

Welcome to my weekly series!

ask the landscape professional

Linda K. Lillie of Sprigs & Twigs



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: Now that my weeds are growing again, can I safely use a product like Roundup®?

ABSOLUTELY NOT, you should stay completely away from Roundup®; there are much safer alternatives. Every time you touch Roundup®, you put yourself, your kids, pets, neighbors and the environment at risk. Roundup® is exceptionally toxic and what is called a broad spectrum herbicide, meaning that it will indiscriminately kill just about any plant it touches (not just weeds). The active ingredient in Roundup® is a chemical compound called glyphosate. Glyphosate has been linked to birth defects, reproductive disorders, miscarriages and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a type of cancer. Roundup® has also been found to be lethal to aquatic life. In addition to the active ingredients, Roundup® also contains "inactive" ingredients and research suggests that one of these, polyethoxylated tallowamine, (POEA), is not safe for humans or other animals and has caused higher instances of miscarriages. Laboratory research on cows, mice and rats has shown detrimental effects including kidney and liver damage. Reports abound of pets that abruptly died after exposure to Roundup® treated properties. The EPA is expected to conduct a review of Roundup® by 2015 to determine if the herbicide should be taken completely off the market. Roundup® is now off the shelves in much of Canada, it is illegal to sell or apply it for cosmetic lawn care in Ontario and in Boulder, Colorado. It has been banned in parts of Argentina and in areas of the United States such as Cape Cod; citizens are strongly objecting to utility company use of Round-up type herbicides.



Rather than use Roundup®, there are several completely safe alternatives for weed killers that I recommend (they are all broad-spectrum, so you must be careful where you spray). Vinegar, citric acid or clove oil are safe "natural" herbicides that kill weeds. However, the most effective and fastest post-emergence herbicide that quickly and effectively kills weeds, grasses and broadleaves without causing harm to the environment is a product called Avenger® Weed Killer. Sprigs & Twigs is a completely organic company and we have a number of years' experience using Avenger® Weed Killer in our daily work. Avenger® Weed Killer has been deemed organic by USDA, under its National Organic Program. It is completely benign to the environment with no toxicity to wildlife, humans or groundwater.

Avenger® Weed Killer smells like oranges, it's all natural, safe and it kills weeds fast. The active ingredient in Avenger® Weed Killer is derived from citrus oil which naturally strips away the waxy plant cuticle, causing it to dehydrate and die. Sprigs & Twigs (as well as Universities and other labs) have tested Avenger® Weed Killer and Roundup® side-by-side and Avenger® Weed Killer is better and faster than Roundup®. We like it so much that Sprigs & Twigs is now a retailer for the SE Connecticut area. If you would like to try it, a 24 oz. ready-to-use spray bottle costs \$11.95 + tax and can be purchased at our Gales Ferry location, 8 Hurlbutt Road. Other sizes, including a concentrated formula, are also available. No matter what alternative to Roundup® you use, Roundup® has no place in our stores, on our shelves, our yards or in our environment.



Sprigs & Twigs

100% Organic Shredded Brown Mulch!
Bulk Deliveries of 10 yards or more!
\$35/yard

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