

FIRE RESISTANT GARDEN GUIDE



CENTRAL FIRE DISTRICT
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY





WHAT MAKES A GARDEN "FIRE RESISTANT"?

This guide is designed to help you create a "Defensible Space" around your home or business, by replacing some of the more flammable vegetation (ornamental grasses, scotch broom, etc.) with plants that are more fire and drought resistant. By ensuring you are choosing hardy plants that don't dry out easily or burn quickly, you can greatly reduce the risk of embers from a wildfire spreading to your home. When choosing your plants, also consider factors like sap content, terrain, water needs and the effects your plants may have on nearby vegetation.





FIRE RESISTANT & DROUGHT TOLERANT



While some nursery supply stores may classify these plants as "Fire Safe", the truth is no plant is truly "safe" from fire, as anything can burn if it gets hot enough (even metal)! However, there are a number of plants that are extremely ember-resistant, and not likely to catch fire without very long exposure to a high heat source. These plants are considered "Fire Resistant". Fire Resistant plants are often Drought Tolerant as well, therefore less likely to dry out in your yard, making them a good option in warmer areas. Using rocks or other ember-resistant groundcover can also help. Factors considered when classifying these plants included leaf moisture content, presence of dead growth material, and the type of sap present. Avoid plants with excessive needles, sap or papery bark, as they may be more prone to wildfire.



NATIVE VEGETATION

In this booklet, we'll specify if the plants pictured are native or non-native. Many California native plants are a good choice both for the drought-resistant properties (as they are accustomed to the climate they grow in) and for the support of the ecosystem, as many insects, birds and other wildlife depend on them for food and habitation.

Before planting non-native vegetation in your garden, research it with the California Invasive Plant Council at www.cal-ipc.org to make sure your plant isn't a species that will do more harm than good to the environment. Iceplant, Scotch Broom and Pampas Grass are among some of the more commonly found invasive plants.



LANTANA CAMARA

Lantana (shown here in the "Carnival" variation) is a medium growing, spreading evergreen broadleaf shrub, native to Texas. Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.

Light: Prefers Full Sun. 

Soil/Water: Does well in containers, hardy to about 25°F. Useful as an annual in colder areas.

Size: Grows to 6.5' high, with up to 5' wide spread. 

☐ Native

☒ Drought Tolerant

☒ Fire Resistant



GAURA LINDHEIMERI "BEEBLOSSOM"

Gaura Lindheimeri (Native to Texas and Louisiana) is a rapid growing upright perennial with fragrant pink flowers. Also known as "Beeblossom", and comes in white and pink varieties. Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.

Light: Prefers Full Sun. 

Soil/Water: Does well in sandy, loamy and well-drained soil. Would work well in rock gardens.

Size: Grows to 3' high, with 2' wide spread. 



Native



Drought Tolerant



Fire Resistant



PENSTEMON "BEARDTONGUE"

Penstemon (also called Beardtongue, shown here in the purple Midnight variation) are native to Santa Cruz. An evergreen perennial sub-shrub with purple-tinged stems filled with 4" long leaves. Blooms in late Spring through Fall. Very popular with bees and butterflies.

Light: Prefers Full to Partial Sun. 

Soil/Water: Does well in moderately fertile and well drained soil, with medium moisture.

Size: Grows to 3' high, with 2'-3' wide spread. 

 Native

 Drought Tolerant

 Fire Resistant



SEDUM SPATHULIFOLIUM

"BROADLEAF STONECROP"

Sedum Spathulifolium is a native, ground-hugging succulent plant that produces mats of small rosettes (this Purpureum variety has purple edges), and grows clusters of bright yellow starry flowers in the summer. Attracts butterflies and makes an excellent groundcover.

Light: Prefers Full to Partial Sun. 

Soil/Water: Does well in rocky, moderately fertile soil and in well-drained containers, low water.

Size: Grows to 8"-1' high, with 1' or more spread. 



