

Tree Loving Care

Summer 2006 • Serving All The South Plains Tree Needs Since 1978 • (806) 785-8733



Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

We know that you love your trees and that you want to keep them healthy. We realize that you are busy and rarely have the time needed to monitor the health of your landscape. We also realize that you might not be well trained in tree biology. One of the difficulties of the urban environment is that we bring a lot of plants from different parts of the world with different water and soil needs and cram them into a half acre or less and water and otherwise manage them all the same way.

Tree Loving Care is introducing our Plant Health Care Program to give you the peace of mind that you have been looking for. It will save many plants because the plants will be inspected by someone trained in plant health issues on a regular basis. I suspect that in many cases, it will also save a lot of water. A few people might save enough on watering to pay for the program. Of course, if they are over watering that much, the bigger factor is how much better their trees will do.

The Plant Health Care Program includes 8 inspection visits to your landscape, soil analysis, monitoring and setting of the sprinkler system and any incidental control or maintenance measures that might be needed.

Examples of incidental control measures are; one branch or area of your Junipers has an outbreak of bagworms and it is the appropriate time to control the insect – the plant health care technician will go over to the truck, get a small sprayer and apply an appropriate control product on the spot; the technician notices a small broken branch on a tree - the technician will cut the branch and dispose of it on the spot. Of course there are limitations to this type of work. The technician will have several landscapes to monitor that day and will be limited by time as well as equipment. For instance, spraying will be limited to one gallon of product. In most cases, that is sufficient to control a pest on one branch. If control required more equipment than the technician has on hand, then the client would be notified about the situation and be given an estimate and schedule to control the problem.

Frequent monitoring of your landscape should ensure that problems are noticed and solved in a timely manner. One of the problems with managing the health of the urban landscape has always been that the professional only gets called when the disease, insect or environmental situation has cause enough problem that it can't help but be noticed.

Tree Loving Care is also proud to announce the association of Ralph Vaughn.



Ralph Vaughn

Ralph will manage the Plant Health Care department so at some point, he will have an opportunity to love your trees.

Ralph grew up in the nursery business in Lubbock and has been loving Lubbock's trees for over 30 years already, so this should be a great situation for all concerned.

Call Tree Loving Care at 785-8733 to set up an appointment with a Plant Health Care specialist to explain the program.

James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX 0117

Tree Of The Quarter

Pinus eldarica, or Afghan Pine is a very drought tolerant and probably the fastest growing of the pines found on the plains. It does have some problem with Pine Tip Moth, but that is primarily a young tree problem as well as a problem where people over water and over fertilize the tree.

Once established, the tree will do fine with our natural rainfall. Only water it if we are in a prolonged drought. The last thing this tree needs is watering every week.

Afghan Pine grows to 70' and makes a great windbreak tree. If you're planting it out in the country, be sure to protect the trunk from rabbits. They will kill these (and many others) by chewing the bark.



Afghan Pine

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TLC Update . . .

The Texas Tree Climbing Championship was May 19 & 20 in Waco. It was a lot of fun for the climbers and a lot of work for the judges and technicians. James Tuttle



Jimmy Majors

judged the Work Climb and the Masters Challenge (the finals) and Jimmy Majors was tree top technician on the work climb. Jimmy was in the tree from 7:30 'til about 4:30 except for a 30 minute lunch break, checking the contestants one last time as they began their run down through the tree, stopping to simulate work at 4 stations throughout the tree.

On June 8 & 9, the Texas Forest Service held a workshop on Oak Wilt for the purpose of certifying arborists in the management of Oak Wilt. The workshop was open to ISA Certified Arborists. James Tuttle attended the workshop and is now one of 70 Certified Oak Wilt Specialists in Texas. Tree Loving Care has been dealing with Oak Wilt for 25 years, as had most of the participants in the workshop.

Give Your Trees TLC

Officially, we are in a drought. Hope you don't think that is news. At TLC's shop, we've had less than 4" of rain since early September, 2005. And they think El Paso is dry. When sand starts to develop cracks, you know it's dry.

That still doesn't mean that you need to water 2 or more times per week. Even though the good stuff isn't falling from the sky, you cannot over come that with frequent watering because the city water and well water are both high in mineral and you create problems. That is a big part of why TLC has introduced our Plant Health Care program. Water thoroughly when you water but not frequently.

Critters and Cruds

Spider mites love hot dry weather and attack a wide variety of hosts so they are high on our list of critters we are watching this summer.

Obscure Scale on oaks should hatch about the end of July through early August and needs to be sprayed then. In about a month, we will begin looking at this insect under magnification on a daily basis.

Oaks can become infected with Oak Wilt any time but often it is the stress of summer heat that hastens exhibition of the symptoms.

Remember, problems are more easily solved if caught early.