

# WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE?

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- To sustain means to keep going or continue, and sustainable is the ability to carry on an activity indefinitely with minimal impact on the environment.

*From: <http://cagardenweb.ucdavis.edu>*

# WHAT ARE SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE PRACTICES?

- Landscaping in harmony with the natural conditions of the watershed
  - Reducing waste and recycling materials
  - Keeping green waste on site
  - Nurturing healthy soils while reducing fertilizer use
  - Conserving water, energy and topsoil
  - Using IPM to minimize chemical use
  - Reducing storm water runoff
  - Creating wildlife habitat
- From “River Friendly Landscape Guidelines”

# SEVEN BEST PRACTICES

## I. Landscape for the Local Climate

- Use landscape adapted natives, or climate appropriate plant materials such as **Arboretum All-Stars**
- Consider the potential for fire and modify to defend your home from Wildfire
- Select trees that have known resistance to key local pests.



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### Ask a UC Master Gardener



### Landscaping Tips to Help Defend Your Home from Wildfire

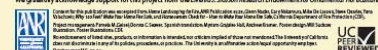
Through proper planning, you can have both a beautiful landscape and a fire safe zone around your home.

Begin by creating and maintaining a **Defensible Space** of 100 feet around your home that includes:

- A **Lean, Clean, and Green Zone** of 30 feet, **plus**
- A **Reduced Fuel Zone** of 70 feet

Note: Even greater defense zone widths are necessary when your home is on a steep slope or in a windswept area.

Please contact your local master gardener for more information: <http://camastogardener.ucdavis.edu>  
We gratefully acknowledge support for this project from the David L. Swann Research Endowment for Ornamental Horticulture, Washington, WA. This information is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an offer of insurance. For more information, please contact your local master gardener.  
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# UC DAVIS ARBORETUM ALL-STARS

[http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/arboretum\\_all\\_stars.aspx](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/arboretum_all_stars.aspx)

The screenshot shows a Windows Internet Explorer browser window displaying the UC Davis Arboretum All-Stars website. The browser's address bar shows the URL [http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/arboretum\\_all\\_stars.aspx](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/arboretum_all_stars.aspx). The website's header features the UC Davis Arboretum logo and a large photograph of a tree in a garden. Below the header, the main content area is titled "Arboretum All-Stars" and includes a descriptive paragraph about the horticultural staff's selection of 100 plants. To the left of the main text are two circular images: one of a white lily and one of purple flowers. To the right is a vertical navigation menu with links such as "PLAN YOUR VISIT", "VALLEY-WISE GARDENING", "EDUCATION & RESEARCH", "GATEWAYS PROJECT", "SUPPORT", and "VOLUNTEER". Below the main text, there is a section titled "Learn about Arboretum All-Stars" with a bulleted list of links and resources, including the "All-Stars Database", "All-Stars Booklet", and "California natives". At the bottom of the page, there is a section titled "See Arboretum All-Stars at the UC Davis Arboretum" with a paragraph of text and a small image of a red flower. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows several open applications, including iTunes, Microsoft PowerPoint, and the UC Davis Arboretum website.

home



**Arboretum All-Stars**

The horticultural staff of the UC Davis Arboretum have identified 100 tough, reliable plants that have been tested in the Arboretum, are easy to grow, don't need a lot of water, have few problems with pests or diseases, and have outstanding qualities in the garden. Many of them are California native plants and support native birds and insects. We are pleased to recommend these great plants for Valley-wise gardens. The vast majority of All-Star plants can also be successfully planted and grown throughout California.