Native



Drought Tolerant



Fire Resistant



DENDROMECON HARFORDII

"CHANNEL ISLAND TREE POPPY"

Dendromecon Harfordii is an evergreen shrub/small tree native to Southern California island areas (such as Catalina, Channel Island) with bright orange-yellow poppy-like blooms in the Spring and Summer.

Light: Prefers Full Sun, can tolerate Partial Shade. 

Soil/Water: Well-drained soil, does well on gentle slopes. Needs very little watering. Hardy to 20°F.

Size: Grows to 6'-20' high, with 6'-15' spread. 



Native



Drought Tolerant



Fire Resistant



CERCIS OCCIDENTALIS

"WESTERN REDBUD"

Cercis Occidentalis is a small deciduous tree/shrub native to the foothills and mountains of California. Thin, shiny brown branches with heart-shaped leaves that darken as they age. Bright pink or magenta flowers bloom in spring. Attracts birds, bees and butterflies.

Light: Full sun or Partial Shade. 

Soil/Water: Adaptable to different kinds of soil, grows best in well-irrigated areas. Low moisture. Hardy to 20°F.

Size: Grows 10'-20' high, with 10'-15' spread. 



Native



Drought Tolerant



Fire Resistant



AESCULUS CALIFORNICA

"CALIFORNIA BUCKEYE"

California Buckeye trees have gray bark that is often coated with lichen or moss. It has dark green leaves, with creamy white to pale pink flower spikes in spring/summer followed by nut-like fruits in fall/winter. Very butterfly-friendly and drought tolerant. Note - the fruits that drop in fall/winter are toxic to animals and humans.

Light: Full sun or Partial Shade. 

Soil/Water: Adaptable to different kinds of soil, medium drainage, very drought-hardy, does well on dry slopes, low moisture. Frost hardy to -5°F.

Size: Grows 13'-39' high, with up to 40' spread. 



Native



Drought Tolerant



Fire Resistant



CRASSLA OVATA "JADE SUCCULENT"

Jade succulents (in any variety) are an excellent addition to a fire safe and water-wise garden. This Jade variation does well in flowerbeds, borders and containers, and blooms with tiny star-shaped white flowers in winter. Does well in rock gardens also.

Light: Full Sun in coastal areas or Partial Shade inland. 

Soil/Water: Adaptable to different kinds of soil, leaves may vary in color with different acidities or growing conditions. Needs good drainage, extremely drought-tolerant and hardy.

Size: Grows up to 6' high, with varied spread. 



Native



Drought Tolerant



Fire Resistant



CONTINUS COGGYRIA "SMOKE BUSH"

Continus Coggyria (also called Smoke Bush or Smoke Tree) is a medium-growing, rounded deciduous broadleaf shrub, with purple wispy flowers in summer. It's native to Southern areas of the US.

Light: Full sun or partial shade. 

Soil/Water: Well-drained, moderately fertile soil. Tolerant of moist, clay soils or dry/rocky soils. Low water. Hardy to 15°F.

Size: Grows 15'-25' high, with 15'-25' spread. 

☐ Native

☒ Drought Tolerant

☒ Fire Resistant



CEANOTHUS GRISEUS

"CARMEL CREEPER"

Ceanothus Griseus is a medium-growing, spreading evergreen broadleaf ground cover, that sprouts small clusters of light blue flowers in Spring. Excellent for groundcover, will smother weeds.

Light: Full Sun or Partial Shade in inland regions. 

Soil/Water: Low to moderate water, will smother weeds and grassier plants. Prefers sandy or coarse-grained soil.

Size: Grows 1'-2' high, with 5'-10' spread. 

 Native

 Drought Tolerant

 Fire Resistant



HELIANTHEUM NUMMULARIUM "WISLEY PRIMROSE"

Helianthemum Sunrose (also known as Wisley Primrose, Sun Rose or Rock Rose) is an evergreen, woody sub-shrub with smoky green foliage and small rose-like yellow blooms that bloom in Spring-Summer. Native to the Mediterranean.

Light: Full sun or Partial Shade. 

