



# CREATING RESILIENT LANDSCAPES

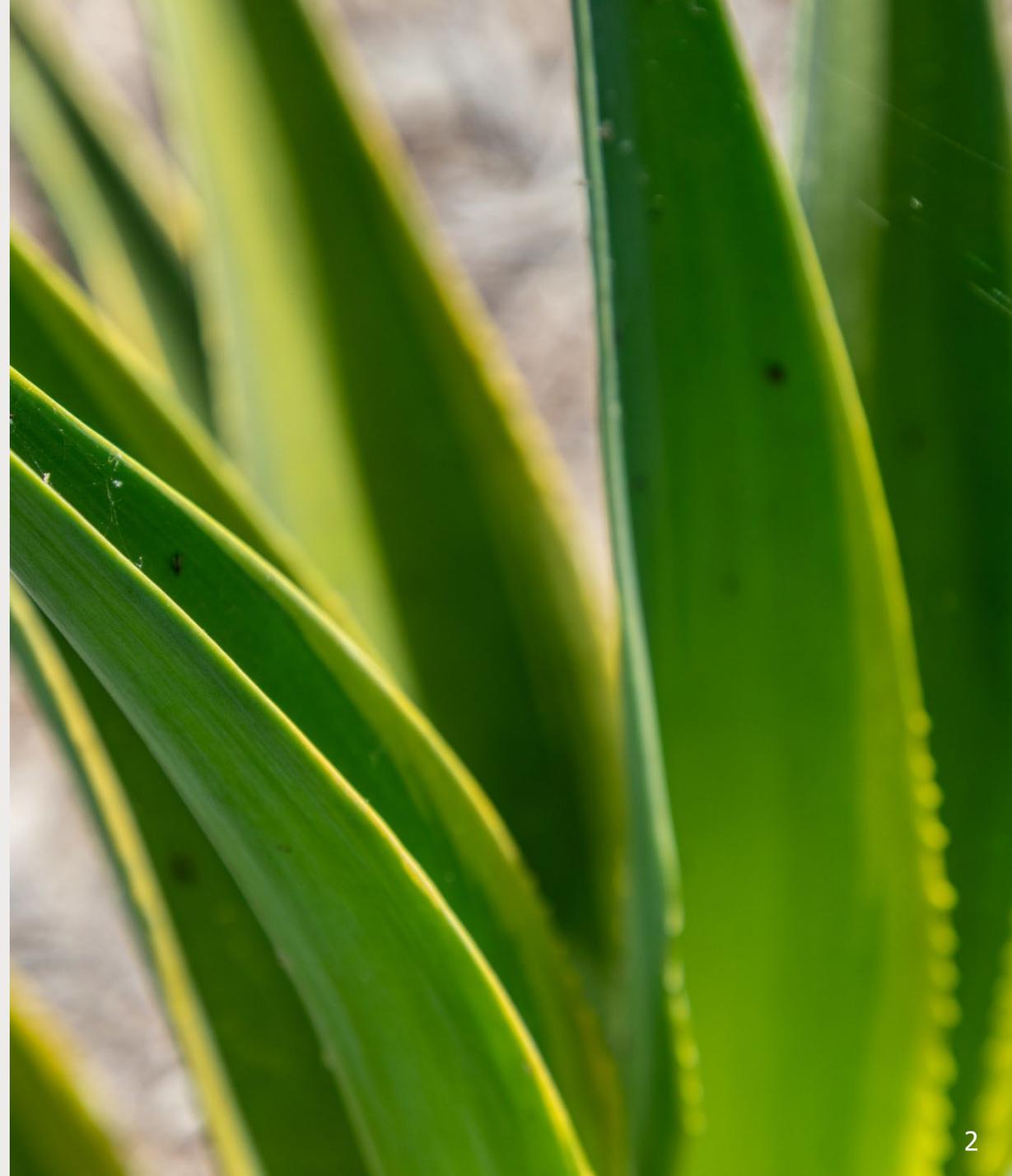
*Isabel Hernandez, Water Conservation Specialist*  
Saturday, February 08, 2025

