

# MAINTENANCE AND LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT FOR FIRE SAFETY

## 1. IDENTIFY YOUR PLANTS

- MAKE A LIST OF THE PLANTS IN YOUR GARDEN SO THAT YOU CAN PROPERLY MANAGE YOUR LANDSCAPE
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## 2. ASSESS YOUR LAYOUT

- TREE SPACING: 10'-30' BETWEEN TREES
- PLANTING AREAS CLOSEST TO YOUR HOME SHOULD BE PLANTED WITH WELL WATERED, SHORTER PLANTS (0-5' FROM WALLS, DECKS, FENCES, ROADS, DRIVEWAYS)

## 3. PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE LARGER FEATURES: TREES, SHRUBS, LARGE GRASSES

- BRING IN A PROFESSIONAL IF NEEDED TO ASSESS TREE, SHRUB AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS
- ASSESS MAINTENANCE NEEDS IN SPRING AND SUMMER AS WE APPROACH FIRE SEASON

## 4. PRUNE PROPERLY: REMOVE DEAD BRANCHES AND REDUCE CONGESTION

- REDUCE CONGESTION IN TREES AND SHRUBS
- HARD PRUNE GRASSES (IF APPROPRIATE) FOR FIRE SEASON
- REMOVE DEAD OR DYING PLANTS

## IRRIGATION

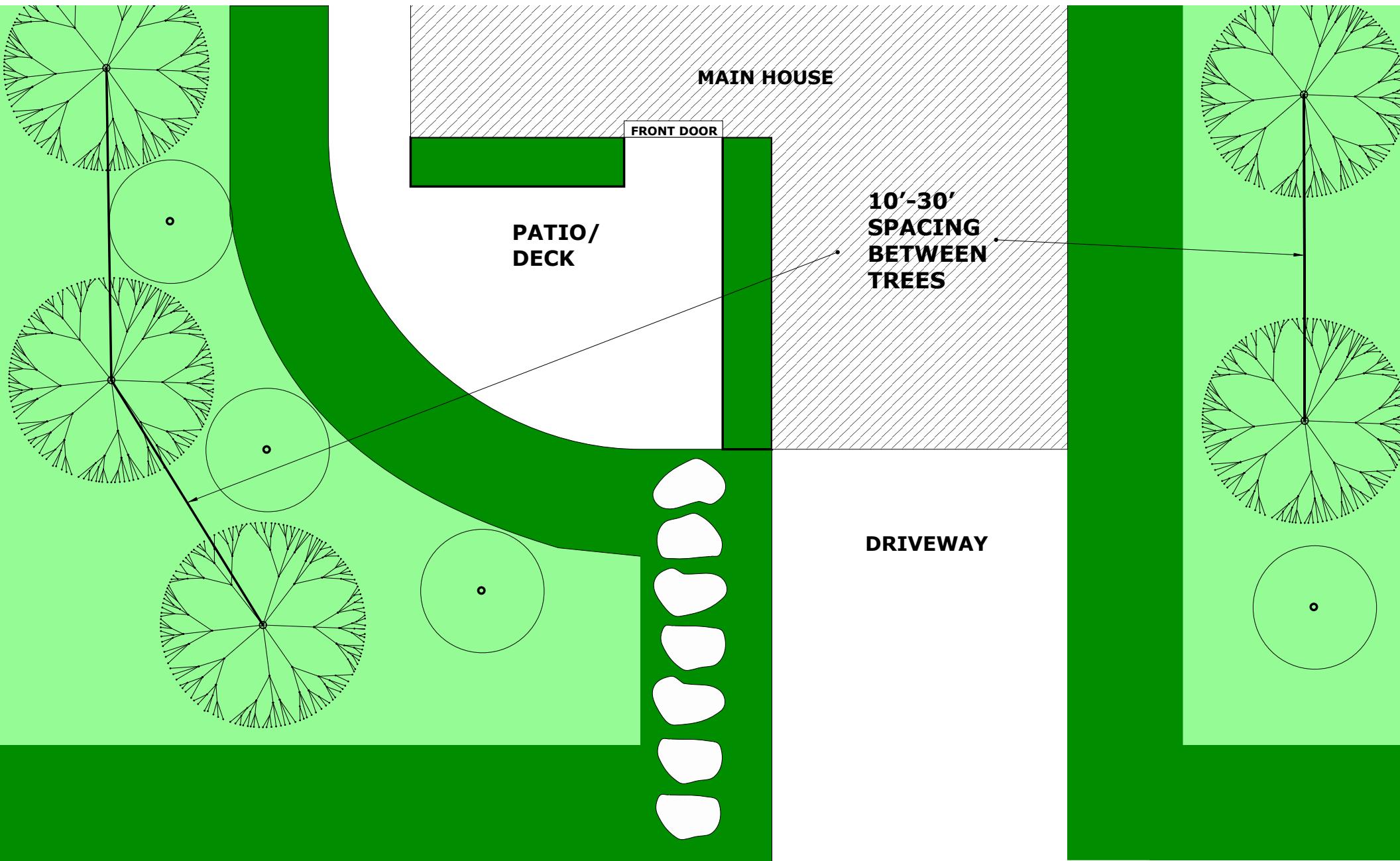
A WELL WATERED GARDEN IS A HEALTHY GARDEN

MAKE SURE THAT YOUR IRRIGATION IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR PLANT PALETTE AND THE CURRENT SEASON

