

## Defensible Space Can Be *Beautiful*: Resources for Fire Gardens

UC Berkeley's Fire Safe Facility features a garden and mini-house, all designed to resist fire. Note link on this page to garden layout plan and plant list. <http://nature.berkeley.edu/~fbeall/garden.html>

If you want to keep it simple, look at this site from South California: a nice short list of native fire resistant plants, with pretty photos of each. <http://bewaterwise.com/fire02.html>

A dense (but useful!) page of info from UC Davis. Includes this critical point: "One or two irrigations in midsummer may make the difference between an extremely flammable plant and one which will not burn readily." <http://cecalaveras.ucdavis.edu/land.htm>

Las Pilitas Nursery (in Escondido, San Diego County) has been through 3 fires recently. Good plant advice.

<http://www.laspilitas.com/fire.htm>

Calif Forest Stewardship says you can have shade! <http://ceres.ca.gov/foreststeward/html/Moritz.html>

City of Oakland Public Works Agency has a nice list of "Fire Wise Native Plants" for our region. There's a second list of "Highly Flammable Plants: *pyrophytes* that almost attract fire." go to <http://www.oaklandpw.com/Page157.aspx> and scroll down to "Fire Wise Native Plants"

The California Forest Foundation has a free downloadable book: "Protecting Communities And Saving Forests: Solving the Wildfire Crisis Through Restoration Forestry." Looks promising! [http://www.calforestfoundation.org/what\\_the\\_experts\\_say.html?ID=514](http://www.calforestfoundation.org/what_the_experts_say.html?ID=514)

From Colorado State U. Extension, an article on landscape design with fire in mind—all good ideas we can use in North Cal. <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/natres/06303.html>

"Be ImagiNATIVE," urges this site from Elkhorn Native Plant Nursery down in Monterey Bay. Good design notes, native plant info. <http://www.elkhornnursery.com/> and go to "Fire Resistant."

*Bay Nature* has a great page of "Fire Ecology Resources": Lots of links to detailed info on firescaping, and fire's role in shaping this land: [http://www.baynature.com/2005julysept/ptreyes\\_resources.html](http://www.baynature.com/2005julysept/ptreyes_resources.html)

Download this article from the California Native Plant Society, San Diego. Introduces an important discussion on preserving native plant genetic diversity unique to an area. [www.cnpssd.org/fire/ReduceFireRisk.pdf](http://www.cnpssd.org/fire/ReduceFireRisk.pdf)

"North Coastal California Fire-Smart Landscaping," a downloadable article from the Mattole region. Excellent plant list suitable for our area, with links and resources. [www.mattole.org/pdf/UMFP\\_fire\\_safe\\_plants.pdf](http://www.mattole.org/pdf/UMFP_fire_safe_plants.pdf)

BOOKS: Kent, Douglas. *Firescaping: Creating Fire-Resistant Landscapes, Gardens, and Properties in California's Diverse Environments*. Wilderness Press, 2005. A guide to fireproofing your home turf that includes tips and resources on fire-resistant landscaping and construction. But ignore Kent's recommendations of herbicides and invasive/nuisance plants.

Gilmer, Maureen, *California Wildfire Landscaping: Creating Bands of Protection with Plants*. Taylor Pub, Co, Dallas, 1994. Info for before, during and after a fire. Comprehensive and rated plant lists.