*Serving Highland, San Bernardino and Unincorporated San Bernardino County*



# WORKSHOP SUMMARY

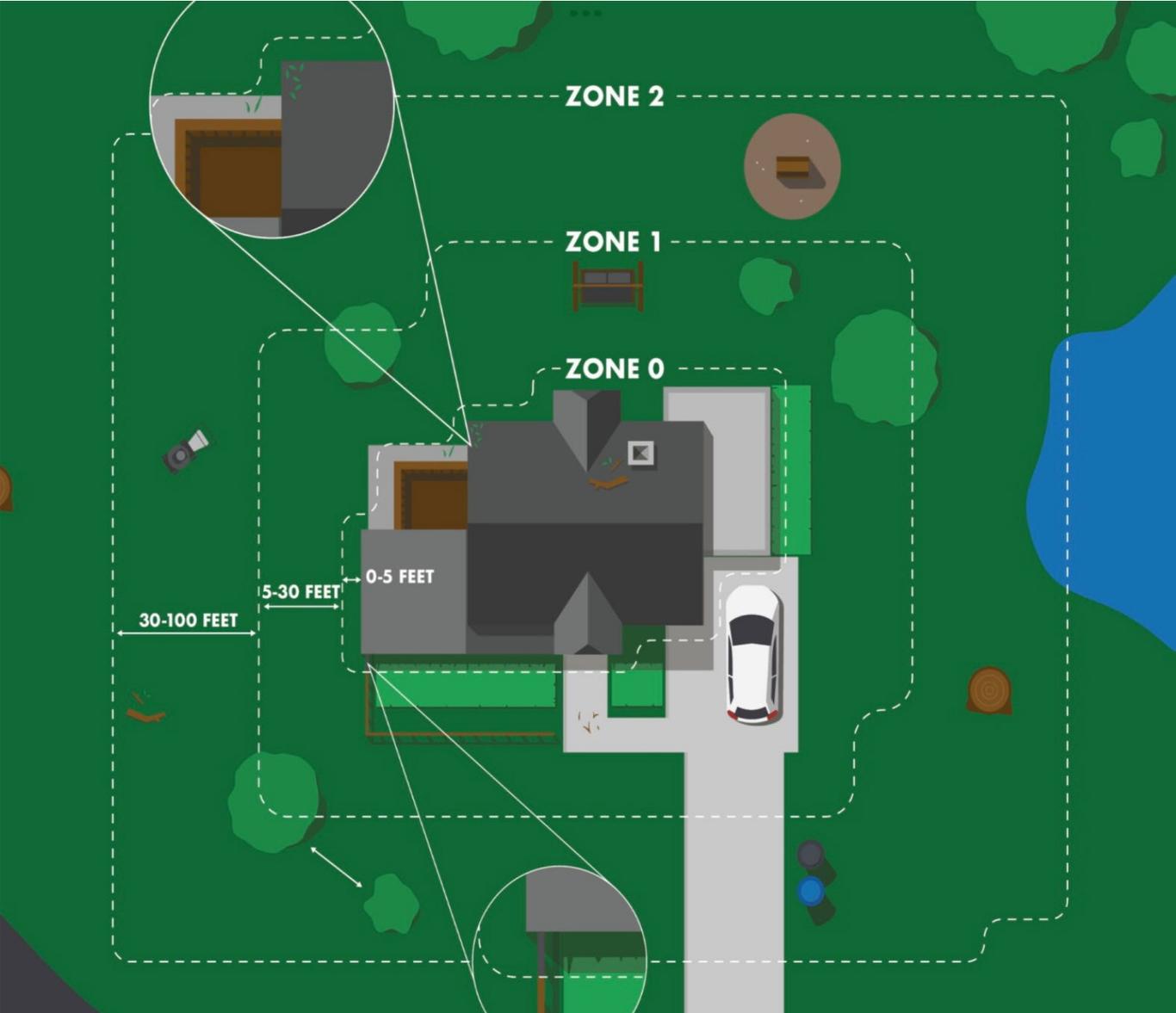
- Defensible zone guide
  - Zone 0
  - Zone 1
  - Zone 2
- Tree clearance
- Tips for clearing
- Firescape landscaping
  - Fire resistant plants
- Firescape landscaping
  - Fire hazard plants
- Plant list
- Resources



# DEFENSIBLE ZONE GUIDE

|               |               |                          |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Zone 0</b> | 0 - 5 Feet    | Ember - Resistant Zone   |
| <b>Zone 1</b> | 5 - 30 Feet   | Lean, Clean & Green Zone |
| <b>Zone 2</b> | 30 - 100 feet | Reduce Fuel Zone         |

Source: CalFire



# DEFENSIBLE GUIDE ZONE 0 EMBER: RESISTANT ZONE

- Do not use organic mulch
  - *Use rock, gravel, pavers, cement*
- Clear organic debris
  - *Remove leaves, branches, twigs, dead plants, unhealthy plants*

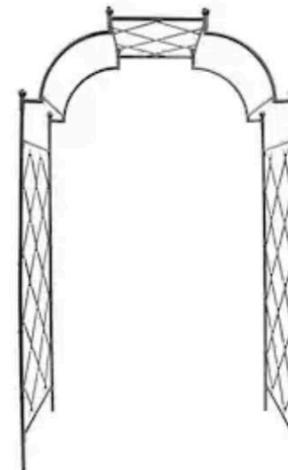
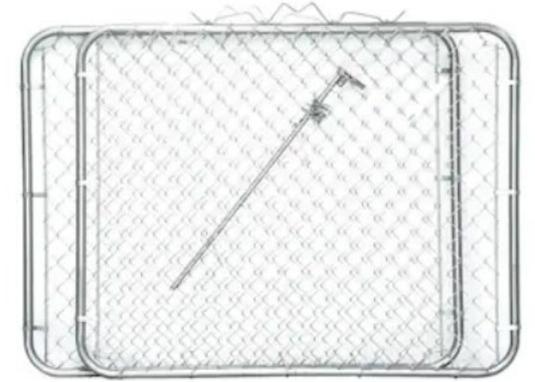


