



Hot Topics

News for Placer County Home Gardeners

This newsletter highlights frequently-asked questions coming in to the Hotline, the Master Gardeners' of Placer County help desk.

The Hotline receives over 500 inquiries a year from gardeners looking for help with their gardening problems, and there are often trends in what gardeners want to know or share.

If you have questions or want to share what's happening in your garden, call us at (530) 889-7388 or visit our website at http://pcmg.ucanr.org/Got_Questions/ to find out how you can email your question or bring in a sample.

What you do *now* can help protect your home against wildfires. Visit the following websites to learn how to be Firewise/Firesafe:

CAL FIRE, Wildfire is coming... Are you ready?

<http://www.readyforwildfire.org/Prepare-For-Wildfire/>

The geography, weather patterns and number of Wildland Urban Interface communities in California make it a state particularly threatened by devastating wildfire. To help educate property owners and residents in areas most at risk, CAL FIRE has developed a communications program called "Ready, Set, Go!" that breaks down the actions needed to be ready for wildfire.

This website tells you how to get prepared for wildfire before it strikes by following Ready, Set, Go!

1. Be [Ready](#): Create and maintain defensible space and harden your home against flying embers.
2. Get [Set](#): Prepare your family and home ahead of time for the possibility of having to evacuate.
3. Be Ready to [GO!](#): Take the evacuation steps necessary to give your family and home the best chance of surviving a wildfire.

National Fire Protection Association

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Wildfire/Preparing-homes-for-wildfire>

Visit this website to learn how to make your home safer from embers and radiant heat. Research around home destruction vs. home survival in wildfires point to embers and small flames as the main way that the majority of homes ignite in wildfires. Embers are burning pieces of airborne wood and/or vegetation that can be carried more than a mile through the wind can cause spot fires and ignite homes, debris and other objects.

Experiments, models and post-fire studies have shown homes ignite due to the condition of the home and everything around it, up to 200' from the foundation. This is called the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ). This website explains how homeowners can prepare their homes to withstand ember attacks and minimize the likelihood of flames or surface fire touching the home or any attachments.

UC Master Gardeners of Placer County are University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) ambassadors to the Placer County home gardening community. Master Gardeners promote environmental awareness and sustainable landscape practices, and extend research-based gardening and composting information to the public through educational outreach. UCCE is part of the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) of the University of California. UCCE Placer County: 11477 E Avenue, Auburn, CA 95603, (530) 889-7385

Placer County Fire Safe Alliance

<https://www.placerfirealliance.org/>

Our mission is to minimize catastrophic wildfire losses to values at risk such as life, property, and natural resources, in the following ways:

- To inform and educate the public on fire safe communities, fire risk and fire hazard mitigation.
- To aid, assist, and participate in fire mitigation planning efforts.
- To prioritize and secure funding for coordinated fire safe projects and activities.
- To monitor and review fire safe activities to ensure alliance goals are met.