

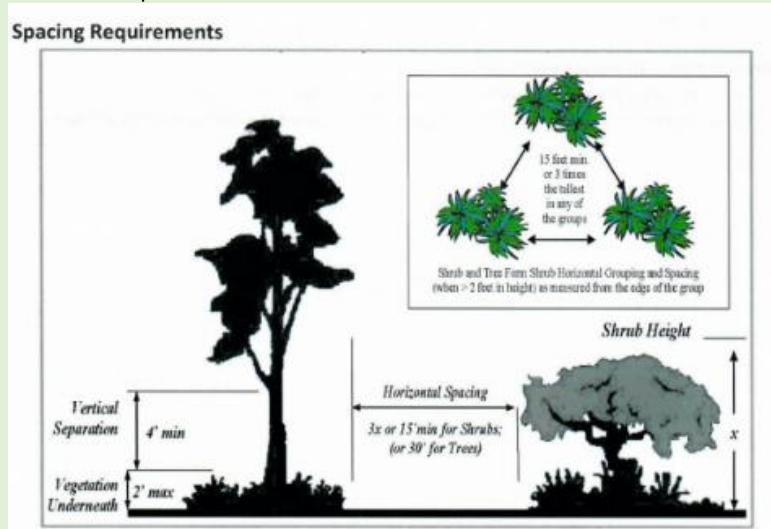
Dear Monarch,

There are several trees near my home that I think may be a fire hazard. Is it safe to have trees in an area with high fire risk?

Dear Concerned Resident,

Short answer: yes! Trees are a vital part of a fire-resistant landscape. Here are some things to know about trees and fire:

- Depending on your area, parts of your landscape may be held to specific standards by your local Fire Authority. This may include limiting certain species from being planted, although mature specimens will not be removed.
- Maintaining good pruning habits and removing excess dead material (such as dead limbs) is key in fire risk management in the landscape. Debris such as leaf litter or pine needles should be regularly cleared from your roof and gutters.
- The Orange County Fire Authority specifies adhering to spacing requirements with surrounding vegetation to reduce “fuel ladders” from shrubs to tree canopies.



MONARCH TIP

Some plants require exposure to fire for their seeds to germinate – propagators can mimic this process with liquid smoke.