



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](mailto:info@sprigsandtwigs.net) or Linda Lillie, Sprigs & Twigs Inc, PO Box 245, Gales Ferry, CT 06335

### Linda's Question of this Week:

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

### Linda's Answer:

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. If you use Roundup®, you should be completely covered with gloves, a mask and coveralls. 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 off the market. Roundup® has been removed from 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 safe alternatives for weed killers. Vinegar, citric acid or clove oil are safe "natural" herbicides that kill weeds. Sprigs & Twigs has used and sells a product called **Avenger® Weed Killer** for a number of years.



**Avenger®** has been deemed organic by USDA and it is completely benign to the environment. The active ingredient in **Avenger®** 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®** and Roundup® side-by-side and **Avenger®** is better and faster than Roundup®. Contact our office for more information. Roundup® has no place in our stores, on our shelves, our yards or in our environment.

*Sprigs & Twigs is a highly regarded, professional, full service, national award winning Landscape Design, Installation, Maintenance, Tree Care and Lawn Care Company. We are completely organic. Visit our website or call us for more information.*

# Sprigs & Twigs

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.

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