Firescaping

Wildfires

Scientists expect the risk of large wildfires to increase sixfold during the next 20 years.

When areas have record-breaking dry spells combined with record-breaking hotter temperatures, wildfires become more and more of a risk. Newer housing tracts built adjacent to dry grasslands become increasingly vulnerable. Without much green vegetation, all the dried out grass and bushes become kindling that becomes more easy to catch fire as it increasingly gets drier and drier.

Statistics:

- According to Drought.gov, as of 2-1-22, 46.33% of the U.S. and 55.24% of the lower 48 states are in drought, 197.0 Million acres of crops in U.S. are experiencing drought conditions, and 96.2 Million people in the U.S. and 94.8 Million in the lower 48 states are affected.
- Per UN estimates, in the last two decades drought has affected 1.5 billion people and led to economic losses of at least $124 billion.

Solutions

- ***The more all of us can do to keep plants green instead of brown, the more we can prevent fires.***

Firescaping

Mitigating this problem requires serious efforts from all sectors: government, non-profit, business, and individual. Preventative measures include large scale government programs, fireproofing homes, and firescaping. Not always but sometimes firescaping involves irrigation - where we can help.

Irrigation Systems

Even if an individual's efforts are only a small drop when we need a lake-full, thousands of drops help us get there. Some of the best firescaping designs include different strategies for different distances from homes, growing different kinds of plants in different places.

Rooftop Gardens [link]

What better way to protect your roof (and increase your insulation) than growing a garden on it? Growing a field of succulents there creates an almost solid layer of water.

Links to: (these can happen later but should have graphic)

Grass to Gardens [landing page]

Agrivoltaics [landing page]
BluSoak Systems
[Rainwater Collection]
[Deforestation]
[Drought]
[Desertification]

More information on Preventative Methods

One of the most simple, inexpensive, and effective wildfire protection measures includes various ways of creating swales perpendicular to slopes. By making earthen berms, trenches, or just laying fallen trees across the contours, more water stays longer under dry trees and brush. This can also create a firebreak and slow or prevent erosion and flooding. It keeps the fallen logs more moist and resistant to burning. Even more effective in preventing grass fires, the more water is saved and slowly released, the larger the benefit. Our simple and effective BluSoak systems increase these benefits. These just work with the water naturally in the swale but can also be connected to a manual or automatically-controlled water supply line to increase these benefits further.

This enables more firescaping methods while cultivating hard-to-burn plants. It's much easier for tall, dry grass to catch fire than grass that's green and growing. Growing mushrooms in these swales can be a good source of extra income. Avoid conifers and broadleaf shrubs and evergreens like eucalyptus, pines, junipers, cedars, manzanita, and the many native fire-prone species and instead plant green leaved trees and shrubs, fruit and nut trees, chestnut, poplar and oaks. These slow down and can even stop approaching wildfires while providing food and other resources. Most deciduous trees don't have the same amount or kind of flammable oils and keep a higher moisture content in their leaves. Ground covers like Agapanthus are famous for stopping grass fires dead in their tracks.

From this page, https://www.sustainablevillage.com/regenerative-water-use--- make another button on the bottom called Firescaping with a link to a new landing page with that name and this text