ANY PLANT CAN BURN IN A HOT ENOUGH FIRE, BUT A WELL WATERED GARDEN IS LESS FLAMMABLE

CHECK YOUR IRRIGATION SYSTEM QUARTERLY

- CHECK FOR LEAKS
- CHANGE WATERING SCHEDULE AS SEASONS SHIFT



# PLANT SELECTIONS

- PLANTS THAT ARE SUCCULENT, SEMI SUCCULENT AND HAVE HIGH WATER CONTENT FOLIAGE ARE MOST FIRE RESISTANT
- CHOOSE PLANTS THAT AREN'T WAXY OR OILY
- SELECT APPROPRIATELY SIZED PLANTS FOR YOUR GARDEN
- PLACE SMALLER, HIGHER WATER USE PLANTS WITH A MORE OPEN STRUCTURE CLOSER TO YOUR HOME, DECKS, DRIVEWAYS, AND THE ROAD
- PLACE LARGER PLANTS FURTHER OUT FROM THESE SPACES, AND MAKE SURE THEY'RE APPROPRIATELY SPACED FROM EACH OTHER
- AVOID EXCEPTIONALLY MESSY PLANT SELECTIONS
- DON'T BE AFRAID OF A LITTLE OPEN SPACE IN THE GARDEN!



## MULCH OPTIONS

### BARK MULCH

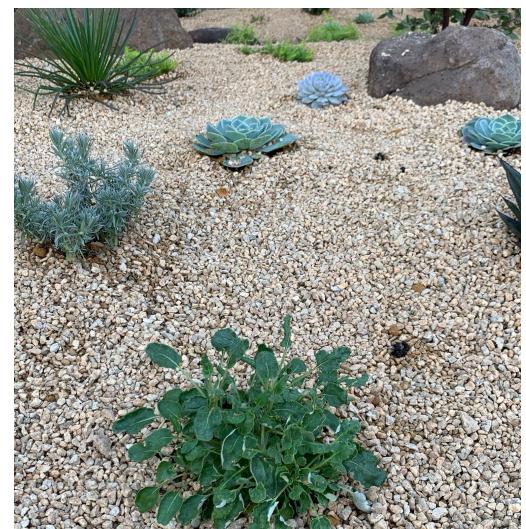
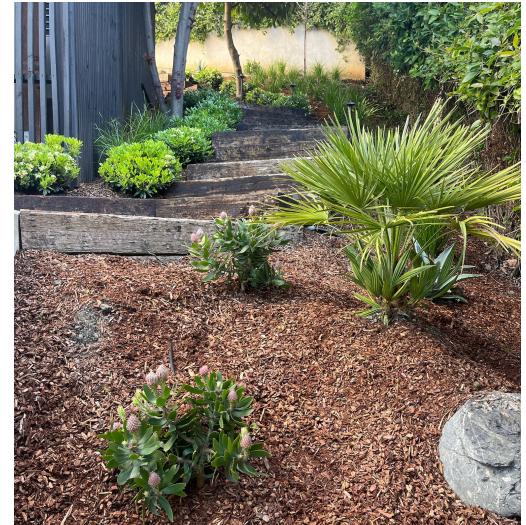
Do not use bark mulch and remove if possible

### GRAVEL

Lovely for dry gardens and xeriscape designs

### TOPSOIL/COMPOST

A perfect option for most gardens. A small amount of leaf litter (less than 3") can provide natural mulch



# EXAMPLES OF GREAT PLANT OPTIONS

## **TREES:**

Ash  
Beech  
Citrus  
Elm  
Ironwood  
Maples  
Oaks



# AVOID THESE PLANT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE

## **TREES:**

Acacia  
Cedar  
Cypress  
Eucalyptus  
Manzanita  
Pines

## **PERENNIALS:**

Algerian Ivy, Bamboo, Black Sage, Chamise, Chaparral Pea, Coastal Sagebrush, Coyote Brush, Fountain Grass, French Broom, Gas plant, Hemlock, Huckleberry, Juniper, Pampas Grass, Rosemary, Scotch Broom, Toyon, Yew

These lists are sourced from the Oakland FireSafe Council Website, from Guide #14



## INCREASING YOUR FIRE SAFETY

**Start by assessing the plants in your garden, and the plants that create the biggest risks**

Trees, shrubs, grasses, and flammable plants should be where you put your attention first. Bring in a certified arborist or horticulturist to help you assess your garden if this is an overwhelming first step. They can help you organize and get through the maintenance and adjustments needed to make your garden safer.

**Set up a quarterly maintenance plan for yourself**

This can be include a checklist of actual tasks for you or a professional to attend to, or a list of items to check in on. At a minimum, do this annually towards the end of spring/early summer when fire season begins. If you approach this quarterly, it will be less work and be much less overwhelming.

**Keep an eye on your irrigation system**

Check that the lines are intact, and the watering schedule is appropriate for the season and the plant needs.

**Pay attention to the full grown size, horticultural needs, and water usage when adding plants**

Setting yourself up for success with new plantings will make your long term garden needs more approachable. Reference available lists of recommended plants to be more firewise when selecting plants. Ideally, as a garden ages it becomes less work and is a more enjoyable place to spend time, in addition to being a more fire conscious environment.