

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



Question of the Week: *Is it safe to prune my trees now?*

## Winter is the time for Care and Caution

**1 Most trees can be pruned year around but it's best to prune now when trees are dormant (especially apple and pear trees).** There are lots of good reasons to prune now. In the winter the chance of bacterial and fungal diseases or insect damage is much lower and it's easier for a tree to recover from pruning. When a tree's leaves are gone, it is easier for the arborist to see flaws, rubbing branches, overall growth patterns and the tree's structure.

As far as apple and pear trees are concerned, now is the perfect time to prune because the chilling requirements for these trees have been met. This means that the trees have been at a temperature below 45 degrees for at least a month so that they have sufficiently translocated their energy stores down into the roots; basically these trees need to be fully dormant for pruning. Call us - we have a fully trained staff, expert fruit tree pruners and licensed arborist.

**2 Only use a CT Licensed Arborist to prune-it's Connecticut State law. Ask to see the license.** There is a great deal of damage being done to trees by so-called professionals who claim to be knowledgeable but aren't. Years of experience do not add up to correct knowledge and the rigorous training that an arborist must undergo. Trees damaged by incorrect pruning may grow back, but they may never recover structurally, and they may die many years before their time. Call us - we have a fully trained staff and licensed arborist.

# Sprigs & Twigs

Linda K. Lillie is the President of Sprigs & Twigs, Inc, the premiere landscape tree care & lawn care company in SE Connecticut for the last 17 years. She is a 1995 graduate of Connecticut College in Botany, a Connecticut Master Gardener and a national award winning landscape designer for her design and installation work.

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