

Fire Resistant Landscaping It makes a Difference



The Basics of Fire Resistant Landscaping

- **Determine your DEFENSIBLE SPACE.**
- **Remove DEAD or DYING vegetation.**
- **Break up CONTINUOUS vegetation.**
- **Eliminate LADDER FUELS.**
- **Make your defensible space LEAN (less fuel load) and GREEN (watered where appropriate).**
- **Keep up with regular MAINTENANCE**

Use Landscape Mosaics



Consider Zones

- **Consider water needs and fire safety as you plan/revitalize your landscape**
- **High water zone - “Oasis” closest to home**
- **Moderate water zone (i.e. lawn as buffer)**
- **Drought-tolerant plant zone furthest from house**



Choosing Plants

- **Realize that plants are NOT fire- retardant; they can be fire-resistive.**
- **Know your elevation and microclimate when making your plant selection. Healthy plants fare better.**
- **Irrigation and maintenance are key factors in your choice of landscape plants.**
- **Replace or eliminate flammable plants**

Characteristics of Fire Resistant Plants

- Moist & supple leaves
- Tend not to accumulate dry, dead material within plant
- Sap is water-like and does not have a strong odor
- Sap or resin materials are low
- Influenced by plant age, moisture content, total volume

Avoid Highly Flammable Plants



- They contain fine, dry or dead material
- Contain volatile waxes, terpenes or oils
- Have aromatic leaves
- Loose or papery bark
- Sap is gummy, resinous

Examples: Artemisia, incense cedar, broom, juniper, pine, arborvitae, bay, Douglas Fir, manzanita, CA buckwheat, rosemary, dry annual grasses

Fire Resistant Groundcovers

- Bugleweed (ajuga)
- Creeping thyme or phlox
- Wild Strawberry
- Snow-in-summer
- Sedums
- Hens & Chicks
- Vinca
- California Fuchsia



Fire Resistant Flowers



- Yarrow
- Allium
- Columbines
- Coreopsis
- Delphinium
- Gaillardia
- Daylilly
- Iris
- Lavender
- Echinacea
- Lupine
- Poppies
- Penstemon
- Salvia
- Lamb's Ear
- Evening Primrose
- Hosta
- Coralbells
- Dusty Miller
- Tulips/bulbs

Fire Resistant Shrubs & Vines



- Chokecherry
- Barberry
- Butterfly Bush
- Spirea
- Rose of Sharon
- Oregon Grape
- Lilac
- Flowering Quince
- Forsythia
- Potentilla
- Mock Orange

Fire Resistant Trees

- Fruit Trees
- Maple
- Oak
- Catalpa
- Ash
- Sweetgum
- Locust
- Hackberry
- Smoke Tree
- Redbud



Use deciduous trees, not conifers

Maintenance is crucial

- **Simple, well maintained landscapes are safer than elaborate landscapes that are neglected.**
- **Prune deadwood from beneath ground covers and shrubs.**
- **Remove fire (fuel) ladders.**
- **You'll improve appearance and maintain safety at the same time.**

