



# 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](mailto:info@sprigsandtwigs.net) or

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**Question this Week:** : I have a Flowering Quince in my yard and every year at this time it bursts into beautiful blooms, but not this year. There are a few blooms at the bottom, but for the most part it's bare. What's going on?... Carol

### Linda's Answer:

That's a great question. The cause of your problem started back last fall when we had very warm weather all the way into December. Temperatures were in the 70s many of the days and several different types of plants (like Flowering Quince, Weeping Cherry, some azaleas and some rhododendrons) were encouraged to bud and get ready to bloom. Some actually did. So by the middle of last December the plant in your picture would have been full of buds and all ready to pop with flowers. Soon afterwards, as a result of a very hard frost, all the flower buds that were on the shrub were killed. Since the plant had expended all of its energy in December to make the flowers, it would not be able to bloom again in the spring. In your picture, I see a few blooms down at the base of the plant and the rest of the plant is bare. The reason is because the flowers along the base of the shrub were more protected from the frost by the branches above and were kept from fully freezing. Your Flowering Quince will be full of flowers next spring as long as we have a cool November and December so as not to encourage fall flowering. It would be ok to prune your Quince now if it needs it.



Flowering Quince with not so many flowers!

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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