



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:

Hi Linda, I have heard that Sprigs & Twigs has an Organic Lawn Care Program and I'd like to know more about it. My husband puts down bags of stuff on our lawn and I'm worried he's doing something harmful. Thank you ...Kathy

Linda's Answer:

Hello Kathy- you ask an extremely important question. **This is Part 3 of my answer to your question.**

Sprigs & Twigs offers the only legitimate, 100% Organic Lawn Care Program in the area; we would be happy to visit with you and explain it in more detail. While it is fashionable for other companies to claim they do "organic" lawn care, they almost always include synthetic chemicals.

Let's take a closer look at synthetic chemical lawn care programs (continued from last week):

#5 Lawn care product manufacturers have said for years that it's safe for children and pets to go on lawns immediately or "after the product dries" but don't believe it. Many lawn care chemicals are not safe even when they dry. They can remain active for months and release vapors when walked on or when the grass is cut. Airborne dust from these products can blow around the neighborhood from excess fertilization (Think about what you smell when you are in the garden center fertilizer department - it's the airborne product).

#6 "Weed and Feed" products are a combination of herbicides and fertilizers which are intended to kill both weeds and fertilize grass in one "easy" application. There are many on the market, but they all contain toxins that are poisonous to a wide range of living things, including you. Children and pets that play or crawl on lawns treated with weed and feed products can easily absorb the toxins through their skin or

by licking their fingers (or paws). Both pets and people track them into the house. In Canada, all combination weed and feed products have been banned.

#7 "Weed and Feed" products apply herbicides and toxins over the entire lawn, including where it is not needed. The combination of fertilizer and herbicides in one bag puts two incompatible products together. Fertilizer is intended for the entire lawn and herbicides are intended to kill weeds that may only be on 5 percent of the lawn, but get spread on the entire lawn anyway, spreading completely unnecessary toxic chemicals.

The major difference between a natural, organic lawn care program and a synthetic, chemical lawn care program is the attention paid to the health of the soil. Chemical programs work directly on the grass plants by overdosing them with frequent, high levels of nitrogen, basically "hooking them on drugs" and sterilizing the soil. Organic lawn care is a science-based approach that focuses on building a healthy eco-system in the soil that promotes robust growth of grass plants.

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK...

Sprigs & Twigs is especially proud that eight members of our staff are Accredited Organic Land Care professionals (AOLCPs) who have passed the rigorous NOFA training program. This is the largest staff of NOFA accredited, trained organic professionals in the country.

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.

Sprigs & Twigs is scheduling appointments for Garden Design, Landscape Maintenance, Tree Care Services, Custom Stonework and Custom Carpentry Services.

Visit our web site for details. Call us anytime to discuss your landscape needs and to meet with our staff.



Sprigs & Twigs



The Landscape Professionals

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