

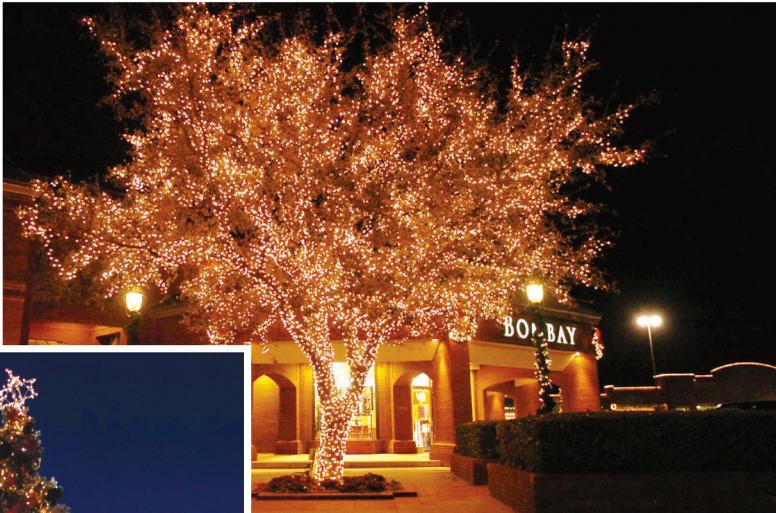
Love Letter from . . .

# Tree Loving Care

Fall 2009 • Serving All The South Plains Tree Needs Since 1978 • (806) 785-8733

## Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

First, I want to thank all of our clients for their business this year. This has been a difficult year for many. There is no doubt that the economy has suffered this year and Tree Loving Care finally had no choice but to participate in the down turn. I think that much of the problem in West Texas was fear of the economy, but it still resulted in an off year. We are always grateful for the loyalty of our clients, but especially, I want



*Live Oak Tree at Kingsgate South Shopping Center*

to thank everyone this year.

Many of our clients also have reason to be grateful. They are the ones that were blessed by rain over the last several weeks. Unfortunately, many were missed. A few weeks ago, when much of central Lubbock got about an inch rain, I got barely a trace.

Fall is definitely upon us and we often get decent moisture until about the end of September. From then until about march is often a very dry time of year. People are also busy with all the holidays, turning their attention to anything but their landscape. Please be aware of the rainfall or lack of rainfall. If we don't get a rain of at least an



*Decorated Tree at Kingsgate*

inch per month, please apply that much yourself each month during the winter.

It is also time to think about Christmas lighting. We recently sent out proposals for installation of this years display, with early commitment discounts. If you commit to the installation by October 26, 2009, we will give you a 15% discount. You may also earn Elf Dollars. This is a 10% discount to be applied to additional items you might wish to add to your display next year. They may also be gifted to anyone else to be used anytime.

Thanks again for your loyalty. All of us here at Tree Loving Care wish you and yours the best for the coming season.

*James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX0117A*

**Listen to  
'Tree Talk for Texas'  
9:00 a.m. Fridays  
on KRFE AM 580**

## Tree Of The Quarter

Mimosa, also called Silk-tree (*Albizia julibrissin*), does fairly well in the West Texas area and seeds so well that many people dislike it. It can be a little bit messy, but is a pretty good selection where a small tree is needed. The will grow to 30 feet height here, although over 20 feet is pretty rare. They are fairly drought tolerant but will need supplemental watering and will certainly respond to irrigation.

Mimosa's have silky (hence the name Silk-tree) pink flowers and bloom most of the summer. They produce small flat seed pods that germinate easily. It has few insect or disease problems, but one is quite notable. A vascular wilt disease will kill the top of the tree, which will then sucker back to form a bush. Generally, short lived because of this disease, the tree should still live 25-30 years.



*Mimosa*

**Visit our website at  
[www.treelovingcare.com](http://www.treelovingcare.com)**



# TREE LOVING CARE

9821 Brownfield Hwy • Wolfforth, Texas 79382

Return Service Requested



## Give Your Trees TLC

Fall fertilization is very important for plant health. Nature drops a blanket of leaves in the fall, which not only insulate the soil from cold temperatures and retains moisture, but also decays and returns nutrients to the soil. Tree Loving Care uses a special blend of organic matter with a balance of micro and macro nutrients mixed with soil activators. These activators are micro organisms that naturally occur in a forest soil. Urban soils (especially when the urban soil was formally a cotton field and before that a prairie) are often lacking the normal flora and fauna normally found in the forest. Trees do so much better in a forest soil. Our application method also helps to relieve compaction, which is another great detriment to urban trees.

November will be the beginning of our fall pre-emergent herbicide program for the year. We will wait for Bermuda grasses to go dormant to begin this program. This application will take care of the winter weeds such as dandelions, mustards and thistles.

Fall and winter are generally a dry time of year. Sprinklers should be turned off but not forgotten (that is if you don't have a freeze sensor). Landscapes need to be watered during the fall and winter, just not as often and sprinklers often need to run during the daytime to avoid creating slip and fall hazards from ice.

## TLC Update

James Tuttle went to the Christmas Décor convention in July. It was a very informative and inspiring show. There are many new and innovative products on the market. TLC will be introducing many of these products to our clients this year. This may be the last year that incandescent bulbs are available. LEDs are definitely the wave of the future and are gaining in popularity and use. As this occurs, the price will come down. They save enough electrical use that the extra expense is already justified.

Animation is also a relatively new way of decorating for the holidays. Last year, TLC built a 35 feet tall tree by stringing lights from a utility pole, lit 9-10 of our live trees and then animated the entire display. The animation is dimming and brightening,

flashing on and off in coordination with Christmas carols. The music is heard over our speakers or thru your radio, broadcasted on our FM radio station. This transmitter broadcasts about 100 yards, so you can park on the service road just west of Wolfforth and watch and listen to the display. It is a very inspiring sight.

## Critters and Crud



*Kermes Scale*



*Early Elm Beetle Damage  
(Treat at or before this stage.)*

calendar now. A soil drench of merit works well, but should be done just before to shortly after the elms leaf out next spring.

Kermes scale is still a little active. Most of the hatch has occurred, but control can still be achieved with a spray. While the damage is fresh on every ones mind, the elm leaf beetle has done a tremendous amount of damage this year. Control of this insect needs to be done early next year, so put it on the



*Elm Leaf Beetle Damage  
Later In Year*