

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:**

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Question of the Week: *I see that you are the only fully organic lawn care & landscape company in SE Connecticut. Exactly what is a fully organic lawn care company?*

That's a great question. At Sprigs & Twigs, everything we do follows the strict organic procedures and principles of NOFA, the Northeast Organic Farmers Association. Seven of our employees are fully NOFA accredited, which means they have demonstrated their organic proficiency through a written exam and annual reaccreditation. Here are some of those organic principles from www.organiclandcare.net

- 1. Keep pesticides and herbicides off your lawn and gardens** Using only non-toxic materials on your property reduces the health risk to yourself, your family, your neighbors and your local environment. Sprigs & Twigs never uses toxic materials, there are safe organic alternatives available today.
- 2. Use non-synthetic fertilizers from natural sources** Synthetic fertilizers are made in a chemical process that uses fossil fuel and contributes to global warming. Use of synthetic nitrogen fertilizers has a serious negative impact on the world's ecosystems. All fertilizers Sprigs & Twigs uses are non-synthetic and organic.
- 3. Remove invasive plants** Invasive plants grow quickly and spread easily and often reduce the biodiversity of whole ecosystems. Learn about invasive plants, how to avoid spreading them, and how to remove them from your own property. I will be writing about CT invasives in the future.
- 4. Home gardening with native plants** Sprigs & Twigs emphasizes the use of native plants in all of our landscape designs. Native plants are site adapted and usually require little to no watering, fertilizing or pesticides. Stunning gardens can be made from entirely native plants.
- 5. Make and use compost** Compost has many advantages as a soil amendment. Incorporating compost improves turf, shrub and shade tree performance in marginal or poor soils. Good quality compost improves soil structure, reduces runoff and compaction, enhances biodiversity and many other things. The compost Sprigs & Twigs uses is the best money can buy and comes from an organic compost farm and is composed of dozens of organic ingredients.
- 6. Test your soil** If you want your property to look its best, to save money, and to protect the environment even more, do an easy soil test before you apply anything at all. Sprigs & Twigs can perform the soil test for you and give you recommendations.
- 7. If you have a lawn...** Mow high, 3"-4"; leave grass clippings on lawn; water infrequently, if at all; encourage a bit of white clover; and fertilize with compost and over-seed bare spots in fall and early spring.

Consumers must educate themselves on organics. Just because a retailer sells a product, doesn't mean it is safe; just because the garden center sells a plant, doesn't mean that it's not invasive; just because a landscape company claims that "organic programs are available" doesn't mean that they are truly organic. Read labels and call us with questions. Buyer Beware!

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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