

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Fire-retardant and fire-resistant plantings



Photos Cynthia Brian

After weeding, this hillside is blooming with statice, gaura, geranium, calendula, and ice plant.

By Cynthia Brian

Normally the sound of weed-whackers disrupts the tranquility of living the soulful country life, but this year, I am grateful to hear their constant buzzing. With a summer of historical dryness in front of us bringing a looming fire danger, cutting the grasses on hillsides, paths, and in backyards is imperative. I've been working on my property since early February weeding, cutting, pruning, mulching, repairing, and planting in prepa-

ration for a hot, dangerous year. You are encouraged to walk through your landscape and make sure you are also ready for whatever may transpire. We want to keep our community picturesque as well as safe. We all play a part in protecting our precious land and lives.

My articles on creating an Emergency Go-Bag and Wildfire Protection through Landscaping elicited numerous emails and comments (see story links on Page D14). The No. 1 request was to supply a list of plants

that would be fire-retardant and fire-resistant.

When planning a new garden or adding plants to an existing landscape, it is essential to be reminded that no plant is fire-proof. Everything can and will burn if the temperature is hot enough. Also, even if a plant tag indicates that it is fire-resistant, it must be properly maintained, pruned, irrigated, spaced, and positioned in the correct locations to thrive. Plants that have been infested with pests, are too old, or are stressed will be more flammable. Plants that are not nurtured could create a problem for other vegetation. Inspect your botanicals carefully.

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Asiatic lilies and Santa Barbara Daisies are both fire-retardant and fire-resistant.