



ask the landscape professional

Celebrating 20 Years!
Linda K. Lillie of Sprigs & Twigs

Welcome to my weekly series!

Email or mail your questions to: info@sprigsandtwigs.net or
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Thank you Readers for Voting Sprigs & Twigs
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Question this Week: For the past two summers my hydrangea bush has not flowered. Last summer I had only 2 flowers. I have noticed that some other neighbors are having the same issue. Is there a problem going on in this area (Niantic) that is causing this? If not is there something I can do to get them to bloom again? ...Karen

Linda's Answer:

Hi Karen,

This past winter we had 70 degree weather in February. When that happened, the flower buds began to swell (grow) on the hydrangeas. Then the weather turned very cold which then killed all the flower buds. The same thing happened in the winter of 2015 when we had a cold that killed the flower buds on all the hydrangeas. As a side note, there were no peaches in Connecticut this year for the same reason and in some northern areas of CT there were no apples.

This year, when all the leaves fall off the hydrangea, put three or four tall stakes around your hydrangea and wrap several layers of burlap around the outside of the stakes. Fill the enclosed area with dried leaves to insulate the shrub in winter. Do not wrap before the leaves fall off because the leaves are still photosynthesizing (making food for the roots for next year). Remove the burlap and leaves around the middle of April or once you start seeing the new leaves emerge from the stems, whichever comes first. This will help your hydrangeas get through the winter months and bloom again next year. Good Luck.



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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