# DEFENSIBLE GUIDE ZONE 0 EMBER-RESISTANT ZONE

- Keep branches trimmed away 10 feet from chimneys and stovepipes
  - *Trim or remove branches, within 10 feet of roof line*
- No combustible items on decks
  - *Integrate metal or cement furniture or nonflammable fencing*



# DEFENSIBLE GUIDE ZONE: REPLACE COMBUSTIBLE ITEMS



# DEFENSIBLE GUIDE ZONE 1: LEAN, CLEAN & GREEN

- No mulch
- No debris
- Keep branches trimmed away
  - *10 feet from each other*
- No combustible items in this zone
  - *No piles of wood piles, trash or recycle bins*
- Have 10 feet of clearance on sheds, structures and LPG tank



## DEFENSIBLE GUIDE ZONE 2: REDUCE FUEL ZONE

- No mulch
- No debris
- In this zone, keep piles of wood, trash or recycle bins
- Keep boat, RVs and vehicles
- Grass must be under 4 inches tall
- Keep 10 feet minimum clearance space between wood piles, LPG tank, and outbuildings
- Create horizontal and vertical spacing between trees, shrubs, and flammables

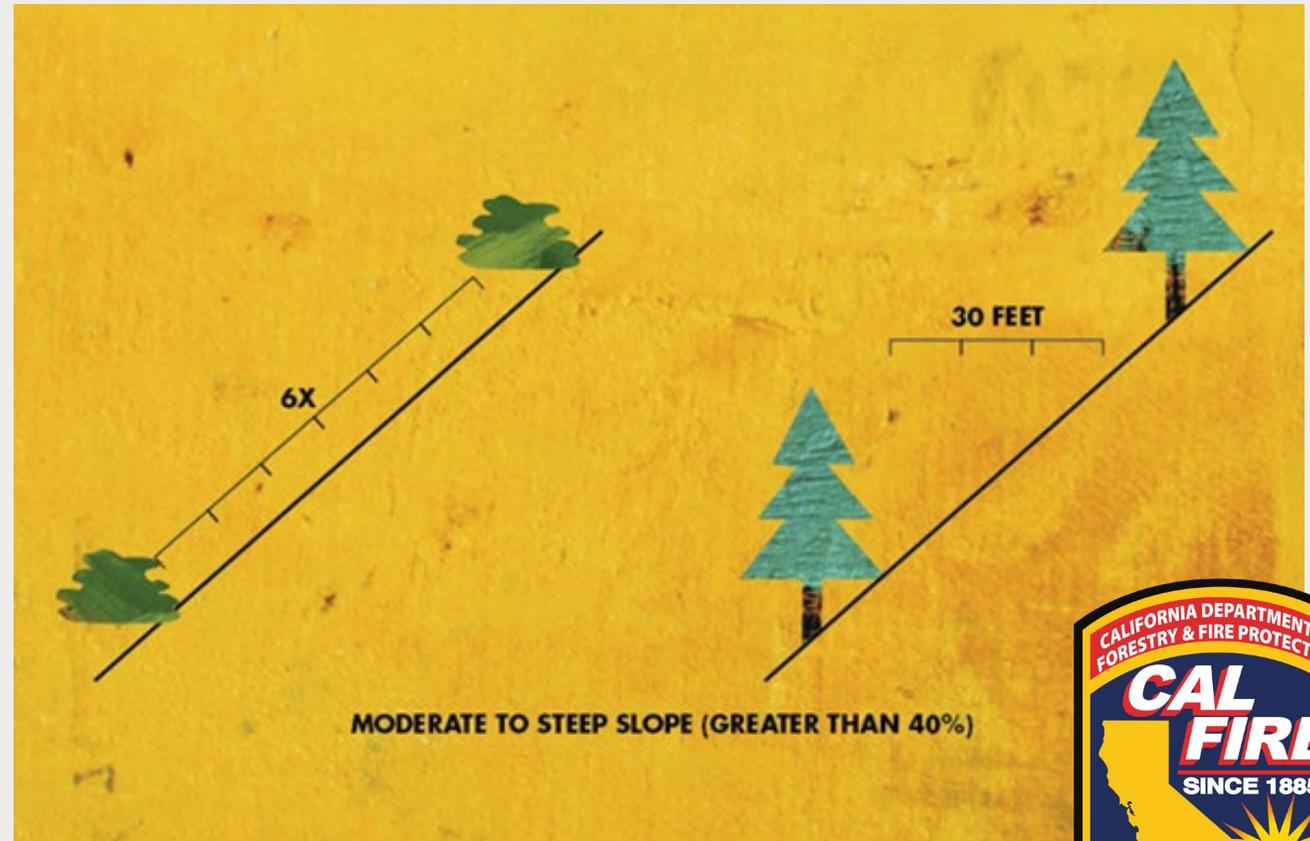
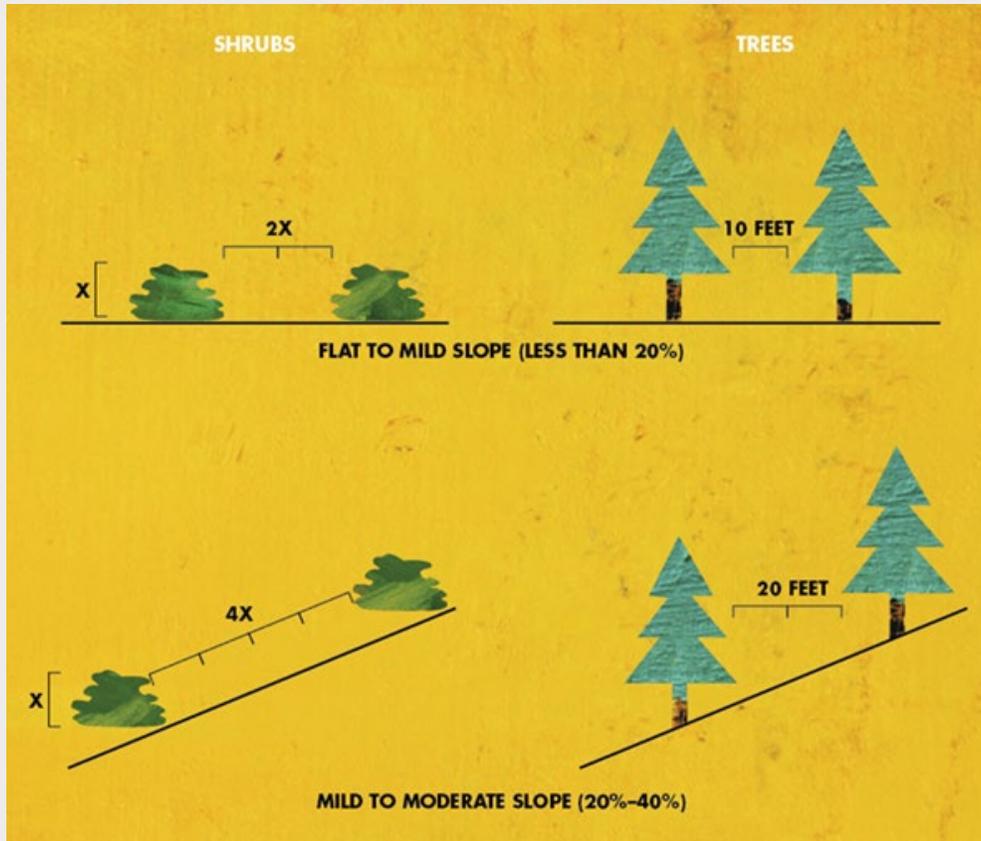


