



**Celebrating 21 Years!**

# 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 or  
Linda Lillie, Sprigs & Twigs Inc,  
PO Box 245, Gales Ferry, CT 06335



Thank you Readers for Voting Sprigs & Twigs  
Best Landscape Company and Best Tree Service Every Year!

Give us a call if we can be of service!

**Question this Week:** *Hi Linda – I want to be sure that my two hydrangea bushes on the side of my garage do NOT grow out of control. What is the protocol for pruning them to keep them from growing too tall. I like my bushes at dwarf size. I would appreciate your advice! Thanks, Margaret*

### Linda's Answer:

Hi Margaret,

To reduce the height of a full size Mophead or Lacecap hydrangea:

1. Prune shrub back by 1/3 (height and width) after it blooms in the summer. Remove any stems around the perimeter of the shrub that have rooted and have created a new plant.



It's too late to prune at this time of the year (October and later) because you would be pruning off next year's flowers.

2. Remove the dead stems (winterkill) in spring (they should easily break off at the base of the stem). This needs to be done to keep the inside of the shrub open to allow proper air flow through the plant to deter disease and insects.

3. Do not remove the spent flowers in the fall. Recent research has shown that the old blooms provide protection against the cold winter air for next season's flower buds which are usually found very near the base of the old flowers.

Remember there are dwarf cultivars of all types of hydrangeas: Mophead, Lacecap, Oakleaf and late season Panicle Hydrangeas that would help cut back on the maintenance needed to keep a full size plant within your planting bed. I can get the dwarf varieties; let me know if you need help.

Thank you for your question.

*Linda K. Lillie has been President of Sprigs & Twigs, Inc. for the last 21 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.*

**Sprigs & Twigs is scheduling appointments for Garden Design, Landscape Maintenance, Tree Care Services, Custom Stonework, Custom Carpentry Services and Floral & Décor.**

Visit our web site for details. Call us anytime to discuss your landscape needs and to meet with our staff.



**The Landscape Professionals**

Sprigs & Twigs is a highly regarded, professional, full service, national award winning company. We are completely organic. Visit our websites or call us anytime.

860-235-0752

www.SprigsandTwigs.net

