
Firescaping- Landscaping for Fire Safety

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What is Firescaping?

- "Firescape integrates traditional landscape functions with a design that reduces the threat from wildfire. It includes planting for fire safety, vegetation modification techniques, use of fire safety zones, and defensible space principles."

- JoAnne Skelly, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Carson City, NV

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How can landscape design help?

- Landscape design and maintenance is the second most important factor in saving your home in a wildland fire.



Designing for Fire Safety

When designing a landscape for defensible space:

- Simplify visual line and groupings.
- Remember less is better
- Provide 10 feet between islands of shrubs, more space for trees



More on fire safe design

- Don't create fuel ladders- open spaces are more important than the type of plants
- Use hardscaping to break up fuels and fire spread
- Choose fire resistant plants



When Designing Defensible Space, Remember...

- Your yard does not have to look like a moonscape
- Beautiful Landscapes can be created that incorporate fire safety
- No Landscape or Plant is 100 percent fire safe
- Keep area right around your house low and green



Hardscaping

Use to create fire breaks and slow the spread of flames

- Walk ways
- Pools
- Walls or planters
- Patios
- Roadways
- Rocks or gravel mulch



Reduce Fuel Ladders



- Don't create a fuel ladder when designing or maintaining the landscape

Use Plant Islands

To create breaks in fuel and slow the spread of the fire



- Group plants in beds
 - Use gravel, brick, rock , stone walls or lawn to break up.
 - Choose drought tolerant plants
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Keep the green close to the house

- Plant high moisture plants close to the house.
- Keep plants watered and green.
- Drought tolerant plants
- Keep trees at least 10 feet from the house.



Things to consider when Choosing Plants for the landscape

- Little or no seasonal accumulation of dead vegetation
 - Open, loose branching habit
 - Non-resinous woody material (avoid conifers, eucalyptus and other evergreens)
 - Low volume of total vegetation
 - High moisture content in leaves
 - Drought tolerance
 - Slow growth, requiring less frequent pruning
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Don't forget Maintenance

- Remove dead woody material on the ground and in standing vegetation
 - Minimize early maturing grasses
 - Mow and rake grasses during the growing season
 - Remove or thin shrubs to keep space between plants at least five times their height
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Maintenance con't

- Prune shrubs to maintain an open structure and prevent dense branching
 - Prune tree branches 8 to 10 feet above ground
 - Thin to achieve a minimum 10 feet of space between tree crowns
 - Remove tall shrubs under trees or space widely apart.
 - **Don't forget the Water**
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Resources

[http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/Living_with_Wild
fire/](http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/Living_with_Wild_fire/)

[https://www.monrovia.com/design-
inspiration/fire-safe-landscaping/](https://www.monrovia.com/design-inspiration/fire-safe-landscaping/)

<https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8228.pdf>