# DEFENSIBLE SPACE: TREE VERTICAL CLEARANCE



*Remember to sanitize tools with every tree or shrub trimming*

# DEFENSIBLE SPACE: TREE HORIZONTAL CLEARANCE



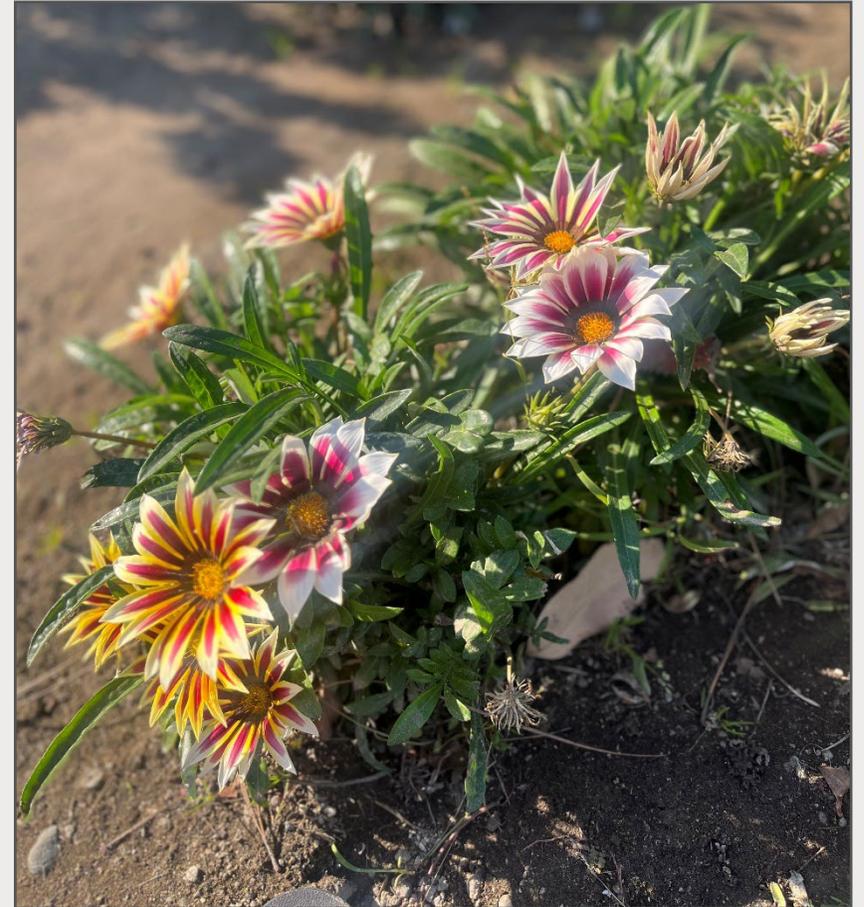
## DEFENSIBLE GUIDE ZONE: TIPS FOR CLEARING IN DRY CONDITIONS

- Mow before 10 a.m.
- Never mow on a hot or windy day
- String trimmers are safer than lawnmowers for clearing vegetation
- When watering less during drought season, remove all dead or dying vegetation



# FIRESCAPE LANDSCAPING: FIRE RESISTANT PLANTS

- Best plant characteristics
  - *Grow close to the ground*
  - *Plants with low sap or resin content*
  - *Plant with low dead leaf production*
  - *Plants with high moisture content*



**Grazania rigens**

# FIRESCAPE LANDSCAPING: FIRE RESISTANT PLANTS

- Best plant characteristics
  - *Plants with leaves that bent easily*
  - *Plants with thick leaves*
  - *Plants with silver or gray leaves*
  - *Plants without trichomes (hair/fuzz)*
  - *Plants without fragrance*



**Dusty Miller**



**Aloe**

# FIRESCAPE LANDSCAPING: FIRE HAZARD PLANTS

- Summer dormant plants
- Dry grasses in summer
- Dry leaf-litter plant producers
- Dry peeling bark trees or shrubs
- Dead plants clusters
  - *Leaves, branches, fronds*
- Dense shrubs
  - *Privacy or window hedges*
  - *Thick fencing vines*



**Fountain Grass**



**Lavender**

# GROUND COVER

|   | Common Name               | Botanical Name         |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Mexican Daisy             | <i>Erigeron spp.</i>   |
| 2 | Gazania                   | <i>Gazania spp.</i>    |
| 3 | Lippia                    | <i>Phyla nodiflora</i> |
| 4 | Periwinkle                | <i>Vinca spp.</i>      |
| 5 | Strawberry & White Clover | <i>Trifolium spp.</i>  |
| 6 | Wild & Sand Strawberry    | <i>Fragaria spp.</i>   |
| 7 | Zoysia                    | <i>Zoysia spp.</i>     |



**Wild and Sand  
Strawberry**



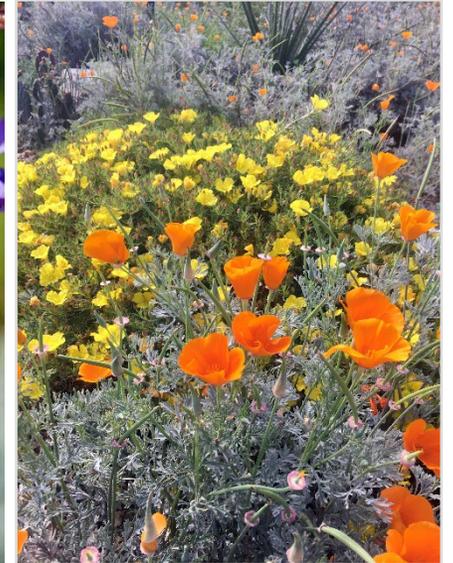
**Mexican Daisy**

# PERENNIALS

|   | Common Name      | Botanical Name         |
|---|------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Bear's Breech    | <i>Acanthus mollis</i> |
| 2 | Blanket Flower   | <i>Gaillardia spp.</i> |
| 3 | Garden Penstemon | <i>Penstemon spp.</i>  |
| 4 | Poppy            | <i>Papaver spp.</i>    |



© Robert Perry



**Showy Penstemon    Poppy Assorted**



**Blanket Flower**

# HEDGES

|   | Common Name                  | Botanical Name              |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Fuchsia flowered gooseberry  | <i>Ribes spp.</i>           |
| 2 | Japanese mock orange, tobira | <i>Pittosporum tibia</i>    |
| 3 | Jojoba                       | <i>Simmondsia chinensis</i> |
| 4 | Mock orange                  | <i>Philadelphus spp.</i>    |
| 5 | Privet                       | <i>Ligustrum spp.</i>       |



© Robert Perry

**Fuchsia Flowered  
Gooseberry**



**Privet**

# ACCENT TREES

|   | Common Name     | Botanical Name            |
|---|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Orchid Tree     | <i>Bauhinia spp.</i>      |
| 2 | Strawberry Tree | <i>Arbutus</i>            |
| 3 | Crape Myrtle    | <i>Lagerstroemia spp.</i> |
| 4 | Yellow Bells    | <i>Tecoma stans</i>       |



