

Love Letter from . . .

Tree Loving Care

Lubbock, Texas (806) 785-8733 • Midland, Texas (432) 620-8733
Spring 2013 • Serving All The West Texas Tree Needs Since 1978

Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

Finally Tree Loving Care has a home in Midland. We purchased 2 acres at 7012 NCR 1297, Midland, and are clearing and cleaning as fast as possible. We should be building a shop within a few weeks. All billing and other business correspondence will continue to flow through the Lubbock office for the time being. We will be hiring a few new people in the Permian Basin to staff the Midland office. If you know of a smart energetic young man that has a love for trees and a desire to learn about them, please send him our way.

We will have wood chip mulch and compost available in plenty of time for next year's gardening season. Firewood will also be available until we are sold out.

Our new website, www.treelovingcare.com is also up and running. Please take a look. I hope you will find it much more informative, interactive and usable. New pages include a photo gallery showing some of our favorite jobs as well as a **Rogue's Gallery** showing some of the things people should never do to their trees. There is also a **Service Request** allowing you to contact the office through the website requesting service and information about your trees including a space to describe the malady or situation that prompted the request.

The website will be continually tweaked and added to. If you have a comment about ways we can improve the website or our service, please feel free to tell us. If you have a complaint about our service, please tell us that also. We would like to have an opportunity to fix the problem.

Tree Talk for Texas in the Lubbock market has moved to noon on Fridays on **KRFE AM 580**. Listen and call with your questions. We talk about trees and what goes on under trees, including the rest of your landscape, vegetable gardening, sowing and reaping, sometimes politics and city hall and sometimes I even bring a stump to preach on. Tree Talk for Texas is still at 9:00 a.m. Thursdays on **KWEL AM 1070 and FM 107.1** in the Permian Basin. Live streaming is available on both stations.

A couple of years ago, I had a wind turbine installed at my house and liked it well enough that I bought the company that installed it. If you would like to know more about small wind turbines or solar panels, please call me at 806-789-8733.

James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX0117A



Visit our website at
www.treelovingcare.com

Listen to
'Tree Talk for Texas'
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Noon Fridays on **KRFE AM 580**

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Tree Of The Quarter

Italian Stone Pine, *Pinus pinea*, is native to the Mediterranean region which is semi-arid to arid. This tree is a fairly fast growing and large pine that has few insect or disease problems in our area. The Texas Champion is 51' tall with a 72' spread.

This tree is also readily available in the nursery trade and should be planted more.

Established trees are often over watered in an irrigated landscape. Water this tree no more than 5-6 times per year.



Texas Champion Italian Stone Pine



James Tuttle
Cell 806.789.8733

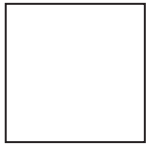
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TREE LOVING CARE

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Return Service Requested



GIVE YOUR TREES TLC

If this year seems wet, it is only because of the last 2 years. The South Plains and the Permian Basin has had decent rain, enough that we are almost up to our average for this time of year. Rain in West Texas is always spotty. One side of town might get 2-3" and the other might nothing to ¼". Please pay attention to how much rain you actually get at your house. Rain gauges are pretty cheap.

Many clients will make the comment, 'I have a well and I really pour the water to my landscape. Why is this tree dying?' One thing to consider is that all ground water has dissolved minerals in it. In some areas of the Permian Basin, well water is about 1/4th salty as sea water. Proper watering hinges upon watering thoroughly, getting the whole soil profile wet, not in keeping the top few inches wet.

All landscapes of west Texas should have an annual application of gypsum. It is also time for Tree Loving Care **Fall Fertilization**. This organic fertilization will help add organic matter and micro-organisms that are normally found in a healthy forest soil. Organic matter helps a tree utilize the water that is available and buffers salts.

CRITTERS AND CRUDS

Every fall, as leaves senesce and some of the compounds begin to break down, the relative amount of nitrogen goes up in leaves. This makes them more attractive to sap sucking insects such as Aphids. Red Oaks, Bur Oaks and Pecans seem to be the hardest hit by this insect in the fall. They are the reason leaves are sticky and have shiny spots on them.

On Pecans, they have been feeding long enough that the toxins they inject have begun to kill leaf tissue in blotches. This insect pest is generally not highly damaging, but can certainly be a great nuisance.

Many Live Oaks have a fresh crop on Mealy Gall almost completely formed. It is a little late to control this problem, but if a tree has a large population

of them this year, it will have it next year also. This gall, as most galls on oaks, is formed by a tiny wasp that 'stings' tree causing the tree to form a gall around the insect egg for the sole purpose of feeding and housing the insect.



Mealy Gall

TLC UPDATE

Now that TLC has land in the Permian Basin, we will be building a shop and office and expanding that office. The goal is to have at least 3 people hired to staff that office by the end of the year. We are looking for someone to manage that office also. Anthony Rivera was going to be the Permian Basin manager, but he and Erin got married in April and they are now expecting a baby and don't want to move any further from Grandma.

Be sure to check out the [new website](http://tree-loving-care.com/). The URL is still <http://tree-loving-care.com/> but the content has changed.

Tree Loving Care worked on 2 different Texas Champion trees in the last few months. One was a sad occasion. We had the sad task of cutting up and hauling off a branch off of the Texas Champion Cottonwood at Fort Davis. The tree is declining and has been for many years. It recently lost a battle to decay in losing a 6+ foot diameter branch. It still hasn't lost the war, but when the branch fell, it exposed what has been suspected for years and that is that the 10+ foot diameter trunk is mostly hollow.

We also had the happy task of cleaning the Texas Champion Italian Stone Pine. It is Odessa and the home of Debbie Frost, the recently retired county Horticulturist for Midland and Ector Counties.

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