



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:
info@sprigsandtwigs.net or
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QUESTION THIS WEEK:

I have had this Baptisia /False Indigo plant for over 15 years and has been amazing in the spring, including this past spring. Within the past month some of the branches have turned brown and died. First I thought they were broken by deer jumping over my fence to devour my garden. Today I was cutting things back and saw the real damage. What is it and will I lose the plant? My neighbors have the dreaded tent capillary, could that be doing it? Thank you. ...Nancy

Linda's Answer:

Dear Nancy,

There's definitely something chewing and eating your Baptisia. I do not believe it is the Fall Webworm Caterpillar (not tent caterpillar) eating your plants. The Fall Webworm Caterpillars prefer only the leaves of trees and do not kill the trees that their nests are in. It looks to me like some kind of larvae damage in the seed pod.

I would suggest that you cut back your Baptisia and put the stems, seed pods and all leaves in plastic garbage bags and dispose of off your property. I would also dig around the plant and see if there are any beetles or other types of caterpillars, etc. in the soil and remove them.

The leaves show the Black Spot fungus which is from high humidity and/or overhead watering of the leaves. This plant prefers a dry soil environment, so don't over-water it. To deter Black Spot, make sure the plant is in full sun (6-8 hrs. of sun/day). In addition, if the plant gets very thick, cut some of the stems to the ground to allow air flow and sunlight to penetrate the inside of the plant. 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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