



# 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 just signed a contract for chemical lawn care from a well-known national company, but I am having second thoughts after looking at the organic lawn care option on your web site. What's the story?*

## Get your lawn off of drugs - now!

In this day and age, there is absolutely no reason why anyone should use chemical lawn care products. Why would you spread chemical fertilizers, harmful pesticides (to kill insects) and herbicides (to kill weeds) around your house that are so toxic that you, your family or pets shouldn't walk on your lawn. If you hired a chemical lawn care company, they are required by law to post warning signs on treated areas. Even when these products dry, many chemicals remain active from a month to over a year, during which time they can release toxic vapors. Breathing these vapors, even from neighbors lawns or while playing on or mowing contaminated grass, can cause illness. The bulk of these mixtures leech into our surrounding lakes, rivers and Long Island Sound and poison our water supply. Chemical programs feed the grass plants directly with a high salt, quick release combination of a high nitrogen fertilizer, herbicide and pesticide mix (i.e., a "Quick Fix"), that almost immediately kills the microorganism population within the soil. After a number of years, the lawn becomes stressed and cannot sustain itself without the 'Fix' of Nitrogen. In time, the lawn starts to thin, becomes clumpy and disease and insects move in and attack the damaged lawn.



There is a 100% safe, environmentally-friendly alternative that produces superior results- Sprigs & Twigs Organic Lawn Care Program. The pictures below are several randomly selected properties after one season on our Organic Program. Sprigs & Twigs Organic Lawn Care Program adapts the principles and methods of organic farming to the care of lawns. We focus on building healthy soil, feeding with a slow-release fertilizer, creating a soil environment filled with organic matter and a diversity of living micro-organisms such as bacteria, fungi, mycorrhizae and other microbes. As these micro-organisms consume the organic matter within the soil they release nutrients that feed the grass plants. This action improves soil structure creating a soil environment with improved water, air and nutrient holding capabilities that grow happy, healthy grass plants. Sprigs & Twigs Organic Lawn Care Program eliminates the unacceptable risk to children, pets and the environment from chemical pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers. You can walk on the grass immediately. Sprigs & Twigs has seven (7) NOFA (National Organic Farmers Association) accredited individuals who have passed a rigorous qualification program.

The Sprigs & Twigs Organic Lawn Care program is customized for your lawn. We do an annual soil test to provide the necessary information to establish an appropriate turf management program. We have a basic eight step program that uses several different kinds of organic fertilizers (all of which are perfectly safe) that we can modify based on soil test results and analysis by our NOFA accredited professionals. We may recommend additional: organic fertilization, organic soil chemistry adjustments, aeration, de-thatching and over-seeding.

If you are confused what your lawn care provider is proposing for your lawn, get a copy of the specifics, call us and we'll advise you. I have seen "Organic" and "Partially-Organic" plans offered that are not organic at all – BUYER BEWARE!



*Call us for more information or an appt. to review your lawn.*

# 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.

## 860-235-0752

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