



Welcome to my weekly series!
ASK THE LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONAL

Linda K. Lillie of Sprigs & Twigs

SPRIGS & TWIGS HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AN ESSENTIAL BUSINESS AND WE ARE OPEN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CT GOVERNOR NED LAMONT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 7H, DATED MARCH 20, 2020.

Hi Linda, I have a dwarf Alberta Spruce that is a year old and has developed a serious problem. The entire back has turned brown and-dropped its needles. It looks like it's dying. What can I do to save it, if anything?

Thanking you in advance. -Terry



Hi Terry,

The spruce cannot be saved. It looks like mites have done their damage to the tree and/or the tree has not been watered enough.

Trees and shrubs take 3-5 years to get established. Establishment means the tree has enough active roots to supply water and nutrients from below ground to support all of the above ground growth. Newly planted trees and shrubs need to be watered initially, depending on the time of the year, for many weeks to help them get established because they do not have an adequate root system to support the above ground growth. After the initial watering phase, trees and shrubs need to be watered for 3-5 years after planting, mainly in the summer when natural rainfall is scarce, until all the roots grow in to support the tree. If the tree does not get watered properly, it will become stressed and insects are attracted to stressed plants. Mites love dry, Dwarf Alberta Spruce. Dwarf Alberta Spruce need a soil with organic matter that can hold moisture and a part sun/part shade location. Thank you for your question.

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