Soil/Water: Well-drained and light soil, rock gardens, low water, drought tolerant once established. Hardy up to 5°F.

Size: Grows 6"-8" high, with up to 1'-2' spread. 



Native



Drought Tolerant



Fire Resistant



CISTUS PURPEUS

"PURPLE ROCK ROSE"

Cistus Purpeus is a beautiful flowering shrub with evergreen leaves, that is very easy to care for. Fragrant 2" purple flowers bloom in mid to late Spring. Cistus is common in the Mediterranean area. The Cistus Cobariensis variation is similar, but with white blooms.

Light: Full Sun. 

Soil/Water: Well-drained, low water, can thrive in poor or rocky soil, protected from winds. Hardy up to 14°F.

Size: Grows 3'-5' high, with up to 5' spread. 



Native



Drought Tolerant



Fire Resistant



CEANOTHUS MARITIMUS

"MARITIME CEANOTHUS"

Endemic to coastal California (particularly in the San Luis Obispo area), Ceanothus Maritimus is an evergreen shrub with fragrant blue flowers that bloom in Winter and Spring. Attracts bees, butterflies and a number of birds.

Light: Full Sun for coastal areas, Partial Shade inland. 

Soil/Water: Well-drained, low water. Can grow very well on hillsides or rocky areas. Hardy up to 15°F.

Size: Grows 2'-5' high, with up to 6' spread. 



Native



Drought Tolerant



Fire Resistant



ARCTOSTAPHYLOS HOOKERI

"MONTEREY CARPET"

Arctostaphylos Hookeri comes in several variations (here seen in the Monterey Carpet one), is an evergreen, creeping manzanita with small, deep green leaves and dark red branches. Small clusters of pink flowers appear in late Winter/early Spring. (the Emerald Carpet variation has white flowers). Works well under tall trees, or spilling over edges of garden walls. Attracts bees and hummingbirds.

Light: Full Sun for coastal areas, Partial Shade inland. 

Soil/Water: Can thrive in dry, sandy, acidic soils. Hardy up to 15°F.

Size: Grows 18" high, with up to 3' spread. 

 Native

 Drought Tolerant

 Fire Resistant



SENECIO MANDRALISCAE "BLUE CHALK STICKS"

This dense groundcover, native to South Africa, has blue-green fleshy leaves approximately 4" long, and produces small daisy-like flowers in mid summer and early fall. They are excellent at controlling weed growth. Deer, drought and heat resistant.

Light: Full Sun or Partial Shade. 

Soil/Water: Low water, grows in loam, sand, containers and borders. Hardy to 30°F.

Size: Grows 18"-2' high, with varied spread. 



Native



Drought Tolerant



Fire Resistant



DIETES VEGATA "FORTNIGHT LILY"

Dietes Vegata, also called Dietes Iridioides, Fortnight Lily, African Iris or Morea Iris, is a medium-growing upright evergreen perennial with green sword-shaped leaves and iris-like 3" white flowers with purple and orange centers, typically blooming in winter. Native to Africa, it is drought tolerant and easy to care for.

Light: Full sun or partial shade. 

Soil/Water: Low water, grows in loam, sand, acid or neutral ph sand. Hardy up to 15°F.

Size: Grows 2'-4' high, with varied spread. 

☐ Native

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☒ Fire Resistant



ALOE VARIEGATA

"TIGER ALOE"

Like most of the Aloe family, this variation is a slow-growing succulent that has occasional spikes of orange-pink blossoms in late Fall/Winter months. Native to South Africa, it thrives in warm climates. Note: while related to Aloe Vera, the leaves do not have the same medicinal properties.

Light: Full or Partial Sun, direct or indirect. Is easily grown indoors in containers as well. 

Soil/Water: Low water, well-drained soil. Sandy or rocky soil ok. Hardy up to 35°F.

Size: Grows 1'-1.5' high, with up to 1.5' spread. 



