



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
Linda Lillie, Sprigs & Twigs Inc,
PO Box 245, Gales Ferry, CT 06335



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QUESTION THIS WEEK:

I have this mushroom or fungus-type growth that looks like coral growing in the mulch under my hollies and rhododendrons. Is it harmful to my plants? If so, is there any way to eradicate it short of digging out all the mulch?...Denise

Linda's Answer:

Hi Denise,

That is a wonderful photo of Crown-tipped Coral Fungus (*Artomyces pyxidatus* or *Clavicornora pyxidata*). This is a very common and widespread coral fungus in eastern North America. The flesh of the Crown-tipped Coral Fungus is tough and pliable; not brittle. It is saprobic, which means



it obtains nutrients from rotting wood. It grows alone or in groups on dead, well-rotted wood of hardwoods, especially aspen, willow, maple, tulip tree and cottonwood during spring, summer and fall. It is not at all harmful to your plants. There must be a buried stump or root that the fungus is growing on. If you don't like the way it looks in your garden bed, all you need to do is to use a rake to clear it away. Thank you for your question and great picture.

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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