

What's Happening – July 2020

Staying Safe

The focus of the past few months has been all about staying safe and reducing risks. As we get closer to hot summer days and Santa Ana winds, it's a good time to also protect your home and surroundings from hazards like high winds and wildfires. Here are a few tips for keeping your landscape safe. Consider using fire resistant plants as part of your landscape plan. While no plant is completely fireproof, many are more resistant to ignition and can provide added protection to defensible spaces.

Choose low-growing fire-resistant plants like [Aloes](#), [Agaves](#), [Society Garlic](#) and [Trailing Gazania](#) for the space within 5 feet of your home. Succulent groundcovers like [Myoporum](#) and [Purple Productus Iceplant](#) are easier to maintain and less likely to dry out than grass lawns, so use them wherever possible. Avoid planting trees too close to your house or your neighbor's house to reduce the risk of fire spread. [Bronze Loquat](#), [Crape Myrtle](#), and [Pink Melaleuca](#) are some attractive choices that are less flammable than other varieties. Shrubs like [Bird of Paradise](#), [Plumbago](#), and [Escallonia](#) have a low oil/high water content, making them good choices too. Here at Evergreen Nursery you'll always find a large selection of fire-resistant plants.

And don't forget that even though we want to be waterwise, it's important for your garden to get enough water to keep plants healthy. Make an irrigation schedule and be sure to stick to it, increasing watering as needed during long, hot spells. Even low water use plants can become dried out and increase fire danger.

Last but not least, tidy up! Maybe you've already spent time de-cluttering the inside of your home – now you need to take those skills to the back yard! Pruning dead branches and removing dried leaves and plant material from the garden is one of the most important strategies for fire prevention, so make it a weekly habit for the summertime. Also, be sure to prune branches close to the house that could break windows in high winds.

And while we're on the subject of prevention, how about including some natural pest-control remedies, too? Mosquitoes for one have been especially pesky this season! Be sure to check out this month's Flipbook, [Plants that Repel Bugs](#).

So stay safe. Remember it's easy to practice social distancing when you shop from your car here at Evergreen Nursery. Come on in, bring the kids and the dog – we'll be waiting right here for you at Evergreen Nursery.