



# ask the landscape professional

**Celebrating 21 Years!**  
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 Linda Lillie, Sprigs & Twigs Inc, PO Box 245, Gales Ferry, CT 06335



Thank you Readers for Voting Sprigs & Twigs Best Landscape Company and Best Tree Service Every Year!

Give us a call if we can be of service!

### Question this Week: Hello Linda!

could you please tell me what may have happened to my Japanese Maple Tree? One side is completely dead. Thanks, Sandra

### Linda's Answer:

Hi Sandra,

It looks like there was too much mulch put around the base of the tree. From your picture, I can see the rotted area at the base of the trunk where the bark is pulling away. When there is too much mulch piled around the base of the trunk, the base of the tree begins to rot because it never gets a chance to dry out. Once the protective bark layer is destroyed, all kinds of diseases and fungus can get into the tree. Having too much mulch also suffocates the tree. Trees breathe through their roots as well as their leaves.



My guess is your tree died of Verticillium Wilt. It's a fungus that kills Japanese Maples. Your tree will not re-sprout. Verticillium Wilt can be confirmed by sending samples of your tree to the New Haven Agricultural Station.

Mulch should only be 1-2" deep around the tree and the root flare should always be visible. The root flare is the base of the trunk that spreads out wider than the trunk itself. It's the top part of the roots of the tree.

Linda K. Lillie has been President of Sprigs & Twigs, Inc. for the last 21 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..

**Sprigs & Twigs is scheduling appointments for 2017 Garden Design, Landscape Maintenance, Tree Care Services, Custom Stonework, Custom Carpentry Services and Floral & Décor.** Visit our web site for details. Call us anytime to discuss your landscape needs and to meet with our staff.



The Landscape Professionals

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