

GARDEN ZONES

ZONE 1: DEFENSIBLE ZONE

Plants within 30 feet of a structure need to be considered for fire-retardance. This is Zone 1, the defensible space of your garden which will be able to withstand extreme heat and flying embers. Plants need to be watered thoroughly, trees are preferably deciduous, and the leaves of plants will be moist, fleshy, and broad.

Groundcovers for this area include:

Lawn grasses
Ajuga
Isotoma
Gazania
Alyssum
Moss
Nasturtium
Vinca
Dwarf Plumbago
Chamomile

Zone 1 Perennials include:

Acanthus
Agapanthus
Artemisia
Bergenia
Canna

Dusty Miller
Shasta Daisy
Chrysanthemum
Coreopsis
Foxglove
Ferns
Geranium
Daylilies
Impatiens
Hosta

Heuchera
Penstemon
Pelargonium
New Zealand Flax
Lamb's Ear
Calla lilies
Bird of Paradise

Zone 1 Shrubs include:
Heuchera
Penstemon
Pelargonium
New Zealand Flax
Lamb's Ear
Calla lilies
Bird of Paradise

Rose
Privet
Boxwood
Camellia
Photinia
Mock Orange
Gardenia
Hibiscus
Pittosporum
Azalea

Rhododendron
Lilac
Viburnum
Oleander

Zone 1 Vines include:
Clematis
Trumpet Vine
Grape

Jasmine
Bower Vine
Wisteria

Zone 1 Trees include:

Fruit trees
Magnolia
Maple
Redbud
Birch
Pineapple Guava
Dogwood
Crape Myrtle
Liquid Amber
Ornamental Pear
Pepper Tree

ZONE 2: FUEL BREAK

From 31 feet to 70 feet from a structure, and even further up on slopes, is the green-belt area which is designed to halt the fire. Plants in this area are the most fire-retardant with low fuels and high moisture content. These plantings can withstand neglect, freezes, droughts, and even insect infestations and still be fire-retardant. Ground covers don't grow over 18 inches. Trees and shrubs have space between them. In general, although succulents and cactus may not survive a fire, they are the best at retarding one.

Zone 2 Groundcovers include:

Succulents
Ice plant
Yarrow
Artemisia
Morning glory
Coreopsis
Santa Barbara Daisy
Wild strawberry
Gazania
Primrose
Osteospermum
Clover
Verbena

Zone 2 Perennials include:

Yarrow
Dusty Miller
California Poppy
Iris
Gaura
Euphorbia
Chrysanthemum
Coreopsis
Statice
Candytuft
Lupine
Red-Hot Poker
Sage

Zone 2 Shrubs include:

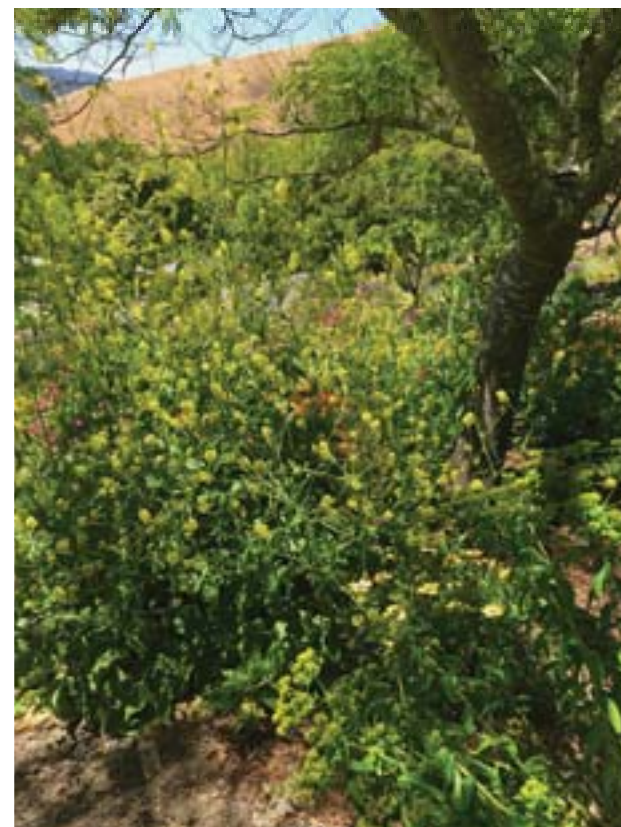
Yucca
Succulents
Cactus
Oleander
Pomegranate
Rockrose
Zone 2 Vines include:
Virginia Creeper
Lady Banks Rose
Honeysuckle
Nightshade
Senecio Confusus

Zone 2 Trees include:

Carob
Strawberry Tree
Redbud
Honey Locust
Chinese Pistache
California Black Oak
Sumac
Yucca
Joshua Tree



Roses are excellent fire-safe plants. (Mr. Lincoln rose)



Black mustard plant becomes invasive, dries in summer as kindling for fires, and sprouts after fires. Pull it!

Photos Cynthia Brian