



Celebrating 21 Years!

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

Dear Linda - When do you cut back a hydrangea and how far do you cut it back. Thank you. Fran

Linda's Answer:

Dear Fran,

Actually, although there are many varieties of hydrangeas, most do not need to be cut back at all. If yours has some long stems sticking out from the shrub, you can cut them to the shape of the overall shrub after the plant blooms. If you have a hydrangea that has grown to the point that it is blocking a window, growing into a walkway or just too big for its space, you can cut the shrub back by 1/3. You will want



to remove all the dead, woody stems by just breaking them off at the base of the plant. This is important to do to allow air flow through the plant. While you can cut the hydrangea back by 1/3 at any time, if you do it before the plant blooms, you will be cutting off some of this year's flowers. I generally like to wait until after the blooms have past. If your hydrangea needs even more reduction in size, you can cut it back by no more than 1/3 each year until you get it where you want it. Good luck.

Linda K. Lillie has been President of Sprigs & Twigs, Inc. for the last 22 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 Garden Design, Landscape Maintenance, Tree Care Services, Custom Stonework and Custom Carpentry Services.

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