Native



Drought Tolerant



Fire Resistant



ALOE VERA

"MEDICINAL ALOE"

Like the common name implies, Aloe Vera can be used for medicinal purposes, including on sunburned or otherwise irritated skin. This evergreen succulent has spiky edges on its spear-like leaves, and is native to North Africa. Tubular yellow flowers bloom from spikes during late Winter or early Spring months.

Light: Full Sun. 

Soil/Water: Water deeply but infrequently, using well-drained soil. Sandy or rocky soil ok. Hardy up to 40°F.

Size: Grows up to 3' high, with up to 2' spread. 



Native



Drought Tolerant



Fire Resistant



STACHYS BYZANTINA

"LAMBS EARS"

Stachys Byzantina is a hardy perennial with soft green oval foliage and long spikes of pink flowers that bloom in Spring/Summer. Native to areas of Turkey, Armenia and Iran. Low-maintenance, and makes an excellent ground cover.

Light: Full Sun to Partial Shade. 

Soil/Water: Moderately fertile, well-drained soil. Low water (do not overwater, as prone to root rot).

Size: Grows to 6" high, with up to 1' spread (flowering stalks up to 2'). 

☐ Native

☒ Drought Tolerant

☒ Fire Resistant



OPUNTIA COCHENILLIFERA "COCHINEAL NOPAL CACTUS"

Opuntia Cochenillifera prefer warm temperatures and low humidity. They are extremely drought-hardy, and feature bright pink blooms in late Spring/early Summer. They are native to Mexico, and their flat leaves (Nopales) and prickly pear fruit are edible.

Light: Full Sun to Partial Shade. 

Soil/Water: Prefers gritty/sandy, sharply draining soil. Hardy up to 25°F.

Size: Grows to 10'-15' high, with up to 10' spread. 

☐ Native

☒ Drought Tolerant

☒ Fire Resistant



SYMPHYOTRICHUM CHILENSE

"BEACH ASTER"

Beach Aster is native to coastal dunes and bluffs from Oregon to Southern California. It is a low-mounding evergreen perennial, and has purple flowers with yellow centers that bloom during Spring and Summer.

Light: Full Sun to Partial Shade. 

Soil/Water: Prefers well-drained soil, sand. Can also grow well in borders, containers and rock gardens. Water once weekly. Hardy and frost-resistant.

Size: Grows to 6" to 12" high, with up to 2'-3' spread. 

 Native

 Drought Tolerant

 Fire Resistant



PHORMIUM TENAX "NEW ZELAND FLAX"

This type of Phormium, also known as "New Zealand Flax" is an evergreen perennial that varies in height and color variation (the photo shown is the dwarf "Jack Pratt" variety). It is fan-shaped and clumping. Makes a great border plant.

Light: Full Sun to Partial Shade. 

Soil/Water: Prefers loamy, well-drained soil, with light to medium water. Hardy up to 25°F.

Size: This variation grows to 1'-6' high, with 1'-5' spread, though non-dwarf varieties can reach 15' high. 



Native



Drought Tolerant



Fire Resistant



TEUCRUIM CHAMAEDRYS "WALL GERMANDER"

Teucrium Chamaedrys, also known as "Wall Germander", is native to parts of Europe and the middle east. It is a creeping evergreen perennial, with scalloped leaves and tubular lavender-pink blooms that show in late Summer/early Fall. Aromatic and fairly cold-hardy.

Light: Full Sun. 

Soil/Water: Prefers dry to medium moisture in well-drained, neutral to alkaline soil. Rocky soil ok. Hardy up to 25°F.

Size: Grows to 1.5' high, with up to 2' spread. 



Native



Drought Tolerant



Fire Resistant



ARBUTUS UNEDO "STRAWBERRY TREE"

Native to the Mediterranean and parts of Southern Ireland, Arbutus Unedo (also known as Strawberry Tree or Cane Apple) is a small evergreen tree or shrub, with white bell-shaped flowers that become round, edible fruits in late Fall and Winter. The national tree of Italy, it has a mildly sweet scent and is popular with birds, butterflies and bees.

Light: Full Sun to Partial Shade. 

Soil/Water: Does well in poor soil, . Frost hardy to 20°F.

