



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: Last week I wrote about the dire decline in our bee population, and this week I'm addressing what you can do to help all of our pollinators.

To many people, bees and other insects that fly around are alarming and potential stinging threats. But before you reach for that spray can of insecticide, you need to pause because your actions could wipe out a local group of essential pollinators. Pollination is the movement of pollen grains between two flowers or within a single flower for fertilization and fruit (seed) production to occur. While we often think of bees as pollinators, there are over 200,000 species of bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, birds and other animals that act as pollinators for 75-90% of the world's flowering plants. One third of the food we eat has come directly or indirectly from plants pollinated by insects and animals. Without pollination, we wouldn't have any food crops. As far as bees are concerned, most kinds of bees don't sting. While female bees are capable of stinging, they don't unless they are physically threatened. Avoid disturbing any bees, learn to live with them around and, in fact, encourage them into your garden.



Many of our pollinators are threatened and there are a number of things you can do to help.

Tip #1 Attract more pollinators into your yard. Plant a wide diversity of native plants that flower throughout the spring, summer and fall. You can watch my hour-long lecture on "Pollinator Friendly Landscapes" on your computer by logging on to: <http://www.sprigsandtwigs.net/learn.aspx>

Tip #2 Provide water for butterflies, bees, birds and other wildlife. Refresh the container often so it doesn't become a breeding spot for mosquitoes.

Tip #3 Avoid using pesticides; let the birds do it. Birds eat all kinds of insects and keep the insect population under control.

Our essential pollinators are under attack from a variety of sources, but with your understanding and protection, you can make a big difference.

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

Sprigs & Twigs is now scheduling appointments for 2015 Garden Design, Landscape Maintenance, Tree Care Services, Mowing and Trimming Services, Custom Stonework and Custom Carpentry Services. Go to www.SprigsandTwigs.net for details. Call us anytime to discuss your landscape needs and to meet with our staff.

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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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