



CREATING A FIRE-SMART YARD

SOME IDEAS INCLUDE:

WHAT IS A FIRE-SMART YARD?

A fire-smart yard is a landscape design that **reduces the risk** of wildfire damage. This includes creating defensible space around your home, spacing out trees and plants, hardscaping features, and choosing fire-resistant mulch and plants that can thrive in California's climate. Regular maintenance is a key step in creating a successful fire-smart yard.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A FIRE-SMART LANDSCAPE?

- 1) Increased Safety:** Fire-smart landscape is meant to incorporate defensible space practices to create a protective buffer zone around homes and structures. Landscaping features like hardscaping with rocks or bricks can serve as effective fire breaks.
- 2) Aesthetics:** A personalized, well-planned landscape can enhance outdoor spaces through a mix of native, drought-tolerant plants and hardscaping elements such as incorporating fire-resistant mulch, rocks and gravel, adequate spacing and fire-smart plants.
- 3) Environmental Sustainability:** Using native and drought-tolerant plants that are acclimated to California's climate promotes sustainability by reducing water usage and encourages the growth of local ecosystems and biodiversity!

IMPORTANT TIPS TO REMEMBER!

- 1) A plant's environment, condition and maintenance can have more influence on the combustibility of the plant rather than its designation of "fire-resistant" or "fire-safe".** Proper, regular maintenance is key to fire-scaping. Practicing defensible space guidelines will help you align with creating an aesthetically pleasing and safe buffer zone around your home.
 - 2) Check out your local nursery or landscaper for advice on plants that are best suited to your environment.** Utilizing native, drought-resistant plants and incorporating hardscaping like rocks is a great place to start! Many non-profits and environmental groups also provide fire-smart plant recommendations.
 - 3) There is no such thing as a truly "fireproof" plant. All plants will eventually burn** which is why it's important to choose and maintain native, drought-resistant and high-moisture plants.
- Flip this page for more resources!**





CREATING A FIRE-SMART YARD RESOURCES

CALFIRE FIRE-SMART LANDSCAPING

Tips include:

- Details about fire-safe plants, questioning 'fire-safe' plant claims, selecting plants, location and maintenance and shade trees.
- <https://readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/fire-smart-landscaping/>

DEFENSIBLE SPACE.ORG

Tips include:

- Defensible space guidelines for your home and recommendations for fire-smart landscaping and plants to choose.
- <https://defensiblespace.org/>



CAL FIRE
READY FOR WILDFIRE



**Sustainable
Defensible Space**



STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

ACFD Website: <https://alamedacountyfire.gov/defensible-space/>

Email us: OneLessSpark@alamedacountyfire.gov

Call us: 925-833-3473

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/AlamedaCountyFire/>

Emergency Alerts Website:

<https://member.everbridge.net/453003>

Evacuation Zone Website: protect.genasys.com