



ask

Celebrating 20 Years!
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 or

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Thank you Readers for Voting Sprigs & Twigs
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Question this Week:

I have a question regarding Cicada bees. I think that is what I have had for several years. They are in one area of our "mulched" bank and emerge May/June. They are annoying. I was told to mulch heavily and that may help... Susan

Linda's Answer:

You actually have Cicada Killer Wasps. Not many people get a chance to see this very interesting wasp. These are fascinating to watch and are not at all harmful to humans. In fact, they are not interested in humans at all. Actually, the male wasp cannot sting and, although the female can, it is a very mild sting that is not painful. Having said that, their large size (1-2+” long) (one of the largest wasp species known), dangerous look and dive-bombing habit of the males, makes them appear ferocious. They are a very species specific beneficial insect. Their main job is to find cicada insects, kill it and drag it into their nest hole, which is usually underground, and lay an egg on it to feed the growing wasp larvae. The female wasp actually stuns the cicada, flips it on its back, picks it up and flies it home. Yes, they are big, but won't hurt you. They are only active for several months during the summer.



Cicada Killer Wasp with Cicada

Linda K. Lillie has been President of Sprigs & Twigs, Inc. for the last 20 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..

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