

ASK THE LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONAL

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



Question this Week:

Dear Linda - My backyard is mostly moss due to the shade from my very wooded property. Some of the moss has strong roots, but a lot of it is barely rooted. Large patches become loose and get flipped over. Is there something I can do to improve the moss growth? Can I transplant some of the good moss to the bad areas? Thanks for this great service!!!! Tim in Clinton CT



Linda's Answer:

Hi Tim,

You are lucky to have lots of moss in your yard. The large patches of moss that get flipped over is the normal way that particular moss grows... very thin sheets along the surface of the soil. It can live in areas that are dryer than the strong rooted mosses. So if you transplant some of the deeper rooted mosses, make sure the soil is a little moister so it will survive.

You can also feed the moss twice a year in the Spring and the Fall with a mixture of Buttermilk and water mixed in a ratio of 1 part Buttermilk to 8 parts water (i.e., (1) quart of Buttermilk and (2) gallons of water). The mixture can be applied using a backpack sprayer, a pump sprayer or equivalent. Buttermilk provides nutrients and a little bit of acidity to help the moss thrive.

There's a very good book that I like: "Moss Gardening: Including Lichens, Liverworts and Other Miniatures" by George Schenk (1997) that can be found on-line and would be helpful to you. Good Luck cultivating your moss!