

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 or Linda Lillie, Sprigs & Twigs Inc, PO Box 245, Gales Ferry, CT 06335**



Question of the Week: *I am leaving for a winter vacation; will the birds suffer when the feeders get empty?*

THE SHORT ANSWER IS YES!

Wild birds are pretty resourceful and get most of their food from their habitat. But birds that have become dependent on supplemental feeding will suffer and may not survive if it suddenly disappears when weather conditions get severe. Ice storms are especially bad for birds because branches that are the normal source for larvae and seeds get covered. The best thing to do if you are traveling is to top off your feeders and have a neighbor stop by several times a week to replenish them. You could also put out larger feeders. When it comes to bird seed, put out a seed mix that has a good variety- black oil sunflower seed, hulled peanuts, niger seed and white millet seed. Remember to offer fatty food as well because birds burn more calories in the winter to stay warm. Suet is especially high in calories and peanut butter works well too.

For the last few weeks I have been writing about pruning fruit trees. Pruned trees are important for the birds as well. Open up the branching in your trees, because birds go to open branching uncluttered with side branches. It's especially wonderful to prune trees near your windows to encourage perching so you can get a good view. Another important thing to remember is that where a bird perches is proportional to the size of its feet, so if you want big birds, prune big branches. If you would like us to stop by and do some pruning or any other tree work, give us a call.

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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