

# 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:** *I have an Ornamental Pear Tree in my yard and the storm destroyed it. Should I replace it with the same type of tree?*

The short answer is no. In my opinion, Ornamental Pear Trees should never be planted. If you already have them, take them out when you can. Ornamental Pear Trees are all over the place, in yards, along road ways, etc. They are mainly fast growers and have pretty off-white flowers, but that's where the trouble starts. The trees have even been nicknamed "Dead Squirrel Trees" because of the stench from the white flowers. Not only that, the flowers only last a couple weeks and then you are left with 50 weeks of a boring tree that doesn't even have an interesting bark. They also tend to send up suckers that need to be cut back periodically. The big issue I have with Ornamental Pear trees is that they have a weak limb structure. As the tree grows and the limbs are burdened with snow and high winds, entire branches break off back to the main trunk as you can see in the picture. Not only does that look terrible, the fate of the tree is doomed and many times it will need to be replaced in less than 20 years. Far better choices than Ornamental Pears are: 1) Japanese Stewartia 2) disease resistant Crab Apples 3) Japanese Snowbell 4) Fringe Tree or 5) Sourwood.



***We are happy to help with tree selection, removal or planting, 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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