



Celebrating 22 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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Give us a call if we can be of service!

QUESTION THIS WEEK:

Dear Linda - The ground cover in front of our condo in Mystic is dying. Please take a look at the attached pictures. Perhaps you can give me some idea as to what is happening and what should be done. Thank you for your assistance. -George

Linda's Answer:

Hi George,

There are three possibilities.

#1 Winter damage from the cold weather we experienced this past winter. Cut off all brown stems, fertilize with Hollytone and it should regrow.

#2 Root damage or chewing of stems closest to soil by voles. The bark on the stems would have chew marks or large areas of bark that have been removed. Cut off all brown stems, fertilize with Hollytone and it should re-sprout.



Ground Cover

#3 A fungal disease called Phomopsis, which Juniper often get. It would be best to send a sample of the Juniper to The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven to get an accurate diagnosis of what is going on. If you go online, they have an information page as to how to package a sample. They would be able to tell you how to treat it. Pruning off the dead would help it to look better but if it is Phomopsis the plant will continue to deteriorate. If the plant is removed, DO NOT plant any other kind of Juniper in this area. The fungus in the soil will eventually infect the new Juniper as well.

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.

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