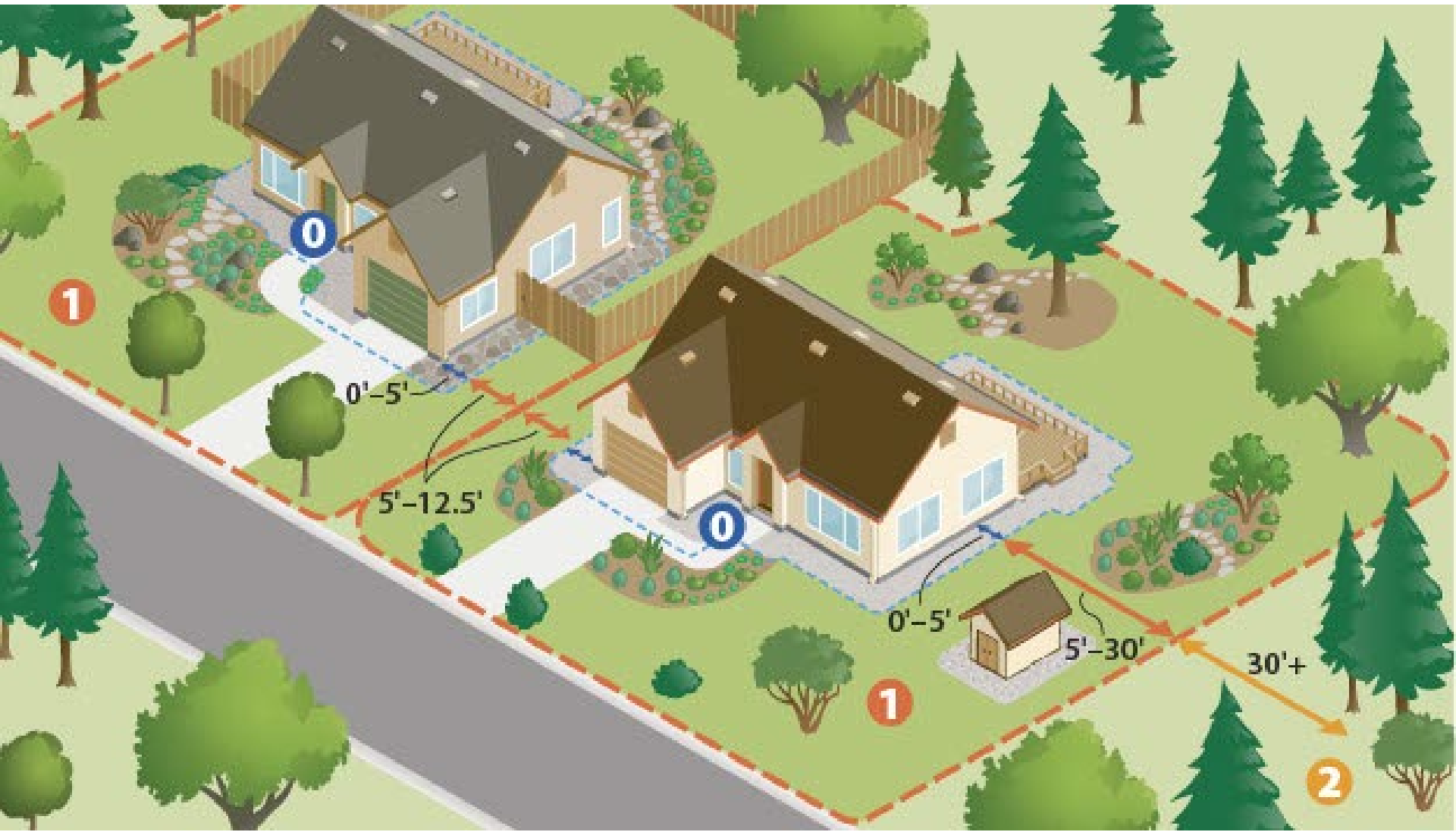


Building Defensible Space Examples



*In reducing **landscape** fire risk, how we DO our gardens and landscapes is more important than the plants we choose.*

Defensible Space

And

Right **Plants**, Right **Places**, Right **Care**



University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources ■ Master Gardener Program

Fire-smart landscape principles...

To reduce fire hazard risk...

- Create Defensible Space around structures
- And in your landscape...
 - Plant placement & spacing
 - Less dense
 - Vertical/horizontal separation
 - Trees limbed up, shrubs pruned
 - Fire breaks
 - Design for garden maintenance, plant care, appropriate irrigation
- Work with neighbors



Implementing Defensible Space

- Work from the home out
- Plan your design to reduce wildfire risk, fuel loads
 - Plant placement, fuel separation
 - Appropriate plant and materials choice
 - Maintenance accessibility
 - Appropriate irrigation
- But understand...
 - ...It doesn't all have to be done at once



Right Plant, Right Place, Right Care

California Natives

- Healthy
- Water-wise
- Pollinator-friendly
- Habitat-builder
- Well-behaved
 - *Not invasive*
 - *Few dry branches, little debris*
- Low care, maintainable



Recap

- Native plant fire-smart landscapes
 - Nurture soil,
 - Encourage biodiversity,
 - Mitigate climate change,
 - Encourage wildlife, And
 - Help reduce wildfire risk
- Native plants prevent erosion
 - Well spaced on slopes
- Creating space -- reduce wildfire risk
 - Place, prune, remove, replace plants



Recap-What to look for in plants

California natives

- Zone 0, 0-5' from house
 - Low growing, ignition resistant, herbaceous annuals & perennials
 - Succulents
 - Nothing touching the house
- Zone 1, 5-30' from house
 - Smaller shrubs & trees
 - Good vertical & horizontal separation
 - Non-combustible fire breaks between plant clusters
- Zone 2, 30+' from house
 - Larger trees & shrubs
 - Wood mulch

Help in Fire-smart Landscaping

- Marin Master Gardener
 - Printable Fire-smart Landscape Handout - https://marinmg.ucanr.edu/BASICS/FIRESMARTLANDSCAPING/Printable_Tips/
 - Help Desk: Email - Helpdesk@marinmg.org
 - Help Desk: Telephone: (415) 473-4910
 - Help Desk: Website:
https://marinmg.ucanr.edu/PLANTS/CAL_NATIVE_PLANTS/
- CNPS *Calscape* - www.Calscape.org
- Books that will help
 - Bornstein, Carol, David Fross, Bart O'Brien, *California Native Plants for the Garden*, Cachuma Press
 - Keator, Glenn and Alrie Middlebrook, *Designing California Native Gardens: The plant community approach to artful, ecological gardens*, University of California Press
 - Bauer, Nancy, *The California Wildlife Habitat Garden: How to attract bees, butterflies, birds, and other animals*, University of California Press

