

# 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:

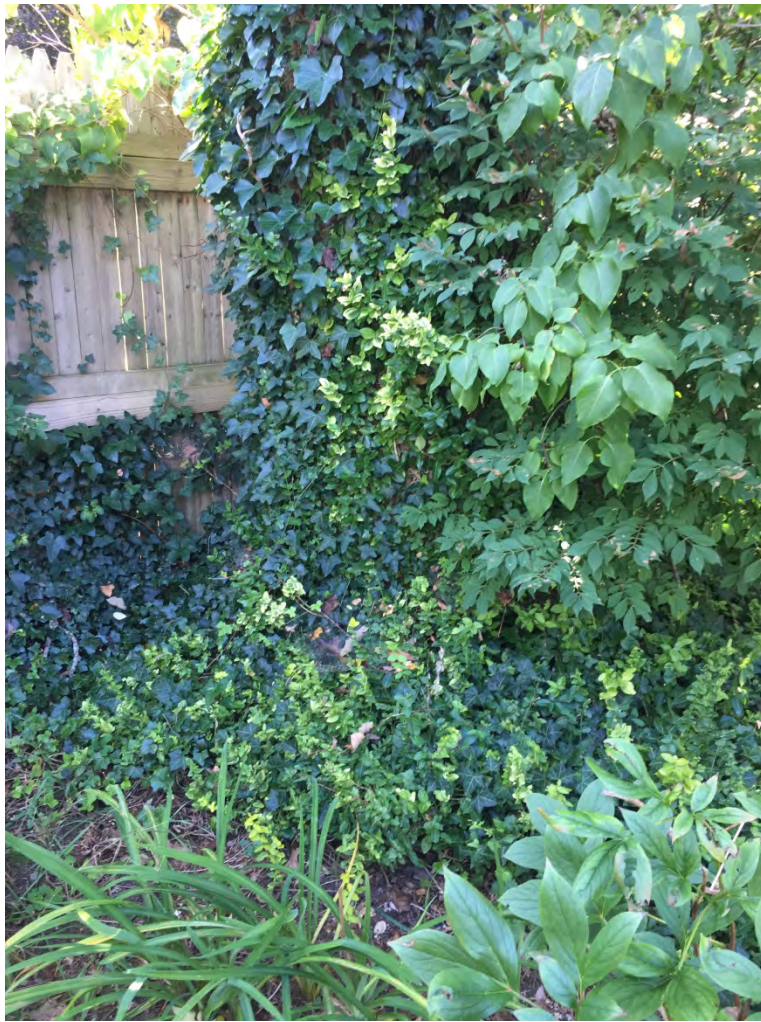
[info@sprigsandtwigs.net](mailto:info@sprigsandtwigs.net) or Linda Lillie,  
Sprigs & Twigs Inc, PO Box 245, Gales  
Ferry, CT 06335



### Question of the Week:

Hi Linda – I have two questions:

- 1) When ivy “buries” a tree and the tree’s root flare, does it rot the bark as a mulch volcano does? Should I clear the tree base?
  - 2) I removed a wheelbarrow full of pachysandra roots from a 3’ circle around the Rhododendron that was planted 3 years ago, I found an impenetrable plastic cylinder around the shrub. How should I water the Rhododendron properly?
- Thank you... Mary



**Ivy covered tree and root flare**





### Linda's Answer:

Hi Mary,

Thank you for your two questions.

#1) Yes, Ivy growing around the base of the tree does rot the base of the tree and you should remove it.

#2) The plastic circle around the rhododendron was put there to deter the pachysandra from encroaching into the rhododendron's growing space. It's only about 3" deep into the soil. Try to keep the pachysandra from growing into the center of this circle for a few years. This will help decrease root competition between the rhododendron and the pachysandra roots. In another five years or so the rhododendron roots will be well established and the competition from the pachysandra will not hurt it. Water at the base of the rhododendron directly onto the root area.