Size: Grows to 6'-15' high, with up to 15' spread 



Native



Drought Tolerant



Fire Resistant



BALLOTA PSEUDODICTAMNUS

"GRECIAN HOREHOUND"

Ballota Pseudodictamnus is a small evergreen shrub native to Greece, and is in the mint family. It features fuzzy gray-green leaves, and blooms with tiny white and purple flowers in summer. Extremely drought and frost hardy.

Light: Full Sun. 

Soil/Water: Does well in coastal/sandy soils, dry and warm areas, with little water. Also good in rock gardens. Frost hardy to 10°F.

Size: Grows 1'-2' high, with up to 3' spread. 

☐ Native

☒ Drought Tolerant

☒ Fire Resistant



PHORMIUM COLENZOI "MOUNTAIN FLAX"

Phormium Colensoi, also known as "Lesser New Zealand Flax" is an evergreen perennial with tall sword-like leaves. It sprouts tall stalks of yellow/orange flowers in Summer, followed by twisted seed pods. Larger than many variations of flax, it can be a stunning focal point for a garden.

Light: Full Sun. 

Soil/Water: Prefers sandy or loamy soil, well-drained, with light to medium water. Hardy up to 25°F.

Size: Height up to 6', with 1-3' spread. 



Native



Drought Tolerant



Fire Resistant



SEDUM ALBOROSEUM MEDIOVARIEGATUM "GOLD-STRIPED STONECROP"

Sedum (or Stonecrop) plants are low maintenance, drought and frost hardy, and come in a variety of colors. The variety shown here features yellow-green leaves with greenish-white flowers in late Summer/early Fall, while other varieties have pink or yellow blooms. Native to China, Japan & Korea, it's very tolerant of salty air and popular with birds, bees and butterflies. Also works well in containers.

Light: Full Sun to Partial or Full shade. 

Soil/Water: Prefers well drained soil, low to moderate water.

Size: Grows to 15" high, with up to 2' spread. 

☐ Native

☒ Drought Tolerant

☒ Fire Resistant



TULBAGHIA VIOLACEA VARIEGATA **"SOCIETY GARLIC"**

Tulbaghia Violacea is a medium-growing evergreen broadleaf perennial with delicate star-shaped clusters of lavender-pink flowers in Spring. Native to South Africa, they look nice in mass plantings, are deer-resistant and make an excellent ground cover.

Light: Full Sun to Partial Shade. (Blooms best in sun.) 

Soil/Water: Prefers rich, well drained soil, low to moderate water. Hardy to 25°F.

Size: Grows to 1'-3' high, with up to 2' spread. 

☐ Native

☒ Drought Tolerant

☒ Fire Resistant



YUCCA WHIPPLEI "CHAPPARAL YUCCA"

Yucca Whipplei (also known as Chapparal Yucca or Our Lord's Candle) is native to Southern California and Mexico. It is an evergreen, slow-growing shrub that can spike a tall stalk of white flowers from May to June. Similar plants include Yucca Flaccida or Yucca Baccata, all of which are extremely drought tolerant and fire resistant.

Light: Full Sun. 

Soil/Water: Likes sandy, loamy or clay soils, well-drained, and can grow in nutritionally poor soil.

Size: Grows to 6' high, with up to 3' spread. 



Native



Drought Tolerant



Fire Resistant



LEUCOSPERMUM (PROTEA) “SUGARBUSH”

Protea, also called Sugarbushes, are native to South Africa. They come in many varieties (photo is the “Salmon Bud” variety) flower during the spring with spiky reddish, yellow or pinkish blooms, and do best in warm, subtropical climates.

Light: Full Sun (at least 6 hours a day). 

Soil/Water: Prefers well-drained and slightly acidic soil. Water every two to three weeks, once plant is established. Hardy up to 23°F.

Size: Grows to 3'-4' high and wide. 



