

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:

My hydrangea never bloomed this year. Did I do something wrong?

Linda's Answer:

I have heard that question a lot this year. You may not have done anything to cause the lack of blooms. Either one of two things could have happened.

1) Most types of hydrangeas bloom on "old wood," stems that were in place the year before. So if you pruned your hydrangeas in August or later last year, you probably cut off the forming buds and you will have to wait until next year to see them. It is OK, however, to cut off dead blooms or dead wood at any time without causing a problem.

2) This year, we had cold weather well into spring, which raised havoc with hydrangeas. Late spring freezes for extended periods of time can damage the stems, kill the forming buds and the flowers will not bloom. Fortunately, this doesn't happen every year, and in most years hydrangeas make out just fine. So, be patient, cut out the dead wood and wait for next year and we should be fine as long as the winter weather cooperates! Some people go the trouble of erecting barriers to insulate hydrangeas, but as the plant gets larger, it becomes an increasingly impractical thing to do.



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Linda K. Lillie is the President of Sprigs & Twigs, Inc, the premier landscape tree care & lawn care company in SE Connecticut for the last 18 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.

860-235-0752

www.sprigsandtwigs.net



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