Land Application Limitations within Defensible Space of a Structure

0-5 Feet

- “Land application of mulch is prohibited. Non-combustible materials, such as gravel and decomposed granite (DG) must be used” (Standard 517: Applications of Mulch and Chips in Defensible Space (Ventura County)).

- “Very low growing (3-inch high), high-water-content ground cover and few small shrubs (2 feet high). No landscape mulch or wood chips. Use clear soil, rocks, gravel, or concrete. No trees. This is a recommended no planting zone” (Standard 515: Defensible Space and Fuel Modification Zones (Ventura County)).

- Recommended spacing between shrubs based on dimensions:

  \[ 2X \]

  \[ X \]
Land Application Limitations within Defensible Space of a Structure

>5- 30 Feet

- “Limited non-continuous use of organic mulch is allowed. Wood chips are not allowed. Use a mosaic (non-uniform) pattern with a maximum application area of 20 feet x 20 feet and a minimum 5-foot separation between application areas” (Standard 517: Applications of Mulch and Chips in Defensible Space (Ventura County)).

- “Minimal plantings including ground cover and shrubs. Limited trees of a very fire-resistant type and additional spacing. Trees should be spaced to allow minimum 10-feet of clearance next to a structure” (Standard 515: Defensible Space and Fuel Modification Zones (Ventura County)).

Tree Guidelines

- **Roof clearance**: The vertical clearance distance above any roof shall not be less than 3 feet” (Standard 515: Defensible Space and Fuel Modification Zones (Ventura County)).

- **Trim trees regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees.** (Recommended by CalFire)
0-5 Foot Defensible Space

- Agave attenuata “Foxtail Agave” (full sun)
- Aloe striata “Coral Aloe” (full sun)
- Liriope/Variegated Dianella (sun/part shade)
- Penstemon spectabilis “Showy Penstemon/Beardtongue” (sun/part shade) *limited height/distance
- Woodwardia fimbriata “Giant Chain Fern” (shade) *recommended for 0-5, San Mateo County Fire
- Juncus patens “Elk Blue” (shade)
- Clivia (orange or white, shade to very shady)
0-5 Foot Defensible Space

Groundcovers

- California Gold ¾"
- Mojave Gold ¾"
- Senecio “Blue Chalksticks”
  Extremely fire resistant, this low-maintenance plant works well under larger plantings and helps prevent erosion. It is fast-growing and cold tolerant to 30 degrees.
  Full to indirect bright light
- Carex Albula “Frosted Curls” Sedge
  Ideal in shaded areas
- Dymondia Margaretae “Silver Carpet”
  Full sun, can tolerate some shade
- Dichondra (part sun/shade)

Exposed dirt is another acceptable option.

If ground cover is >6-18 inches in height, groupings shall not exceed 500 sq. ft. (i.e., star jasmine)
5-30 Foot Defensible Space

Bird of Paradise

Helictotrichon sempervirens “Blue Oat Grass”

Hesperaloe parviflora “Red Yucca” & “Yellow Yucca”

Achillea Moonshine “Moonshine Yarrow”

Kniphofia “Nancy’s Red Hot Pokers”

- Drought tolerant once established
- 18-24” tall and wide
- Mostly sun to shade

Anigozanthos flavidus “Kangaroo Paw” (red & yellow)
5-30 Foot Defensible Space

Coleonema “Sunset Gold”
*limited height/distance

Encelia californica “Coast Sunflower”
*limited height/distance (10-feet)