



ask

Celebrating 21 Years! 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



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!

I have a beautiful holly bush that has gotten away from me and grown to be ungainly and way too large. How can I prune it down to a more reasonable size and shape without putting it into shock or killing it? - Margie

Linda's Answer:

Hi Margie,

You can safely prune the holly by 1/3 without shocking it, both 1/3 of the height and 1/3 of the width. Use sharp hand pruners and loppers. Do not prune with hedge trimmers! Using hedge trimmers creates a plant that is very thick and tangled...a perfect place for insects and disease. This is important: Make sure you prune out any crossing branches (which there will be many). This will help make the holly look better and allow air circulation within the shrub. All the branches should be coming out straight from the main stem out to the branch tips. Remove any thin, hanging branches. Raise the bottom branches up off the ground by 6-8" to allow for air circulation within the plant. Do not be afraid to prune, this plant will grow back very well. By the time you are finished, it should not look like the holly you started out with. You should be able to see through it. If you can't see through it, prune some more. The best time to do this type of pruning is between May and August so new growth will fill in the plant. Once you do the above pruning, it should be easy to do touch up pruning at least once/year. Good Luck.



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.



New Floral & Décor Division

Sprigs & Twigs

The Landscape Professionals

Sprigs & Twigs is a highly regarded, professional, full service, national award winning company. We are completely organic. Visit our websites or call us anytime.

CT HIC #577341

860-235-0752

www.SprigsandTwigs.net

www.SprigsandTwigsFloral.com