**Orchid Tree**



**Crape Myrtle**



© Robert Perry

**Strawberry Tree**

# FLOWERING SHRUBS

|   | Common Name       | Botanical Name               |
|---|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Red Yucca         | <i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i> |
| 2 | Rose              | <i>Rosa spp.</i>             |
| 3 | Sea Mallow        | <i>Lavatera spp.</i>         |
| 4 | Tropical Hibiscus | <i>Hibiscus spp.</i>         |



**Red Yucca**



**Sea Mallow**



**Iceberg Rose**

# GRAY PLANTS

|   | Common Name     | Botanical Name            |
|---|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Parrot's Beak   | <i>Lotus berthelotii</i>  |
| 2 | Artichoke       | <i>Cynara scolymus</i>    |
| 3 | Cooking Sage    | <i>Salvia officinalis</i> |
| 4 | Dusty Miller    | <i>Jacobaea maritima</i>  |
| 5 | Maltese Cross   | <i>Lychnis spp.</i>       |
| 6 | Jerusalem Sage  | <i>Phlomis fruticosa</i>  |
| 7 | Texas Ranger    | <i>Leucophyllum spp.</i>  |
| 8 | Olive           | <i>Oleaceuropaea</i>      |
| 9 | Pineapple Guava | <i>Feijoa sellowiana</i>  |

