

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:

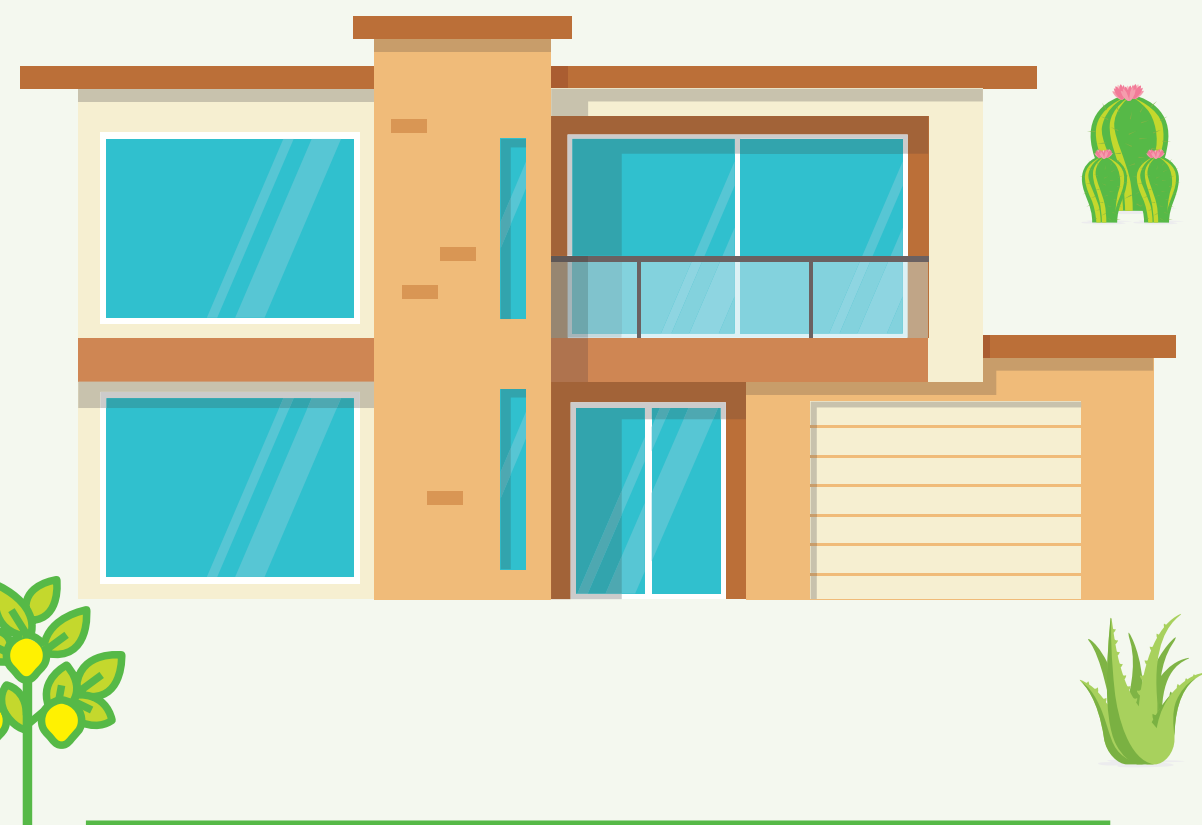
Woolley yarrow, Ajuga reptans, purple rockrose, creeping thyme, ice plant, wild strawberry, lantana, African daisy, wooly thyme, and star jasmine.

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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