

ARRIVING SUMMER 2021



VANGUARD PROPERTIES

IN LAMORINDA

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Wildfire protection through landscaping



Photo Cynthia Brian

Add gravel near a wooden porch to reduce flammability.



Agave is drought tolerant. All parts are toxic, except the flowers.

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Characteristics of highly flammable flora

- o Dry and dead leaves, twigs, branches
- o Abundant, dense foliage
- o Needles
- o Low moisture foliage
- o Peeling, loose bark
- o Gummy sap
- o Leathery, dry, or aromatic leaves
- o Content of terpene, oils, or resin
- o Dry uncut grasses

Characteristics of reasonably fire-resistant plants?

- o Hardy, slow-growing plants that don't produce litter or thatch.
- o Drought tolerant natives with internal high-water content.
Generally, but not always, California natives are more tolerant of fire and deer.
- o Trees with thick bark that restrict the growth of invasive shrub species and hardwood trees such as walnut, cherry, maple, and poplar are less flammable. Deciduous trees and shrubs are more fire-resistant because they have higher moisture content when in leaf, lower fuel volume when dormant, and usually do not contain flammable oils.
- o Supple, moist leaves with little to no sap or resin residue.
- o Low growing ground covers.
- o Bulbs with dried leaves cut to the ground.

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