

Love Letter from . . .

Tree Loving Care

Fall 2010 • Serving All The South Plains Tree Needs Since 1978 • (806) 785-8733

Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

Tree Loving Care appreciates the many blessings that the year has brought. It has been a very busy summer. The abundant rain the last of June and first half of July has been very beneficial to trees, although pecans have such an abundant crop that we are dealing with an unusual amount of limbs breaking under the sheer weight of the crop. The 9-13 inches received during those 3 weeks flushed much of the salts out of the top of the soil profile. Bradford Pears and some of the more commonly chlorotic trees have flourished.

It is hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner. We will be



sending decorating proposals out to re-install lights and decorations to our existing clients very soon. If you would like to see what your house could look like with lights and daytime décor, ask for one of our decorators to

come by and show you. We just acquired a program that allows us to take a photo of your home and with a click add lights and other design elements to the photo. We think that this will be an invaluable tool to show you what we might do for you.



We will also be building our own display over the next 3-4 weeks and would like everyone to come out to see and hear it. The display will have over 100,000 lights and is animated to music. We have an FM radio transmitter that plays Christmas carols and the lights are coordinated to the music. You may sit in your car and watch the display, or you can get out and walk around in the display.

Every year, Christmas Décor by Tree Loving Care decorates the home of a serviceman that is deployed overseas. We chose from a list of servicemen that are nominated. If you know of someone that is deployed and would like to nominate them, you may either call the office or email their info to us. Please tell them you are nominating them. We do not call someone without a nomination and we want them to know what the program is about before we call. It is our small gesture to them to say thanks for their service to our country.

James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX0117A

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

Tree Of The Quarter

Chinkapin Oak, *Quercus muehlenbergii*, prefers deep soils and is found in a broad swath of central Texas and in small isolated areas of the Trans-Pecos and in Post Oak Savannahs in Northeast Texas. They do very well in the Lubbock area, but do benefit from the addition of organic matter and supplemental irrigation.

We have a client that has a Chinkapin Oak as well as a Texas Madrone that are doing very well and she rarely waters. It helps that the rest of the landscape is also Smartscape plants.



Chinkapin Oak

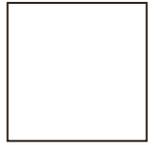
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www.tree-loving-care.com



TREE LOVING CARE

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Return Service Requested



Proud and Active Member of:

Give Your Trees TLC

The abundant rain earlier in the year was wonderful, but the rain since then has been pretty spotty. If you don't get rain for 3 weeks, you should probably water. New trees that aren't yet established should be watered twice per week except for the scheduled watering that does get a half inch or more of rain. That doesn't mean that if you get a 2 inch rain, that you can go another 2 weeks. Remember, that is ONLY for trees and shrubs that are not yet established.

We just started our fall fertilization program. We use a completely organic fertilizer that includes Humic acid and bio-stimulants. These bio-stimulants are both bacteria and fungi that would be found in a normal forest soil and release nutrients to your landscape plants and make them much healthier. Fast growth does not equal good health. We try to keep plants healthy because healthy plants are more resistant to many insects and diseases. Fat lazy plants are more susceptible to many diseases and insects. Commercially available fertilizers often just over feed trees.

I, and many landscapers and nurserymen often use the term 'supplemental irrigation'. It needs to be said loudly and clearly, 'THAT DOES NOT MEAN 2-3 DAYS A WEEK'. That means that when it is dry.....water.

Critters and Crud

Most damaging insects that we deal with have done most, if not all of the damage that they will do for the year. Controlling most insect problems is more about timing than what chemical or organic technique or product you use. With many insects and diseases, you may have only a very small window of opportunity. That is one of the reasons that sap flow injected and soil applied systemic have gained in popularity over the last few years; the time window tends

to be a great deal larger.

There are still a few insect that it is time to control. Kermes Scale on oaks are crawling right now and need to be sprayed now. This insect is a problem primarily on Live Oak.

We are getting many calls still about problems that are too late to properly manage. Most insect feeding has been going on at least a month before you notice. Put notes on your calendar when you notice a problem and start looking for it next year at least 2 months earlier.



Kermes Scale

TLC Update

Fall is my favorite time of year. Warm days, cool nights and the knowledge that tree are beginning to prepare to go to bed and rest for the winter. And we can sell some of the litter that we spent the spring and summer hauling off back to you. WHAT A DEAL. Actually, we do have a little more firewood to sell this year than normal, but we will sell out before Christmas. The ice storm at the end of January did a lot of tree damage and most of the time that we are busy, we are also producing a lot of firewood.

You should check out our composted wood chip mulch also. We grind our wood chips to make them more uniform and compost them for up to 2 years. The make an excellent mulch or soil amendment. Mulch helps conserve moisture, reduces weed seed germination, insulates the soil (keeps soil warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer) returns nutrients to the soil and promotes natural soil flora and fauna.