

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,
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Question this Week:

Linda- the *pieris japonica* on this pathway has become over exuberant. I am thinking about cutting the shrubs all the way back. I think they will grow back, but is that a good idea or should I just prune back part of the bushes? Thanks for your help, Kris



Linda's Answer:

Hi Kris,

The perfect time of the year to cut them all the way back to about 2' tall is the period from mid-April through mid-June when the plants are actively pushing out new growth. In fact, this is the only time of the year that 'rejuvenation pruning' should be done. Pruning at this time helps to create a fuller shrub. If you were to perform this drastic pruning in the fall, the shrub would die.

Once you have the bulk of the shrub cut back, make sure the remaining branches are thinned and all are growing away from the center of the shrub.

Loosen the soil around the base of the plant and fertilize with Hollytone to help with new growth. Keep the plant well-watered because after pruning, the soil around the base of the plant will be exposed to more sunlight and will dry out quicker. Good Luck and thank you for your question.