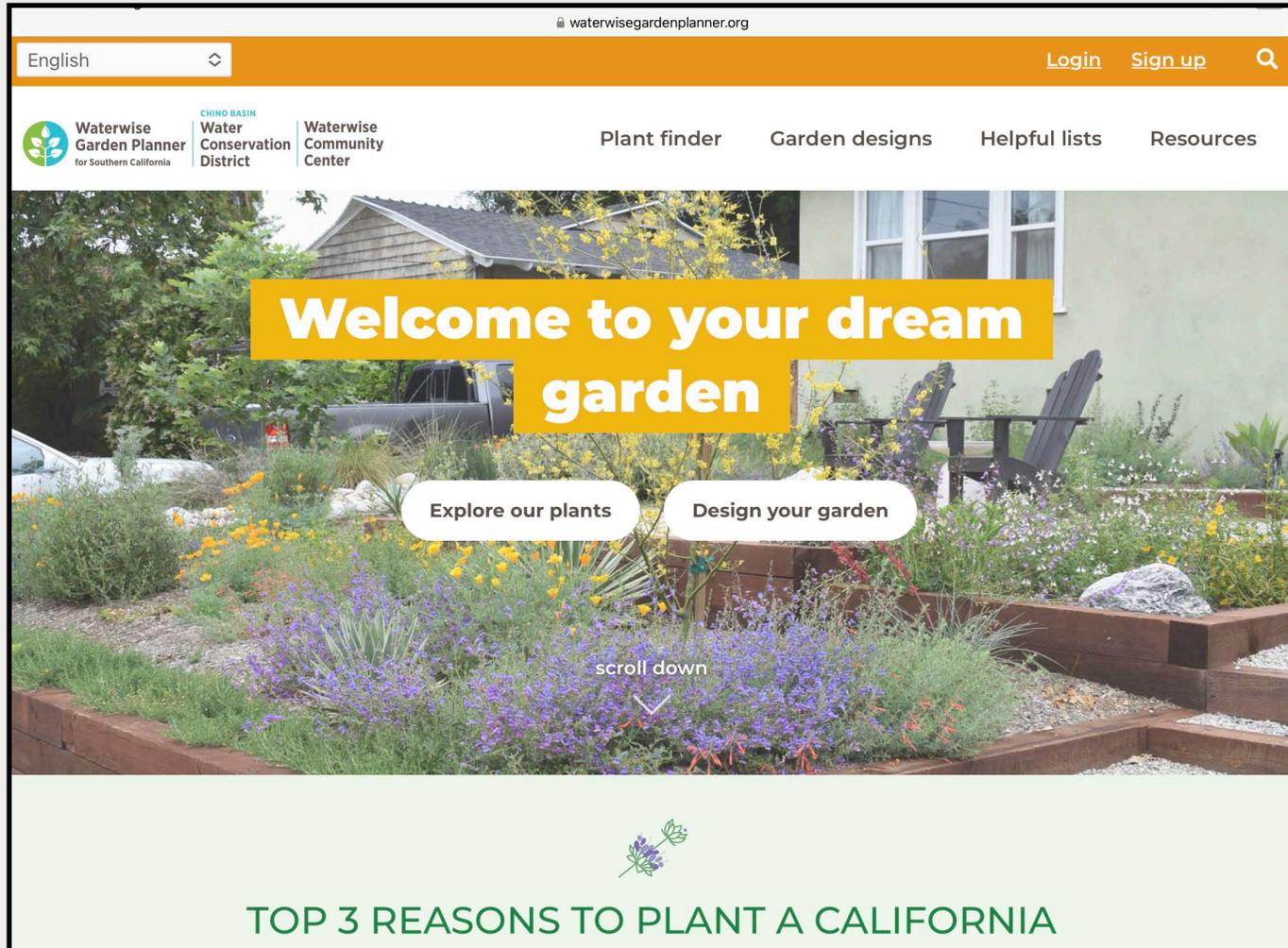


**Pineapple Guava**



**Texas Range**

# RESOURCE WEBSITE



- Plant finder
  - *Search criteria for Inland Empire Climates*

**waterwisegardenplanner.org**

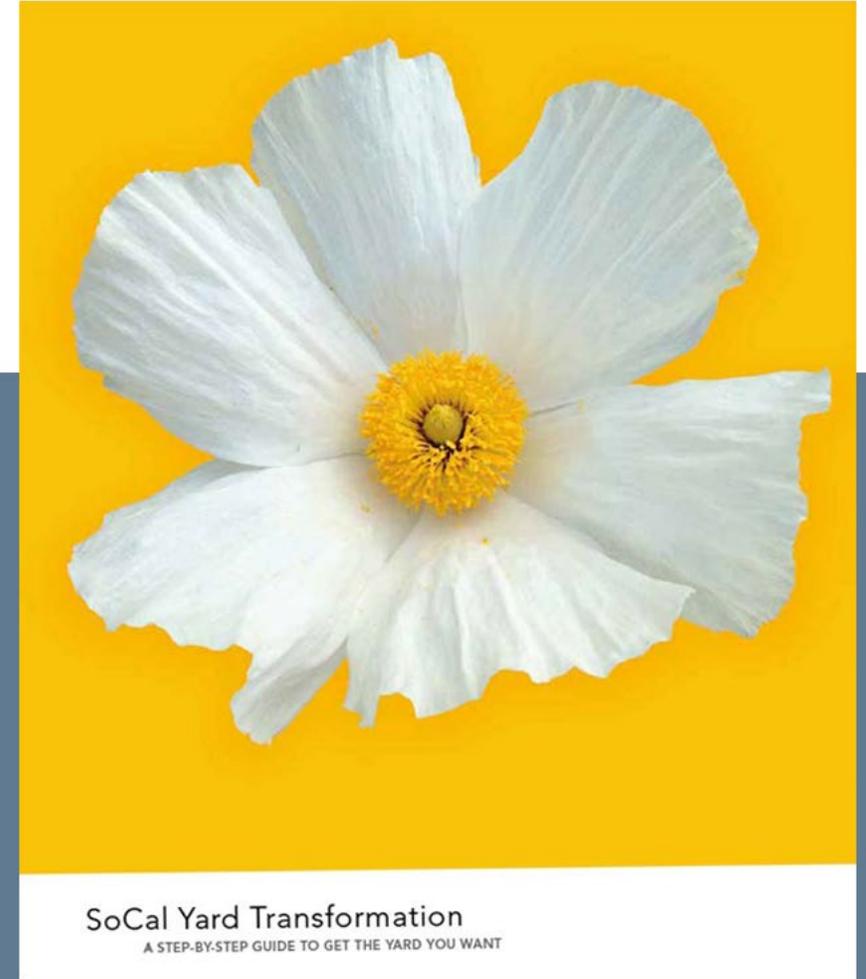
EAST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

## RESOURCE BOOK

- Available online
  - *English edition*
  - *Spanish edition*

# Free Download!

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO CREATING A WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE



