

Earth911

Landscaping for Fire Resistance | Earth911.com

September 14, 2018

Monday, September 17 2018, 7:12 AM

Landscaping for Fire Resistance

Gemma Alexander September 17, 2018



3 SHARES |

Lately, it seems like every year is a bad year for wildfires. If you live in an area prone to wildfires — most of the American West — you naturally want to minimize that risk. And there are natural ways to do so.

A wildfire-resistant landscape won't necessarily protect your home from the flames, but it improves the odds of your home's survival compared to a traditional garden. While it is possible to design a fire-resistant landscape to fit almost any aesthetic, fire-resistant landscaping guidelines will usually result in a natural landscape that blends in with the surrounding environment.

Defensible Space

Defensible space is the central concept behind wildfire-resistant landscaping. For most homeowners, defensible space refers to two zones surrounding the house. Yet, the term is often misunderstood as a 100-foot vegetation-free area around the house.



But keeping all vegetation 100 feet away from built structures is not only ugly, it increases other environmental problems like flooding and erosion. Defensible space is actually a set of environmental design principles that slightly increases the likelihood of a fire passing by a house and it greatly increases firefighters' ability to defend the building. And if you live in California, it's required by law.

