

Fire Safe Demonstration Garden Ready For Viewing

Under the auspices of our Pebble Beach fire department and the Community Services District, we have completed planting our own Fire Safe Demonstration Garden. It is located on the south side of the Fire Station along Forest Lake Road and is now ready for viewing and walk-throughs.

While we are primarily interested in the 'Fire Safe' aspects of landscape planning and plantings, this demonstration garden will have other important features. For example, we want to promote development of a healthy forest and therefore will make use of local native plants for several good reasons. Native plants grow better in their local habitat, and as a result, generally need less water. Once established, native



The beautifully landscaped Fire Safe Demonstration Garden is ready for viewing.



The thoughtfully designed and carefully planted Fire Safe Demonstration Garden educates residents in the use of drought-tolerant, non-invasive native plants.



garden, one can achieve beauty and peace of mind knowing that they have done their part to protect themselves and their neighbors.

Last but not least, native plants as are found in the Fire Safe Garden provide exceptional benefits to native wildlife; and while deer-resistance is a big factor in species selection, many of the flowering native plants are especially attractive to local songbirds, butterflies and beneficial insects.

You are invited to stop-by at your convenience to learn more about our Fire Safe Demonstration Garden.

by Gerald Verhasselt, Chair, Open Space Advisory Committee

plants are more drought resistant. Furthermore, native plantings have a higher degree of compatibility, avoiding the crowding or smothering-out behavior of non-native invasive plants. Far too many local landscape nurseries carry varieties of non-natives and invasives which we recommend avoiding (for example, Genista or French Broom and a number of acacias).

Another major reason for this demonstration garden is for landscape education and planning. We encourage you as owner and resident to visit this site and take a pamphlet with recommendations for your landscaping. We also suggest bringing your landscaper/gardener with you to help plan your own yard. The pamphlet will also have CALFIRE suggestions for where and how to plant the various shrubbery and trees on your property to maintain fire safe distances from house and buildings.

The Fire Department and Pebble Beach Company perform a significant amount of fuel reduction in various areas of the forest each year as part of the Fire Defense Plan. Fuel reduction around homes is as important a component of the plan as is removing dead fuel from the forests. The demonstration garden is an excellent tool, therefore, to teach homeowners various methods of landscaping that are attractive as well as fire safe. By following the basic guidelines demonstrated in the