



# ask

Celebrating 20 Years!

the landscape professional

Linda K. Lillie of Sprigs & Twigs

Welcome to my weekly series!

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



Thank you Readers for Voting Sprigs & Twigs Best Landscape Company Two Years in a Row & Best Tree Service!

**Question this Week:** I just moved into a new home and have discovered three or four Rose of Sharon trees that I would love to have thrive. They are being crowded out by other trees and I didn't know if I could move them elsewhere without hurting them. They are quite tall but thin and have a couple of blooms on them. What do you think? Where would they do best? Thanks! Lori

### Linda's Answer:

Hi Lori, The best time to move the Rose of Sharnons (ROS) would be between the end of August and the end of September. ROS prefer full sun (7-8 hrs of sun daily), moist but well drained soil. They grow to about 9' tall and 9' wide. They bloom in late summer.

To transplant ROS:

- **Cut each ROS back** by 1/3 (take off the top 1/3 of the plant)- cut the stem on an angle so the water drains off of it
- **Dig out the plant** so there is a good size root ball attached
- **Dig the new hole** 2 times the size of the root ball, step into the hole and tamp down the loose soil so there is a solid base that prevents the tree from sinking
- **Add some compost** or composted leaf litter to the hole- these amendments hold water and moisture
- **Plant the tree** and make sure the root flare is above the level of the ground-this is the base part of the stem of the tree that flares out near the roots
- **Water plant before filling hole;** allow the water to soak in
- **Backfill hole with the soil** you originally removed. Do not put soil over top of the root flare. Pack soil gently around roots to remove air pockets



- **Create a moat** around each plant about 2 feet from the stem to hold water
- **Add 2-3" only of mulch** around base of tree, do not go above root flare or touch the stem of the tree with the mulch
- **Water every 3 days** deeply, meaning a total of one - five gallon bucket of water on each tree until Mother Nature starts supplying natural rain on a regular basis or until the middle of October.
- **Plant the trees far** enough away from each other so they can grow to their maximum width, the stems should be about 10-12' apart.

Good Luck!

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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