

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

Question of the Week: *Weeds are growing like crazy in my lawn, what can I do?*

You ask a very good question. There are a few different things that could be going on. I will address each of them in the next few weeks.

This summer so far has been very wet and both grass and weeds have thrived. When you have lots of lawn weeds that is a sign that not enough "good" grass is growing and the weeds have moved in. There are several likely causes:



#1 Your lawn's pH is off - Normal grass likes to grow in a relatively neutral pH soil of 6.5-6.8 (pH is the measure of the acidity of your soil that ranges from 1 to 14, with 1 being the most acidic and around 7 being neutral)). The most important thing you can do for your lawn is to determine its pH and then take action. If your pH is off, the grass cannot and will not be healthy and weeds will move in. Fortunately, pH is relatively easy and inexpensive to adjust in soil. Most lawns in this area have low pH (acidic) which is corrected by a lime application(s). It will take several months for the lime to be effective, and it may take multiple applications. If the pH is too high, sulfur is used to adjust. A soil test is required to determine your pH. There are do-it-yourself soil testing kits on the market that I think are a waste of your money due to their inaccuracy and lack of useful information they provide. A better approach for you is to send a soil sample to the University of Connecticut or other state university and they will send you back an extensive analysis for a fee. This time of year expect a bit of a wait. Sprigs & Twigs also provides a testing and analysis service for a nominal charge; we would be happy to visit your property, test your soil, provide you with the analytical results from a national laboratory, a written evaluation and recommendations to correct pH (and other things) that might be needed. Our turnaround time is about one week from when you authorize the work.

#2 Poor Soil Health Promotes Weed Growth - (*I'll discuss this next week*)

Sprigs & Twigs

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Linda K. Lillie is the President of Sprigs & Twigs, Inc, the premier landscape tree care & lawn care company in SE Connecticut for the last 17 years. She is a graduate of Connecticut College in Botany, a Connecticut Master Gardener and a national award winning landscape designer for her design and installation work.

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