

Love Letter from . . .

Tree Loving Care

Summer 2011 • Serving All The South Plains Tree Needs Since 1978 • (806) 785-8733

Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

I shouldn't need to tell anyone, but IT IS DRY. Lubbock and the surrounding area is the driest we have been in recorded history. We have had about 3" of rain in the last 11 months. El Paso gets an average of about 6" per year. El Paso is in the middle of the Chihuahuan Desert. If you haven't watered, you need to. If you don't, some of your landscape WILL DIE.

Having said that, watering 2-3 days a week is not the way to water. Water long enough to get the ground wet 2' deep. I have a Bermuda lawn that looks pretty good right now. I water it about every 3 weeks and have been since early May. If I happened to go an extra 2 weeks between watering, it wouldn't die, it would just be a little off color and would green up within a few days of watering. Remember, roots are lazy. If you water shallow, you'll have a shallow root system.

Grass responds in days and weeks, trees respond in months and years.

I hope you will check out the website again. It hasn't been changed dramatically, but we are making a much greater effort at keeping it current as well as informative. Hopefully, you will find it useful. If you have suggestions for it, please let us know. If we don't have your email address, or you have changed it, please let us know. It is a great way to keep you up to date on what is going on in the critter world.

If you haven't caught the radio show, Tree Talk For Texas, please listen in Friday mornings at 9:00 a.m. on AM 580. We talk about trees and what goes on under and around trees. One change on the website is a weekly posting of the topics that I intend to address on the show. Please call in with your questions. It always makes a more interesting show.

James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX0117A

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

Tree Of The Quarter

Hercules Club, *Zanthoxylum clava-hercules*, is also called Toothache Tree and Tingle Tongue. It is often found in the Cross Timbers in limestone hills, therefore pretty drought tolerant. It isn't a very showy tree and only gets 15-20' tall, which makes it a good little tree under power lines. It is somewhat of a novelty, probably to be only found in nurseries that deal in the obscure native plants of Texas. I've planted 3-4 around the South Plains over the last 30 years and they do well.

Like many of the small trees and shrubs from arid areas, they are armed and dangerous. They have thorns very similar to rose thorns. The twigs contain a novacain like alkaloid, thence the other common names. The native Americans used to chew the twigs to treat toothaches.



Hercules Club

Visit our website at
www.tree-loving-care.com



TREE LOVING CARE

9821 Brownfield Hwy • Wolfforth, Texas 79382

Return Service Requested



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Give Your Trees TLC

It is difficult to explain just how severe this drought is without sounding alarmist. So . . . sound the alarm. It is extremely dry because rain simply hasn't come and the wind has been completely unrelenting. These 2 factors combine to produce the extremely severe conditions we are under. Please water your trees with a hose at least once this summer and the sooner, the better. Lay a hose down, let it run slowly and walk away. Let it run at least several hours in a spot before moving it a few feet. This allows the water to all soak in and move deeply into the soil profile. If you run your sprinkler for 30 minutes at 9:00 in the morning, as the city ordinance allows, with the winds and temperature we have had, one third of that could be lost by the next day. Please water deeply. You won't need to water nearly as often. That will save water and your trees will be much healthier.

The thunderstorm season seemed to go a few hundred

Critters and Cruds

There does seem to be a few insects that are a little less problem this year than normal. Could be the drought is affecting their ability to reproduce or, perhaps they are responding to less food. We certainly have had no problem with Powdery Mildew, a foliar fungus which flourishes after a week of cool rainy weather. It would be nice to have some Powdery Mildew problems about now.

Elm Leaf Beetle is very active on Elms and Bagworms are active on Junipers as well as many other hosts right now. Spider mites love hot dry weather, so of course, they are flourishing.



Bagworms

miles north of us and was replaced by the Chihuahuan Desert this year, but we usually get quite a bit of lightning, wind and hail that comes with these storms. These are all good reasons to have install cabling systems and lightning rods in high value or high risk trees. Winds this year have been higher than normal, but not tornadic as we get from the down bursts from a collapsing thunderstorm. These winds generally only break trees or branches that are weak or defective. They still need to be checked.

TLC Update

The Texas Tree Climbing Championship was held in Ft Worth, May 20-21, in Trinity Park. It was a great learning experience. Anthony Rivera ended up not able to compete, but Dominic Rendon competed and Johnny Duncan was a technician on the Work Climb. James Tuttle was head judge on the Throw Line event. Dominic came in 37th out of 40, but still pretty good for his first competition to even attend and competing against a field consisting of some of the best climbers in the state.



Dominic Competing

TLC is glad to have James Majors rejoin the Tree Loving Care team. James is a Certified Arborist with over 10 years experience in arboriculture. Tree Loving Care now has four Certified Arborists on staff to better love your trees.