[EASTVALLEYWATER.GOV/TRANSFORMATIONBOOK](http://EASTVALLEYWATER.GOV/TRANSFORMATIONBOOK)

# RESOURCE WEBSITE AND APP

**CREATE YOUR DEFENSIBLE SPACE**



Create and maintain 100 feet of Defensible Space around your home.

**GET MORE INFO**

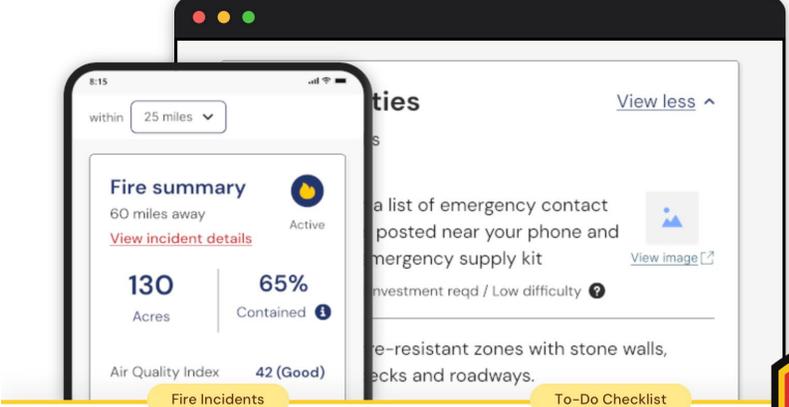
- CalFire
- [readyforwildfire.org](https://www.readyforwildfire.org)

## Stay Safe and Stay Informed with firePLANNER

Prepare your home and family for wildfires with personalized checklists, text alerts, and wildfire tracking.

