

# 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.



**Question of the Week:** *Is there much I need to worry about during the winter as far as my garden is concerned?*

## Winter is the time for Care and Caution

**1** Winter can be trouble for your shrubs and lawn. Avoid salt (sodium chloride) to de-ice your walkways and driveway. Salt can harm lawns, plants and shrubs. Consider using coarse sand or non-sodium de-icing agents such as calcium chloride or calcium magnesium acetate (CMA), a salt-free melting agent made from limestone and acetic acid.

\* After a snow storm, brush snow from evergreens and shrubs as soon as you can. Use a broom in an upward, sweeping motion. Serious damage can be caused by heavy snow or ice accumulating on the branches. In really heavy snow accumulations, there can be significant loads on roofs of buildings and garages and you may need professional help. Sprigs & Twigs has a bucket truck and crews that can get snow off your roof, so give us a call. If shrubs have broken limbs from a storm or accumulated storm damage, call us and we can take care of them.

\* Avoid heavy traffic on the dormant lawn. Dry grass can be easily broken and the crown of the plant may be damaged or killed.

**2** Now is the time to review your vegetable garden needs for the year. Analyze last year's harvest. Was your garden too large and too much to handle last year? Perhaps a smaller garden with fewer weeds will be more productive and easier to maintain. A fun activity this time of year is to check out the new garden catalogs. When looking for vegetable varieties to try, look for new ones with improved insect and/or disease resistance. Also drought-tolerant types are a big plus.

# Sprigs & Twigs

Linda K. Lillie is the President of Sprigs & Twigs, Inc, the premiere landscape 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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