



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: *The condo complex I live in just did a large "bee kill" with pesticides. You can help tremendously by publishing facts about the extreme importance of NOT killing bees, and the critical population decline there is in Connecticut and everywhere.....S.K.*

Answer: Over the last ten years or so there has been a rapid and significant decline of honeybee population everywhere. In the last five years it is estimated that over 40% of the bee population in the US has disappeared. Studies have also shown a similar decline in the wild bumble-bee population as well. This is particularly significant because of the crops that make up the world's food supply up to 80% are pollinated by domestic and wild bees. Scientists worldwide are aggressively working on finding the cause of "Honeybee Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)" as it has been called. There are a number of factors all believed to be contributing: increased use of pesticides, parasites fatal to bees and shrinking bee habitats among them. A class of insecticide called neonicotinoids, is getting much attention because it is highly toxic, disrupts bee's nervous systems and causes bees to be more susceptible to fatal pathogens and parasites. In areas where this insecticide is used, lethal concentrations of the neonicotinoids are being found systemically in plants, their pollen and their nectar which harm butterflies, bees and other pollinators. Even after the initial application, these insecticides can persist in the soil for years and be re-absorbed in plants not initially treated.



In 2013, the European Union banned neonicotinoids in Europe and Ontario, Vancouver, Seattle and communities in Washington State, Oregon and Minnesota have banned them as well. Maine, New Jersey, and Vermont are also considering banning the use of neonicotinoids. By January 2016, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will ban the use of neonicotinoids in the entire 150 million acre National Wildlife Refuge System.

For the next several weeks, I will address steps you can take to help bees and other pollinators.

Tip #1 - While commercial agricultural uses of neonicotinoids are a major concern, products available for homeowners to use recommended application rates on the bags up to 100 times higher than those rates approved for agricultural crops. Go through your storage shed, dispose of and never use the following products:

- Bayer Advanced 3-in-1 Insect, Disease, & Mite Control
- Bayer Advanced 12 Month Tree & Shrub Insect Control
- Bayer Advanced 12 Month Tree & Shrub Protect & Feed
- Bayer Advanced Fruit, Citrus & Vegetable Insect Control
- Bayer Advanced All-in-One Rose & Flower Care concentrate
- DIY Tree Care Products Multi-Insect Killer
- Ferti-lome 2-N-1 Systemic
- Hi-Yield Systemic Insect Spray
- Hunter
- Knockout Ready-To-Use Grub Killer
- Lesco Bandit
- Marathon
- Merit
- Monterey Once a Year Insect Control II
- Ortho Bug B Gon Year-Long Tree & Shrub Insect Control
- Ortho MAX Tree & Shrub Insect Control
- Surrender Brand GrubZ Out
- Bayer Advanced All-in-One Rose & Flower Care granules
- Green Light Grub Control with Arena
- Flagship
- Maxide Dual Action Insect Killer
- Meridian

Ask the Landscape Professional" articles are all on our website; if you missed any, go to www.SprigsandTwigs.net

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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..

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