

# ask

## the landscape professional

Linda K. Lillie of Sprigs & Twigs



### Welcome to my weekly series!

Feel free to send me questions you'd like to have me answer and I will do my best to address the ones of most general interest.

Email or mail your questions to: [info@sprigsandtwigs.net](mailto:info@sprigsandtwigs.net) or Linda Lillie, Sprigs & Twigs Inc, PO Box 245, Gales Ferry, CT 06335

**Question of the Week:** *I've noticed that you are giving lectures on native perennials, trees and shrubs, and I also see on your web site you specialize in native plants. What exactly is a "native" plant?*

**Answer:** A native plant is one that evolved naturally and was growing here prior to arrival of European settlers in the 17th century. These plants are the foundation of our local natural communities. They have co-evolved and adapted over thousands of years to the soil types and weather conditions of our region while interacting with distinct communities of microorganisms, insects, mammals, fish and birds. Birds, butterflies, bees, beneficial insects and other animals prefer native plants for food, shelter and nesting places. The variety of birds, insects and animals attracted to native plants provide natural pest, disease and weed control in our landscapes. Native plants also play a role in attracting these creatures back into our landscapes as pollinators. Native plants are rugged and require fewer resources and less maintenance to thrive.



Native plant: Bee Balm - *Monarda didyma*

When I design gardens, I always try to incorporate native plants into the design. There are many great choices available for a variety of garden habitats. As always, the key to a good garden design is putting the right plant in the right location since not every native plant will be a good match for your garden. You must do your homework and know your plants. To help you in learning native plants, Sprigs & Twigs has produced a high quality, glossy, 44 card set (the same size as baseball cards), called "Native Plants of Connecticut-Perennial Series" that shows a picture of the plant on the front and a complete description of characteristics on the back. The set comes in a plastic case. If you would like to have a set, you can pick one up at our office, 41 Kings Hwy, Suite 207, Gales Ferry for \$12.75 (includes sales tax), or call us at 860-235-0752 with a credit card and we can mail a set to you for \$15.00 (includes sales tax).

*I am also pleased to announce that for 2015, Sprigs & Twigs will be selling and delivering native plants to your home. Contact our office for more information.*

### "Ask the Landscape Professional" Now Hosting Lectures



I look forward to meeting you there!

The sessions are being held in our Gales Ferry office at 41 Kings Highway, Suite 207. Space is limited and you need to call the office (860-235-0752) to make a reservation.

**Lecture #3 - "Surprising Native Shrubs and Trees"**  
February 10 from 3:00-4:00. (Space is Available)

**Lecture #4 - "Pollinator-Friendly Landscapes"**  
February 24 from 3:00-4:00. (Space is Available)

Sprigs & Twigs is booking 2014-2015 Snow Removal services now and scheduling appointments for 2015 Garden Design, Spring Leaf Clean-ups, Garden Spruce-ups, Landscape Maintenance, Organic Lawn Care, Mowing and Trimming Services, Stonework and Custom Carpentry Services. Go to [www.SprigsandTwigs.net](http://www.SprigsandTwigs.net) for details. Call us anytime to discuss your landscape needs and to meet with our staff.

Sprigs & Twigs is a highly regarded, professional, full service, national award winning Landscape Design, Installation, Maintenance, Tree Care and Lawn Care Company. We are completely organic. Visit our website [www.sprigsandtwigs.net](http://www.sprigsandtwigs.net) or call us for more information.

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Linda K. Lillie has been President of Sprigs & Twigs, Inc. for the last 19 years. She is a graduate of Connecticut College in Botany, an accredited NOFA Organic Land Care Professional, a Connecticut Master Gardener and a national award winning landscape designer for her design and installation projects..

860-235-0752

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