



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:

Dear Linda, Attached is a photo of the Kousa Dogwood tree in our yard that was planted about 5 years ago. You will see that the leaves all have brown tips and are curled around the edges. It gave us the appearance of needing water so we made sure it had plenty this summer, but it didn't seem to make a difference. The tree has had very sparse flowering every spring. Other plantings in the area seem to be doing fine. Can you tell me what could be possibly wrong with our tree as we would hate to have it get worse and possibly lose it? Thank you...John

Linda's Answer:

Dear John,

Actually, you need not worry - the health and vigor of the leaves look very good, as does the overall tree. Your dogwood's growth pattern with the drooping leaves with curled edges is normal. Some Kousa's droop and curl more than others, it depends on the cultivar.



Kousa Dogwood Tree

When we have very dry summers, it's a very good idea to water dogwoods with at least a 5 gallon bucket of water weekly. Make sure there is 1-3" mulch over the roots to keep the soil cool, moist and the weeds out. Remember -do not put the mulch next to the trunk of the tree.

Young Kousa and Flowering Dogwoods take a while to get established. Each spring the tree should have more flowers than the previous year. Fertilize with an organic, slow release fertilizer such as Flowertone by Epsoma in the early spring which will help the tree to produce flowers. Compost and/or leaf litter compost will also help to give nutrients to the tree.

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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