

# How to Make a Fire-Resistant Landscape

In 2019, 8,194 wildfires burned 259,148 acres across California. Protecting your home and property often begins with a fire-resistant landscape. Here's a simple guide to get you started.

## In general, plant:

- Drought-tolerant native plants like succulents and aloes
- Native trees with thick bark
- Slow-growing hardy plants
- Close-to-the-ground high-moisture plants with little or no sap/resin
- Fire-resistant shrubs and less-flammable hardwood trees



### Fire-Resistant Plants

Plants that contain lots of moisture makes them more capable of resisting heat and flames. But they're not invincible: All plants will burn given the right conditions.



### Trees:

California live oak, native redwood, maple, citrus, cherry, apple, crabapple, honey locust, dogwood, ash, loquat, white alder, hawthorn, quaking aspen, and redbud.



### Plants and shrubs:

Aloe, California lilac, Columbia lily, San Diego sunflower, cotoneaster, currant, pineapple guava, flowering quince, Island bush poppy, Pacific wax myrtle, honeysuckle, raspberry, roses, yucca, coreopsis, California fuchsia, and viburnum.



### Ground covers:

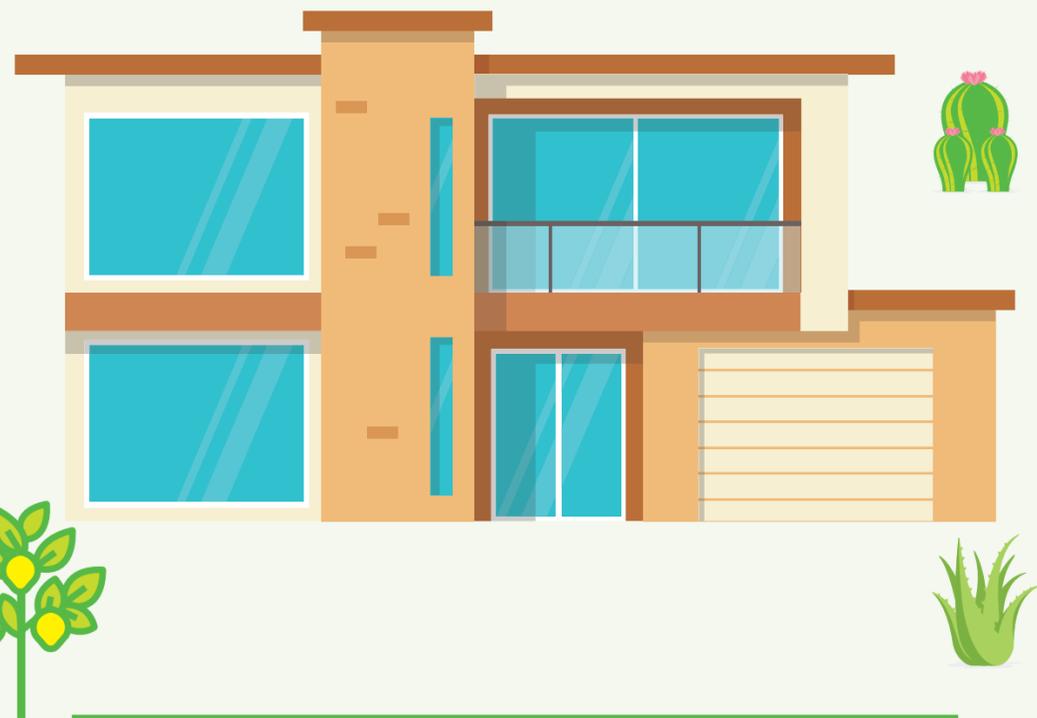
Woolley yarrow, Ajuga reptans, purple rockrose, creeping thyme, ice plant, wild strawberry, lantana, African daisy, wooly thyme, and star jasmine.

## Maintenance Musts

It's your job to ensure plants and trees are properly watered, maintained, and planted at the proper distance.

### Follow these guidelines:

- Plant trees at least 10' apart and at least 30' from home or other structures
- Small clusters are better than mass groupings
- Prune low-hanging branches and dead wood; increase the height from the surface to the base of the tree crown, and thin out foliage to decrease density
- Remove dead leaves, pine needles, weeds, and dry grass
- Remove "ladder vegetation" that can carry fire from the surface to taller plants
- Mow grass to maintain a height of 3" or less
- Substitute wood-chip or pine-needle mulches for rocks or pebbles
- Eliminate dead or dying trees, shrubs, and ground cover
- Use concrete or stone patios, walkways, and walls to create fire-safe zones.



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