

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 or Linda Lillie, Sprigs & Twigs Inc, PO Box 245, Gales Ferry, CT 06335**



Question of the Week: *I liked your article last week on apple and pear trees, but what about peaches?*

DON'T TOUCH PEACH TREES YET!

1 Peaches are much different than apple and pear trees because they actually have too much vigor which can cause the tree to put out lots of vegetative growth and minimal fruit. To avoid this, peaches must be pruned in the early spring as the sap starts to flow. Spring pruning will also help keep the trees to a manageable size so they don't become an overwhelming mess. So apple and pear trees should be pruned now and peaches in a few months.

Pruning is a very important process in maintaining any tree's health. When dead, diseased and rubbing branches are removed, the tree is protected from injuries that would allow disease to enter the tree. With fruit trees it is even more important because without maintenance they can become large, entangled, gnarly messes which block both light and air. Light penetration into the fruit tree is essential for bud break, meaning blossoms that later turn into fruit and vegetative buds that create new growth. Light also helps in fruit ripening. Air circulation helps keep the tree healthy by reducing the dampness on the interior of the tree and reducing the possibilities of fungal disease problems. When fruit is present, thinning of the fruit is important because too much fruit can cause broken limbs and small fruit

2 Remember - only use a CT Licensed Arborist to prune-it's Connecticut State law. Call us - we have a fully trained staff and licensed arborist.

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