If you are a Marin Municipal Water District customer you can receive a free Water-Wise Gardening CD containing a full-color plant library and design ideas for native, as well as Mediterranean gardens. Also look for water-wise plants at the following stores: Sunnyside, Sloats, Bayside, West End, and United.

For more information, contact the Marin Municipal Water District at 415-945-1520.

North Marin Water District offers rebates to their customers for replacing regularly mowed and irrigated turf with drought tolerant, low water use native plants.

For information and participation procedures call: North Marin Water District (Serving Novato and West Marin) Water Conservation Program
415-897-4133 ext 8421

Fire Resistant Plants
The 1995 Mount Vision Fire in Pt. Reyes and the devastating Oakland Hills fire of 1991 served as a wake-up call to property owners who allow their shrubs and plants to “take over”. “Pruning back” and creating defensible space is an important step in guarding your property against wildfires. Also important is choosing fire resistant plants. These plants tend to have certain characteristics:

- Most are broad-leaf trees that lose their leaves (deciduous).
- Some thick-leaf evergreens are also fire-resistant.
- Leaves tend to be supple, moist and easily crushed.
- Trees tend to be clean, not bushy, and have little deadwood.
- Shrubs are low-growing (2") with minimal dead material.
- Tall shrubs are clean, not bushy.
- Sap is water-like and typically does not have a strong odor.

Some firewise native plants include:
bush anemone (Carpenteria californica)
California poppy (Eschscholzia californica)
common flannel bush (Fremontodendron californica)
creeping mahonia (Mahonia repens)
monkey flower (Mimulus repens)
sword fern (Polystichum munitum)
pink winter current or red flowering current (Ribes sanguineum currant)
sage (Salvia clevelandii and Salvia sonomensis)
California fuschia (Zauschneria californica)

* Defensible space breaks up the continuous paths that could carry a wildfire to your home. To learn more about defensible space and how to create it, contact FireSafe Marin at the number below.

For more information on reducing wildland fires call:
FireSafe Marin
555 Northgate Ave.
San Rafael, CA 94903
415-446-4420
www.firesafemarin.org