

El Dorado County Fire-Safe Plant List

Georgetown Divide & El Dorado County
Resource Conservation Districts

(530) 295-5630

The following is a list of plants that tend to be fire-resistant, assuming that they are properly distributed and maintained in your landscape. The disclaimer is this: No plant will resist combustion given the right conditions (low humidity, heat, etc.) but some plants are less likely to be a fire-spreading fuel source.

This list is developed specifically for El Dorado County and depending on your elevation, amount of shade, soil types, and available water you will want to pick those best suited for your area. In fact the cultural requirements of each plant (like the amount of water it requires) figures into its fire-resistance capability. Also, succulents like cactus & some ice plant have not been included in this list but may be suitable if protected from winter freezes. Consult a local nursery or UC Extension Master Gardener for recommendations.

The Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) also sponsor a "Xeriscape Demonstration Garden" at the Main Library in Placerville where you can physically view some of the plants noted with a "*".

Landscaping Rules of Thumb:

- All dead and down material (i.e. "fuel") should be removed from within 100 feet of a structure. This includes tall grasses that should be mowed and the cuttings raked.
- Disrupt the path of wildfire by removing any continuous stretches (either vertical or horizontal) of vegetation. Trim low tree branches and high shrubs to keep ground fires from climbing into the canopy. Break up "hedges" and other fuel paths that might lead to your front door with intermittent groundcovers, gardens, flowerbeds, etc.
- Fence with non-combustible materials.

FIRE RESISTANT TREES

* indicates California native or native varieties available

† indicates drought-tolerance

Scientific Name	Common Name		
<i>Alnus rhombifolia</i>	White Alder*	<i>Pistacia Chinensis</i>	Chinese Pistache
<i>Arbutus menziesii</i>	Madrone*	<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>	
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry Tree	<i>ssp.lyonii</i>	Catalina Cherry*
<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	Big Leaf Maple*	<i>Prunus subcordata</i>	Sierra Plum*
<i>Calocedrus decurrens</i>	Incense Cedar*	<i>Punica granatum</i>	Pomegranate
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	Western Redbud* [†]	<i>Quercus chrysolepis</i>	Canyon Live Oak* [†]
<i>Cornus nuttallii</i>	Western Dogwood*	<i>Q. douglasii</i>	Blue Oak* [†]
<i>Garrya elliptica</i>	Silk Tassel* [†]	<i>Q. kelloggii</i>	Black Oak* [†]
<i>Juglans californica</i>	Calif. Black Walnut*	<i>Q. lobata</i>	Valley Oak* [†]
<i>J. hindsii</i>	Black Walnut*	<i>Q. wislizenii</i>	Interior Live Oak* [†]
<i>J. regia</i>	English Walnut	<i>Rhus lancea</i>	African Sumac
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive	<i>Schinus molle</i>	Calif. Pepper Tree