

**Welcome to
my weekly
series!**



Linda K. Lillie of Sprigs & Twigs

ask the landscape professional

SEND ME YOUR QUESTIONS ... 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**

Linda's Question of this Week:

Every year I worry about the effect that snow and freezing conditions will have on my garden plants. Is there anything I need to do or can do?

Answer:

Actually, for the most part, snow is good for your garden plants, but there are still a few things you should do. Most evergreens and shrubs have adapted to normal snow loads, but after very wet or heavy storms, they can use your help. Brush snow from evergreens and shrubs as soon as you can. Use a broom in an upward, sweeping motion. Serious damage can be caused by heavy snow or ice accumulating on the branches. Also be careful of where you direct the snow from your snow blower. Remember that heavy snow accumulations can put significant loads on roofs of buildings and garages.



You should avoid salt (sodium chloride) to de-ice your walkways and driveway. Salt will harm lawns, plants and shrubs. Consider using coarse sand or non-sodium de-icing agents such as calcium chloride or calcium magnesium acetate (CMA), a salt-free melting agent made from limestone and acetic acid.

Even though they look dead in the winter, most perennials are not, they are just dormant. A blanket of snow actually helps perennials survive the winter. Even though the wind above a snow layer may be howling at temperatures well below freezing, the temperature at the soil surface can be at or just above freezing. At those temperatures, soil microbial activity can go on which helps the plants get growing when the temperature goes back up. Snow also provides protection for small mammals and birds that can tunnel into the snow for protection. If there is no snow cover, avoid heavy traffic on your dormant lawn. The dry grass can be easily broken and the crown of the grass plant may be damaged or killed.

If you need professional help this winter, Sprigs & Twigs has a bucket truck and crews that can get snow off your roof and take care of storm damage to your trees.

Sprigs & Twigs is a full service national award winning landscape design and maintenance, tree care & lawn care company. We are completely organic. Visit our website or call us for more information.

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for Tree Care
Services**

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 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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