



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:  
info@sprigsandtwigs.net or  
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**QUESTION THIS WEEK:**

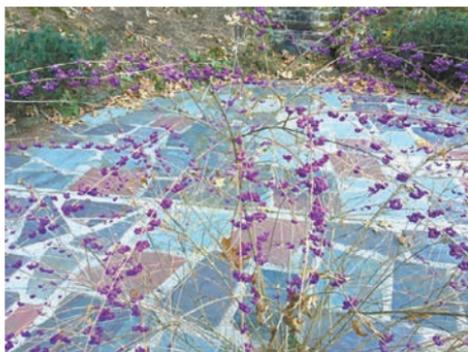
**Hello Linda,**

**My daughter-in-law has this beautiful flowering bush in the middle of her slate patio. The flowers are very small and a vibrant color of purple. It is quite stunning when in full bloom. Can you identify it for us? Many thanks, Kathy**

**Linda's Answer:**

Hi Kathy,

The name of the shrub in your picture is **Callicarpa dichotoma** or **Beautyberry** which is native to Asia. There are several different cultivars of Beautyberry such as 'Early Amethyst', 'Issai', 'Purple Pearls', 'Pearl Glam', etc. Beautyberry grows several feet tall and has small flowers in the spring and show stopping purple berries in the fall (as you can see from the picture you sent). Beautyberry is easy to grow and best if you prune it back to 6" or so in the very early spring. This hard pruning will promote strong flower growth because it flowers on new wood and will keep the shrub relatively compact. Beautyberry grows in well-drained soil in a wide range of sunlight conditions from full sun to part shade, although if it's too shady you'll see lots of leggy growth. The fruits begin to ripen in September and will last until October when the birds will have feasted on all of them! You'll have best luck if you plant several varieties in a group to promote cross-pollination and fruit set. It's a great shrub. Enjoy it!



*Callicarpa dichotoma*

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.

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