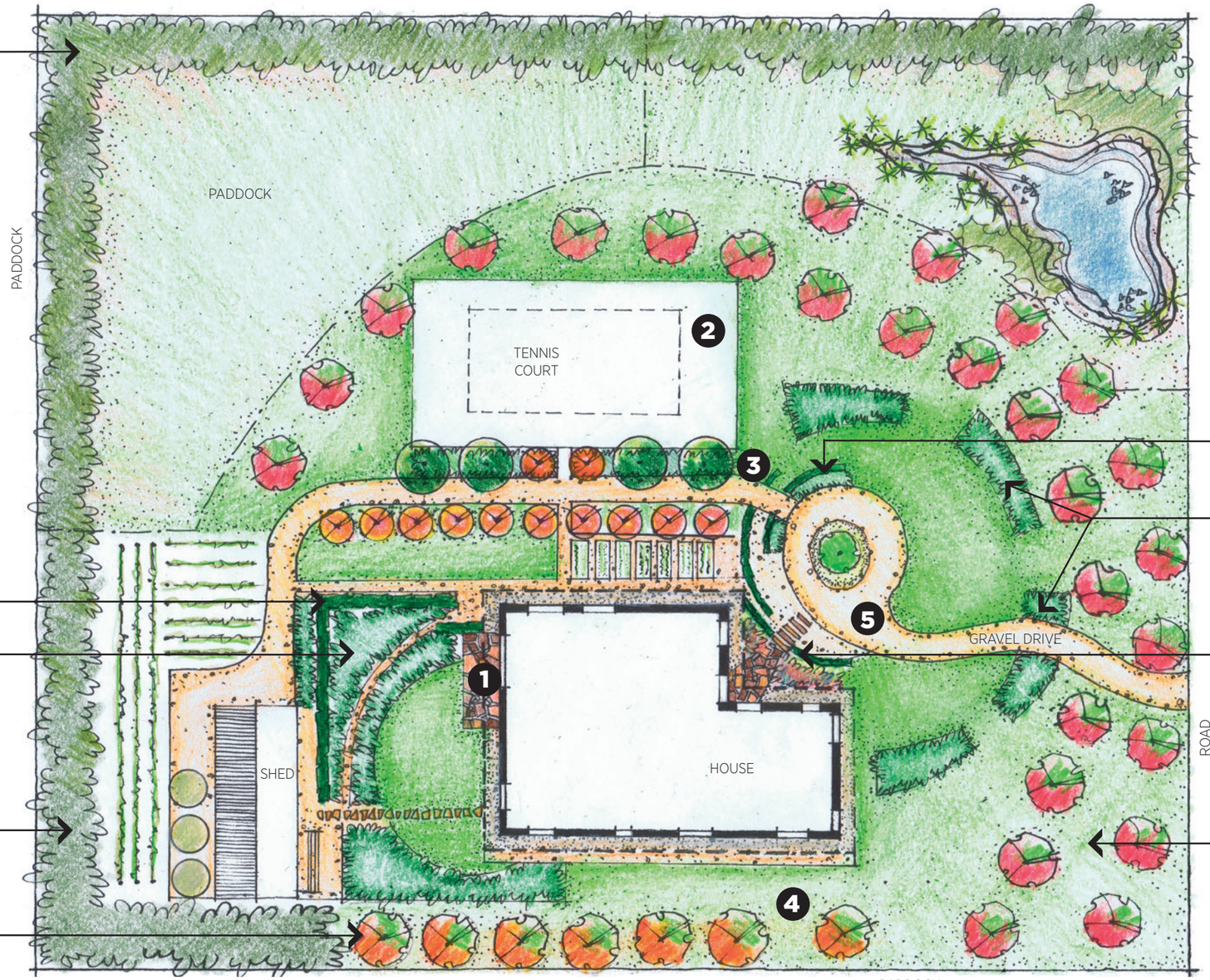
- **CREATE DEFENDABLE SPACE**
- **REMOVE FLAMMABLE OBJECTS FROM AROUND THE HOUSE**
- **BREAK UP FUEL CONTINUITY**
- **CAREFULLY SELECT, LOCATE AND MAINTAIN TREES**

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 high risk areas, on **Severe**, **Extreme** and **Code Red** 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** or call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on **1800 240 667**

RURAL GARDEN

LANDSCAPING FOR BUSHFIRE: GARDEN DESIGN & PLANT SELECTION



WINDBREAK
Casuarina cunninghamiana (River Oak)

MOST LIKELY FIRE DIRECTION

HEDGE
Buxus sempervirens 'Suffruticosa' (Dutch Box)

HERBACEOUS PLANTINGS
Festuca glauca (Blue Fescue)
Dianella caerulea (Paroo Lily)
Lomandra longifolia (Spiny-headed Mat Rush)
Phormium 'Apple Green' (New Zealand Flax)
Strelitzia reginae (Bird of Paradise)

HEDGE
Escallonia 'Pink Pixie'

PERENNIAL DISPLAY
Achillea millefolium cv. (Yarrow)
Anthemis montana
Beschorneria yuccoides (Mexican Lily)
Festuca glauca (Blue Fescue)
Dahlia 'Le Coco'
Euphorbia 'Compton Ash'
Salvia nemorosa
Tulbaghia violacea (Society Garlic)

SUCCULENTS
Aeonium arboreum (Tree Aeonium)
Agave attenuata (Swans Neck Agave)
Cotyledon orbiculata (Pigs Ears)
Echeveria cvs. (Hen and Chickens)
Tradescantia pallida (Purple Heart)
Kleinia mandraliscae (Blue Chalk Sticks)
Sedum pachyphyllum (Jelly Beans)
Sedum 'Matrona'

WINDBREAK
Acmena smithii (Lily Pilly)

ORCHARD
Prunus avium (Sweet Cherry)

ORCHARD
Prunus salicina (Japanese Plum)

N

0m 2 4 6 8 10m

1

Use decorative paving around the house to keep plants away from windows, doors and other vulnerable parts of the building.

2

Locate areas of low fuel such as lawn, dams and tennis courts between the house and the most likely direction of a bushfire.

3

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.

4

Plant trees a distance of at least 1.5 times their mature height from the house. They must not overhang the building.

5

Use gravel paths and lawn to provide separation between garden beds. This breaks up the continuity of vegetation in the garden to prevent fuel corridors.