Native



Drought Tolerant



Fire Resistant



ACHILLEA MILLEFOLIUM "COMMON YARROW"

Achillea Millefolium has flat-topped or dome-shaped clusters of small yellow, pink or white flowers that bloom from April to October. Found in areas of North America (including California grasslands) as well as Europe and Asia, it's an attractive, hardy, quick-spreading perennial that attracts butterflies, bees and other insects.

Light: Full Sun or Light Shade. 

Soil/Water: Prefers moist, well-drained soil but can tolerate drought once established, and thrives in acidic, neutral or alkaline soil. Hardy to 25°F

Size: Grows to 5' high, with up to 4' spread. 



Native



Drought Tolerant



Fire Resistant



TEUCRIUM COSSONII

"MAJORICUM GERMANDER"

Teucrium Cossonii (also known as Majoricum *Teucrium* or Germander) is a low-growing perennial with dense clusters of rosy-lavender flowers in the Spring and Fall. Native to the Mediterranean, it is deer tolerant and does well in rockier regions. The aromatic foliage attract bees.

Light: Full Sun. 

Soil/Water: Prefers well-drained soil, low water, sandy, rocky or poor soil ok. Hardy to 10°F.

Size: Grows to 6" high, with up to 3' spread. 



Native



Drought Tolerant



Fire Resistant



LAVATERA MARITIMA "TREE MALLOW"

Lavatera maritima is a large mounting evergreen shrub native to the Mediterranean. It's a fast-growing shrub with light lavender-pink flowers that bloom early spring to late fall. Prefers full sun, with shelter from frost and high winds. Attracts butterflies, birds and hummingbirds.

Light: Full Sun for best blooms. ☀️

Soil/Water: Prefers fertile, well drained soil. Chalk, loam or sand ok. Little watering needed. Hardy to 20°F

Size: Grows to 8' high, with up to 12' spread. 🌿



Native



Drought Tolerant



Fire Resistant



ASTERISCUS MARTIMUS

"GOLD COIN DAISY"

Asteriscus Martimus is a compact, evergreen, low-spreading and mounding herbaceous sub-shrub. It features green spoon-shaped leaves and 1 1/2" wide bright yellow daisy flowers, that appear in Spring and Summer months (some variations bloom year-round). Native to the Canary Islands and southern Portugal, it does particularly well in sandy soils and coastal areas. (Sometimes referred to as Sea Aster or Sea Daisy).

Light: Full Sun. 

Soil/Water: Prefers well drained soil, needs very little water. Chalk, loam or sand ok. Hardy to 15-20°F.

Size: Grows to 1' high, with up to 4' spread. 



Native



Drought Tolerant



Fire Resistant



BERGENIA CRASSIFOLIA

"LEATHER BERGENIA"

Bergenia, also known as pigsqueak or leather bergenia, is an herbaceous perennial that does well in mild climates. These plants are native to Asia, and have big, glossy leaves, with clusters of pink/purple blossoms in the Spring.

Full Sun, Partial or Full Shade. 

Soil/Water: Does well in acidic, neutral, alkaline soils with good drainage. Can tolerate shade. Hardy to 15-20°F.

Size: Grows to 1.5' high, with up to 2' spread. 



Native



Drought Tolerant



Fire Resistant



ROMNEYA COULTERI "MATILIJA POPPY"

Romneya Coulteri (also known as Matilija Poppy or California Tree Poppy) is native to Southern California and Baja California. The blooms, appearing in Summer and Fall months, resemble fried eggs with their mustard yellow centers and flowing white petals. It's woody root system will smother weeds growing beneath it. Popular with bees and butterflies, and is deer-resistant.

Light: Full Sun. 

Soil/Water: Prefers sandy or gravelly soil with fast drainage. Hardy to 6°F.

Size: Grows 3'-8' high, with up to 20' spread. 



Native



Drought Tolerant



Fire Resistant



ESCALLONIA COMPAKTA "COMPACT ESCALLONIA"

There are a number of varieties of Escallonia that make excellent flowering hedges with low-water needs. This compact variation is a broadleaf, slow-growing and evergreen shrub that has reddish-pink flowers in Spring and early Summer. Native to South America, it does well in high heat areas.

