

Love Letter from . . .

Tree Loving Care

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

Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

From all of us at Tree Loving Care, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!! It has been great fun getting ready for Christmas. We recently lit and decorated a 35' tall cut tree and lit a Live Oak tree at Kingsgate South



Decorated Tree at Kingsgate



Live Oak Tree at Kingsgate South Shopping Center

Shopping Center. The Live Oak has about 17,000 lights. While you are out liking at Christmas lights, go by to see these 2 trees. I'm sure you will enjoy them.

It has been a great year for Tree Loving Care and we are excited about continuing to grow to better serve you.

This year we introduced two new services. Our Plant Health Care program is actually only a packaging of services that we've done for a long time. This service is a monitoring of your entire landscape, including the sprinkler system to ensure that problems or potential problems are caught early and solved easily. This tends to keep your plants healthy and saves headaches as well as water.

The weed control also isn't completely new to Tree Loving Care. We got out of that end of the business a number of years ago to concentrate on tree care. However, everything that you do around your trees affects them. This certainly includes applying chemicals in the root zone of trees. At Tree Loving Care, our Certified Arborists understand the needs of your trees and the damage that can occur from an inappropriate application. Our applicators regularly attend workshops and seminars to stay up to date on the latest products and techniques to control weeds in your landscape and keep your trees and shrubs healthy. The January/February application of pre-emerge weed control is the most important. Call 785-8733 or visit www.treelovingcare.com to set up an appointment with one of our Certified Arborists to give you an estimate for controlling weeds in your yard.

James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX 0117

Happy Holidays from Tree Loving Care!!!

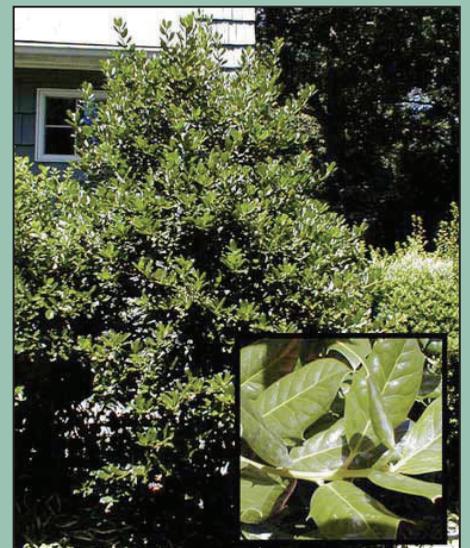


Tree Of The Quarter

'Nellie Stevens' Holly is a hybrid of the English Holly and Chinese Holly. It was first released over 50 years ago and has been widely used in Lubbock over the last 15-20 years. It is a great plant, although it is often used incorrectly. It grows rather quickly to be a small tree, up to 20' in height and should not be used as a foundation planting or a sheared shrub.

It is naturally broadly pyramidal. Foliage is a dark lustrous green with red berries.

The tree is fairly tolerant of soils and pH and is both heat and droughttolerant. It does, however, respond favorably to rich soils and thorough watering.



'Nellie Stevens' Holly

Visit our website at
www.treelovingcare.com



TREE LOVING CARE

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Give Your Trees TLC

The winter pruning season is upon us. If your trees haven't been pruned in the last couple of years, they probably need dead wood removed and perhaps some lifting of low limbs to clear roofs and driveways. It is also a good time to train young trees.

Winters are normally quite dry in West Texas. This year has been quite normal so far. We've had less than an inch of moisture since mid-September. You need to water thoroughly about once per month during the winter. This may be done for your trees with a hose by letting it trickle for a couple days, just move it every few hours. It may also be done with your sprinkler system. If you don't know how much your sprinkler puts out per hour, measure with a rain gauge or a small straight sided can such as a tuna fish or cat food can. You need to put on at least 1 1/2 inches about

once a month. If you have new trees, they need that about once per week.

Winter is also a good time to check out your sprinkler system to make sure that everything is working properly. Check with your sprinkler company about a tax rebate that is available on water savings devices such as the new 'Smart Controllers'.

Speaking of 'SmartScaping' and conserving water, check out these sites: http://www.lubbockchamber.com/water_conservation.htm; <http://lubbock.tamu.edu/waterconservation/>

TLC Update . . .

Tree Loving Care has always been in the recycling business. We recently bought a tub grinder to regrind the wood chips from the branches that we got out of your trees. After regrinding these chips, adding manure and composting the chips, this is a wonderful product, rivaling anything on the market that you can buy in a bag. The only drawback is that we currently only sell in bulk. We don't have a name for it yet, either. I thought once about 'Love Dirt', but I just don't know. Any suggestions? In any case, it is \$20 per cubic yard. If we deliver it, it is an additional \$30 fee for up to 10 cubic yard. That would be delivered with a dump trailer.

Critters and Crud

The Eriococcus scale that we discovered in the Lakeridge neighborhood about 4 years ago has expanded its area of infestation. Within the last 3 months, it has been found on at least 4 sites north of 82nd Street and east of Quaker Avenue. This insect is fairly easy to spot. It is generally a little more than 1/8th of an inch long and about 3/32nd of an inch wide. It is white, elliptical, pointed and a bit fuzzy. In early infestation of a branch, they may be found individually on a branch. Later, with a severe infestation, they will turn a branch completely white.

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