

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

Spring has sprung and it did about a month early in most areas. The snow a few of weeks ago was very welcome moisture and it also delayed the onset of spring, but not by much. The snow ranged from a foot or more in the Amarillo area to an inch or more in the Permian Basin. At my house, I had about 3" with well over 3' drifts. The newly planted trees that happened to be in the path of the drift won't need to be watered since, as I was clearing the 4'+ drift from the driveway, I put it on the other trees. That will be a great watering that might last them a couple weeks.

The cold temperatures were not enough to offset the unseasonably warm temperatures we have had all winter. I saw a Shumard Red Oak leafing out in mid-February in Odessa. That is about a month earlier than normal. I expect to have to see many more critters than normal this year and possibly some we haven't seen for a long time. Read Critters and Cruds for more on that issue.

It has been almost 3 years since I wrote in one of these letters about how wet it is. Midland has had about 1.7 inches of rain in the last 5 months and Lubbock had just over 2" in the same period. All of this is an extension of record setting drought for our area. Midland did have a near normal total for last year, but half of the total fell in one day and when you get almost 6" of rain in one day, not that much soaks in. It was good for recharging ground water, but did little to help drought stricken trees.

Trees are forest organisms and Tree Loving Care tries to recreate the forest soil environment as best we can through our organic fertilization program. Organic matter in the soil helps to make water in the soil more available and mulch helps reduce evaporation as well as moderates temperature extremes. Call our Lubbock office at 806-785-TREE or the Midland office at 432-620-TREE, to have one of our Certified Arborists assess the needs of your trees and shrubs.

Our nation has become more and more polarized politically, so it was very satisfying for me to be able to speak to the Lubbock County Democratic Party recently about our other business, SolarWind Energy. I had an opportunity to explain the benefits of small wind and solar to offset some of their electricity costs and be good stewards of the environment. I don't think that is a partisan issue. I understand that the perception of the severity of the problems and solutions to problems, perceived or real, can be highly partisan. I appreciate the Dems for allowing me to speak, it was good to see a couple clients that I hadn't seen for a while and none of them threatened to tar and feather me.

If you would like to know more about what your tree might be worth in environmental and economic value and have facts and figures rather than opinion, the link www.treebenefits.com/calculator/index.cfm is a good place to try.

I am trying to keep up with technology and in that effort, I have created a Twitter account and am Tweeting. If you would like to follow me, I am JamesTuttleTLC at Twitter. I will Tweet about things like the topics we will discuss on the radio shows and insect, disease to weather situations that I observe that might affect you and your landscape. I might even give you an opinion about politics on occasion. James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX0117A

Listen to
'Tree Talk for Texas'
9:00 a.m. Thursdays on
KWEL AM 1070 • FM 107.1
9:00 a.m. Fridays on KRFE AM 580

Both have live streaming

Tree Of The Quarter

Bur Oak, *Quercus macrocarpa*, is a very large growing tree that is native over much of North America and does very well in most of Texas. In the desert areas, and sometimes in the semi-arid areas, it certainly needs supplemental watering.

Bur Oak grows to over 80' tall with a similar spread, is strongly branched and has very strong wood. It is generally and should be grown as a single trunk specimen. Bur Oak has very large acorns and leaves and can be a little messy over a patio, but if you want shade, this is a tree for you.

It is adapted to a variety of soils, but does greatly benefit from the addition of organic matter.



James Tuttle
Cell 806.789.8733

9821 Highway 62 • Wolfforth, TX 79382-5100
james.tuttle@solarwindenergycompany.com



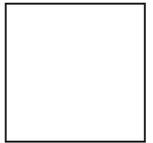
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TREE LOVING CARE

9821 Brownfield Hwy • Wolfforth, Texas 79382

Return Service Requested



GIVE YOUR TREES TLC

Newly planted trees should be thoroughly watered at least once a week until the buds begin to swell and then twice a week for the rest of the growing season. That should continue until they are established. Established means they have all the roots they need to grow all of the top that they want. This water needs to be on the tree long enough to get to the bottom of the ball and far enough out from the trunk to get soil moist in the path of root growth. Roots grow out an average of 3-4 feet per year for the first several years when re-establishing. So, water in advance of root growth.

Trees and shrubs are forest organisms and as such, have different needs from grass. Grass needs more nitrogen and more frequent watering than weeds plants. Generally, neither trees nor shrubs need as much nitrogen as people often give them. It is important to keep in mind that fast growth doesn't necessarily equal health.

When trees and shrubs are fertilized with our organic based fertilizer, they are able to get all the nutrients they need in amounts that sustain them, make them more resistant to attack by insects and diseases. We sometimes call it the beans, beets and beef approach. When you go to a big box store and get a bag of 21-0-0 and throw it on the lawn, that's a lot like going to McDonalds for 3 Big Macs with fries and a Coke and then finishing that off by stopping at 7-11 for a candy bar. Eating healthy works for plants, too.

CRITTERS AND CRUDS

We have been seeing quite a bit of aphid feeding on Afghan pine. Aphids are sap sucking insects and this kind of insect is what causes a tree to rain a fine mist of honeydew on your cars, lawn furniture, etc. The aphids are fairly easily controlled. We generally used a systemic insecticide that is applied either as a soil drench or injected directly into the sap flow.

Elms are in full seed, which means they will be in full leaf by the time you get this letter. Elm Leaf Beetle adult females will begin laying eggs any day. As with many insect problems, if the first generation is controlled, insects cause far less problems. We use a soil applied systemic to control this problem.

In the Lubbock area call 806-785-8733, in the Midland area call 432-620-8733 and from any area or west Texas, call 877-594-8733 to have one of our Certified Arborists assess the health of your trees.

TLC UPDATE

Anthony Rivera has been promoted to production foreman in the Midland office. He should be moving to Midland within a couple months. Perhaps, just in time for his honeymoon. Anthony has been with Tree Loving Care for 7 years. He has competed in the Texas Tree Climbing Championship twice and will be again this year. The TTCC will be in Plano, May 17-18 at George Woodruff Park. Come cheer for your local team. Tree Loving Care will also have Dominic Rendon (if he continues his recovery from an auto accident a couple months ago) and Chris Graham competing. James Tuttle will be judging, as he has for most of the last 20+ years.



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www.treelovingcare.com