Light: Full Sun to Partial Shade. 

Soil/Water: Prefers fertile, well drained soil, protected from winds, adaptable to many soil types. Needs very little water. Hardy to 20°F.

Size: Grows 2'-3' high, with up to 6' spread. 



Native



Drought Tolerant



Fire Resistant



AGAPANTHUS AFRICANUS

"LILY OF THE NILE"

Agapanthus Africanus, often called "Lily of the Nile" or "African Lily" is a vigorous evergreen perennial with clusters of funnel-shaped blue-violet blooms that appear in early to midsummer. These work well in containers, along garden borders, and in warmer areas. Note: like most lily variations, they are very poisonous to cats and dogs! Deer and rabbit resistant, attracts butterflies, bees and birds.

Light: Full Sun to Partial Shade. 

Soil/Water: Prefers well drained soil, protected from winds, low water, rocky soil ok. Hardy to 40°F.

Size: Grows 2'-3' high, with up to 6' spread. 



Native



Drought Tolerant



Fire Resistant



AEONIUM ATROPURPUREUM

"PURPLE AEONIUM"

This striking succulent shrub, native to the Canary Islands, is both drought and deer tolerant and thrives in light shade. Dark purple rosettes may sometimes sprout yellow blooms.

Light: Full Sun to Partial Shade. 

Soil/Water: Can grow in shallow beds or containers with well-drained soil. Water more during winter months, but avoid standing water. Hardy to 32°F.

Size: Grows up to 3' high if outdoors, with up to 3' spread. 



Native



Drought Tolerant



Fire Resistant



DUDLEYA CAESPITOSA

"COAST DUDLEYA"

Dudleya Caespitosa, also known as "Coast Dudleya" or "Sea Lettuce" is native to coastal California, from San Francisco to Los Angeles. It is a sturdy succulent plant, which can sprout stalks of bright yellow flowers in Spring and Summer. Attracts hummingbirds, bees and butterflies. It makes an excellent ground cover, or along cliffsides or rock gardens.

Light: Full Sun to Partial Shade. ☀️

Soil/Water: Prefers sandy or rocky fast-draining soil, along cliffs. Low to no water, salty air tolerant. Hardy to 30°F.

Size: Grows 4"-8" high, with up to 8" spread. 🌿

✓ Native

✓ Drought Tolerant

✓ Fire Resistant

Fire Safe Garden Tips

- Remove leaves, pine needles and other flammable material from your roof, gutters and underneath the deck to help prevent embers from igniting your home.
- Remove dead vegetation and other flammable materials, especially within the first 5 feet of the home.
- Keep your lawn and garden hydrated, well irrigated and well maintained.
- Prune tree limbs so the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet above the ground, to reduce the chance of fire spreading into the crowns of trees.
- Avoid flammable mulches around your plants. Decomposed granite, pebbles or river rock are safer alternatives to wood chips or other organic materials.
- Try to limit the use of lawnmowers, weed-whackers and other potential spark-producing equipment to the cooler hours of the day. 8:00 am – 10:00 am or after 4:00 pm are ideal times.





Additional Resources

These are just a few of the many options of plants available to help keep your garden water-wise and fire safe. For more information on fire safe gardening, native plants, home hardening and other tips, check with your local professional nursery, or the following sites:

Central Fire District of Santa Cruz County

www.centralfiresc.org

Santa Cruz County Fire Safe Council

www.firesafesantacruz.org

California Native Plant Society

<https://bayarea.calscape.org/>

Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County

www.rcdsantacruz.org/fire-protection-resources

Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History

www.santacruzmuseum.org/tag/native-plants/

Water Smart Gardening in Santa Cruz County

<https://www.santacruz.watersavingplants.com/>





NOTES

*Add any additional notes for your own
Fire Resistant Garden here!)*

A large rectangular area with a light green background and horizontal lines, intended for writing notes. It is framed by a darker green border. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the area.



THANK YOU FOR READING!

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UPDATED 3/31/2025

