

Love Letter from . . .

Tree Loving Care

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

Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

The ice storm in late January was devastating to many trees. Live Oak and Siberian Elm seem to have been the hardest hit. Live Oaks, because of being evergreen and having all that leaf surface to catch ice, and elm, because they are so brittle. Still, most breakage was at defects. Again, it shows the importance of proper training when a tree is small. We appreciate everyone's patience. We were crushed by the onslaught of emergency work.

It may be hard to sell Christmas decorations in the spring, but those of you that have known me for a long time know that I don't always follow the beaten path or the path of least resistance. If it makes more sense to me, then I have no problem deviating from the norm. We introduced our **Christmas All Year Program** in the last newsletter. If you sign up for our Christmas Décor services now, your cost will be spread out over several months and by signing up now, you get the early commitment and prepay discount. With the Elf dollar discount that applies to additional items the following year, **this totals up to a 25% discount.** That's some pretty nice savings!!!

We also finally have the video from the animated display at our shop on the website. Click on www.treelovingcare.com to watch and listen. It is a very interesting and different way to look at Christmas. I might also remind you that TLC decorates for other holidays.

I also want to encourage everyone to participate in the grand experiment in democracy that our founding fathers started over 200 years ago by voting. And I want to encourage everyone to join me in voting for Charles Perry for the District 83 Texas House seat in the runoff election on Tuesday, April 13th. Charles is a true conservative and will work to restrict the growth of government and its intrusion into our lives and the corrosion of our individual liberties. I've been told by those in the know, that I also need to insert the disclaimer that this is unsolicited by his campaign. Some of the loss of freedom brought on by the McCain/Feingold law. It does seem to me that every time government acts, IF they do a great job, someone's life might get a little better, but every time it acts, someone definitely loses freedom.

James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX0117A

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

Tree Of The Quarter

Western Soapberry, *Sapindus drummondi*, is native to most areas of Texas, including just off the caprock in all directions. It is a medium size tree, with very little insect and disease problems and very well adapted to our soils. Once established, it should almost never need supplemental irrigation. This tree isn't widely available, but Tom's Tree Place does have some nice ones in their growing grounds.



Western Soapberry

Spring
2010

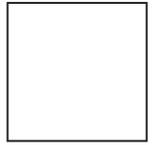
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www.treelovingcare.com



TREE LOVING CARE

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Return Service Requested



Give Your Trees TLC

Many people are saying 'rain, rain go away' but the moisture this winter and spring has been wonderful for your trees and all of the plants in your landscape. Many of our problems in managing the landscape is because of the need for supplemental watering which must be done with ground water. This water has many dissolved minerals, which creates great imbalances in the soil. TLC applies gypsum and other materials to help this problem, but nothing beats Mother Nature. This rain will flush out many of these minerals. The abundant rains will also build a great reserve of deep soil moisture. That doesn't mean you won't need to water at all, just not for a while. Our soils will hold an inch or more of moisture and plants generally need about that.

One of our Certified Arborists can easily check your trees for sugar, which is an easy way to determine health. If a plant isn't photosynthesizing (making sugar) properly it can never be healthy. An equally quick test of electrical conductivity will show excess minerals in the soil and tell us how we need to address that problem. Our organic fertilization program is aimed at correcting these imbalances and releasing nutrients that are in the soil and atmosphere.



Air Spade

Soil compaction is the greatest inhibitor of root growth, followed by excess minerals, primarily from our watering with ground water. TLC can solve both of these problems. Surface compaction is the easiest to solve, typically done with application of a layer of compost that is worked into the top 3-4 inches of the soil with an Air Spade. Call 785-8733 to have an arborist check your trees now for problems.

TLC Update

James Tuttle recently attended the Think Tree conference in Albuquerque, NM. This was an excellent conference with an emphasis on the root zone and different factors affecting root growth.

Colby Hurd and James Tuttle attended a workshop on calcium early this month. Calcium is the main building block of the soil and should generally be in the range of 75% of the mineral component of the soil. We have used gypsum (calcium sulfate) for years, but did learn about an additional calcium source that we will be also using.

Critters and Crud

First, something that IS NOT a critter or crud is Live Oak leaves falling. This really began in earnest the second week of March and will continue for a month. This is completely normal. This is fall for Live Oaks.

Elms are just beginning to flower and will be in full leaf within a month. Elm Leaf Beetle has been a huge problem for the last several years. Apply a systemic insecticide now so it has time to translocate throughout the tree in time to control this insect.



Elm Leaf Damage

Visit our website at www.treelovingcare.com