



# 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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### QUESTION THIS WEEK:

*Hi Linda, Would you be kind enough to let me know if I should let the rose hips develop on my roses or should they be cut off? Someone told me that letting the hips develop inhibits the production of flowers in the spring. I always enjoy your very informative articles. Thank you so much. ...Nan*

### Linda's Answer:

Hi Nan,

As you know, rose hips are the fruit of the rose plant that contain the seeds. I recommend that you leave the rose hips on the plants for the winter. They are pretty focal points to look at all winter long and are a wonderful source of food for the birds during the cold weather when it's hard for them to find food. In the spring, cut off what's left of the rose hips when you are doing your pruning and thinning (before the roses bloom). During the growing season, cut off the rose hips after blooming so the plant puts its energy into making flowers and not fruit. After September 1, I usually do not cut off the spent flowers of roses so that the hips will grow heading into winter. Thank you for your question.



*Linda K. Lillie has been President of Sprigs & Twigs, Inc. for the last 23 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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