**Learn about Arboretum All-Stars**

- Use the [All-Stars Database](#) to find the right plants for your garden
- [Click](#) to browse through the 100 UC Davis Arboretum All-Stars
- [Click](#) to view our new Arboretum All-Stars podcast (slide show with audio)
- Download a PDF of the 24-page [Arboretum All-Stars Booklet](#), a full listing of all 100 All-Stars with detailed information on each. If you are unable to get the entire 24-page booklet (19.5 MB), try downloading parts of it separately:
  - [All-Stars Perennials](#), pages 1-11 (7.6 MB)
  - [All-Stars Groundcovers and Vines](#), pages 12-13 (2 MB)
  - [All-Stars Shrubs](#), pages 14-21 (7.3 MB)
  - [All-Stars Trees](#), pages 20-24 (1.8 MB)
- Find out which All-Stars are [California natives](#)
- While the All-Stars are all low-water users, these plants are extreme [water misers](#)
- These All-Stars [attract hummingbirds, bees, or beneficial insects](#)

**See Arboretum All-Stars at the UC Davis Arboretum**

When you visit the Arboretum demonstration gardens, you will see a series of beautiful, brightly-colored signs identifying the Arboretum All-Stars, each with a photo of the plant in bloom, a list of its outstanding

PLAN YOUR VISIT

VALLEY-WISE GARDENING

EDUCATION & RESEARCH

GATEWAYS PROJECT

SUPPORT

VOLUNTEER

**Arboretum All-Stars**

All-Stars Plant Search

Plant Sales/Nursery

Gardening Reference Resources

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Coastal Redwood grove in  
Clovis?

**TREES NOT SELECTED  
FOR LOCAL CLIMATE  
AND SITE...**



# FIRE SAFE LANDSCAPES

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SAFE LANDSCAPES SUSTAINABLE AND FIRE-SAFE

Search

Home

Programs

- Climate, Fire, and Habitat in Southern California
- Invasive Plants and Wildland Health
- Defensible space, fire safe landscaping, and fire hazard reduction
- Fire resistant buildings
- Fall
- Winter
- Spring
- Summer
- Chronology of Wildfires in Southern California

Links

- Calendar
- Contact Us

## SAFE LANDSCAPES



Fire safety in the wildland-urban interface starts in the home, with the use of fire-resistant building materials and architectural features, good practices to avoid starting fires in and around the home, and a good fire response plan for your family. Beyond the home, develop a fire-resistant landscape where plants and hardscape are maintained so that they do not easily transmit fire. Establish your defensible space so that the risk of fire transmission to your property is reduced, and **fire fighters can safely protect your home**. Fire is a part of the natural environment in Southern California. There is no way to completely ensure that your home will not be exposed to wildfire. If you live in the wildland-urban interface, it is not a question of IF a fire will occur, but WHEN. Preparation for wildfire requires that YOU take responsibility for your safety, property, and pets in the event of a fire. Maintain your property to reduce the risk of damage during a wildfire, and be **fully** prepared to evacuate. The information in this guidebook can help you reduce, but not

### More Information

SAFE Landscapes is a project of the Natural Resources Program based in Los Angeles and Ventura County Cooperative Extension. Click for more about other CE programs in [Los Angeles](#) and [Ventura](#) Counties

**Click here for the NEW Southern California SAFE Landscapes Guidebook**

Click here to download the entire 2009 Los Angeles County SAFE Landscapes Calendar as a PDF

Click here to download the entire 2009 Ventura County SAFE Landscapes Calendar as a PDF

Click here for the SAFE Landscapes in the WUI Fact Sheet

Click here for the Making Your

<http://groups.ucanr.org/SAFE/>

## 2. LANDSCAPE TO SEND LESS TO THE LANDFILL

- Plants match space
- Reduce pruning
- Grass cycle
- Compost
- Salvage and recycle



**Italian cypress – what's wrong with this picture?**

# Plant to match the space: In order to avoid constant pruning and the creation of green waste.

**XYLOSMAS, DON'T STAY SMALL FOR LONG!**



**CAROLINA CHERRIES CAN GROW UP TO 30'+  
SURFACE ROOTS + FRUIT = DISASTER**





# COMPOST ON SITE OR MULCH WASTE

**But don't make it too much of a good thing!**



# Topped Trees

- Vigorous/weak limbs, require more pruning and thus more green waste
- Unnatural appearance of tree
- Prone to limb failure



# Salvage & Recycle: Find long term uses for dead or dying trees

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# 3. NURTURE THE SOIL

- Save topsoil
- Protect soil from compaction
- Prevent erosion
- Mulch
- Feed soils naturally
- Avoid synthetic, quick release fertilizers
- Minimize the use of chemical pesticides