[Get Started](#) [Learn More](#)

Already have your checklist? [Log in](#)



The image shows two overlapping screenshots of the firePLANNER interface. The foreground screenshot is a mobile app view displaying a 'Fire summary' for an active fire 60 miles away, 130 acres contained (65%), and an Air Quality Index of 42 (Good). The background screenshot is a desktop website view showing a 'To-Do Checklist' with items like 'a list of emergency contact posted near your phone and emergency supply kit' and 'Fire-resistant zones with stone walls, decks and roadways.'

**Fire Incidents**

**Track wildfires**

Get real-time updates on wildfire incidents near you to stay alert and safe.

**To-Do Checklist**

**Get prepared**

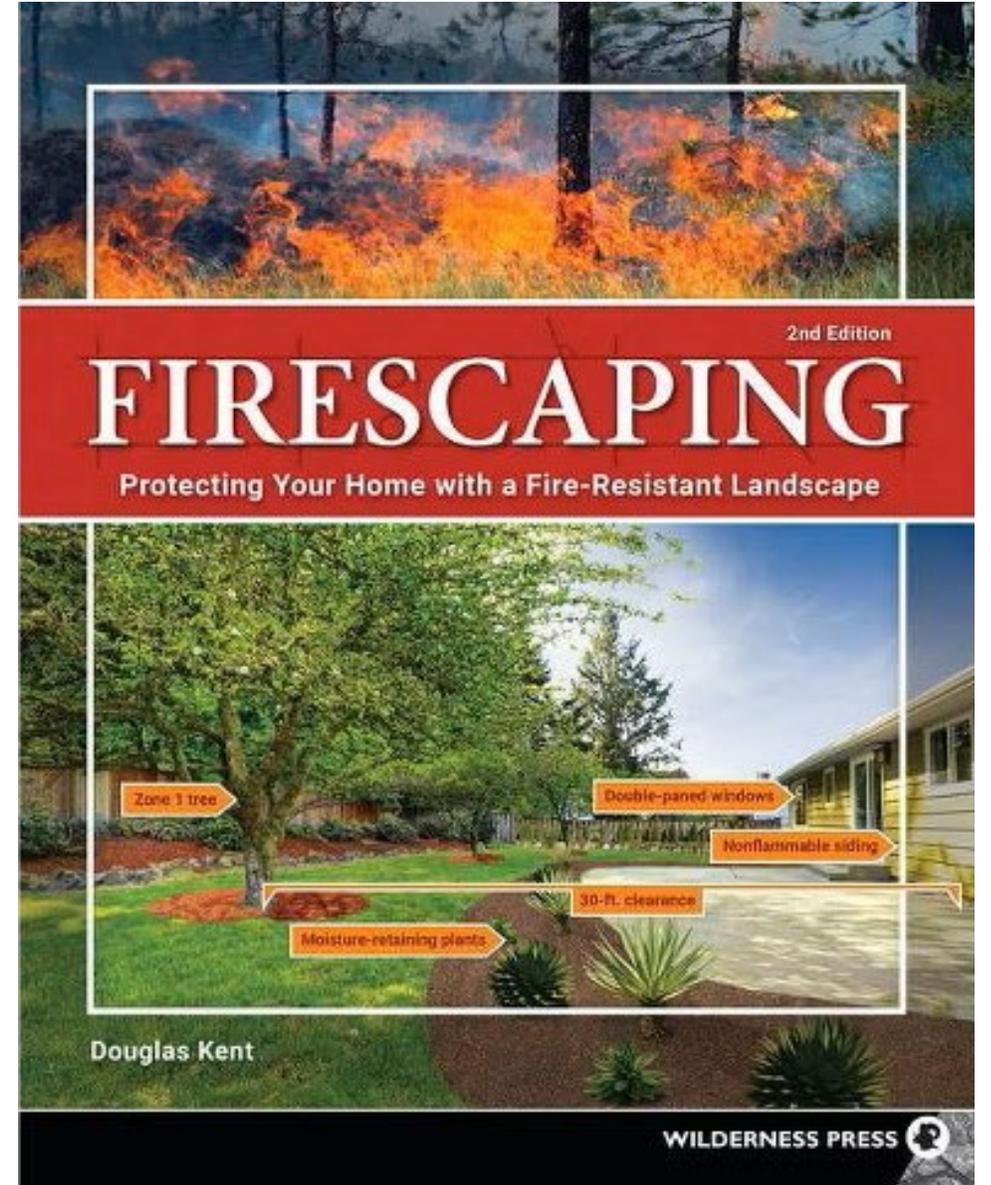
Access detailed checklists to ready your home and family for wildfires.



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION  
**CAL FIRE**  
SINCE 1885

# RESOURCE BOOK

- Firescaping 2nd Edition
  - *Douglas Kent*



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US

