

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: *As I look at my garden with all of the snow, it looks barren and dreary. What can I do to add winter interest?*

As the snow melts, walk through your garden and take stock of what's working and what isn't. For example, do you have some interesting plants that already attract your attention? Are there groupings of plants that have intriguing silhouettes and texture?

There are many plants available that look outstanding in the winter, even after their leaves have dropped to the ground. Choosing plants with the characteristics below with help add winter interest to your garden.

Fruit and Seed Plants: display beautiful seedpods and colorful fruits and berries
(Viburnum, Winterberry Holly)

Stem and Bark Plants: provide color and texture (peeling bark)
(Red Twig Dogwood, Stewartia, Birch)

Flowering Plants: have colorful blooms despite the cold
(Witch-hazel, Lenten Rose)

Evergreens: provide basic bones (structure) and texture to the garden
(False Cypress, Cryptomeria)

Ornamental Grasses: provide structure, texture and drama to the garden.
(Switch Grass, Sedges)

Garden Ornaments and Landscape Boulders: help to provide focal points within the garden

Finally, if you wait until spring to cut back your garden perennials, the textures of the remaining plants will be highlighted when it snows and, depending on your plants, provide food, shelter and nesting materials for birds and animals.

I would be pleased to consult with you on an hourly fee basis or perform an entire landscape design and installation for you. After discussions with you and observation of your current garden, we can achieve spectacular results.

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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