

Love Letter from . . .

Tree Loving Care

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

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Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR from the Tree Loving Care family. It is hard to believe that another year has almost come and gone. It seems like only a couple of years since we were selling Y2K firewood.

It has been a very eventful year. Tree Loving Care continues to grow in leaps and bounds. God's blessing is easy to see in our lives and our business. We have broken ground on our new building in Midland and hope to have a building framed, dried in and secure by the end of the year. There has been many other events, everything from TLC, for the first time, having 3 competitors in the Texas Tree Climbing Championship, to a new website (www.treelovingcare.com) and website crashes. We were even hacked a few weeks ago. Thankfully, that problem only took a few hours to fix.

The long range forecast for this winter has been for it to be a colder and wetter winter than normal and so far, that seems to be the case. The moisture will be greatly appreciated, the cold-not as much. We are still at a great moisture deficit. Don't forget to water in the winter. Trees are just dormant, not dead. They are still growing roots and that takes water. I recommend a thorough watering once per month for established trees and once per week for new trees (the first year for small trees and at least 2 years for large trees).

Tree Loving Care has a large amount of firewood available. This is firewood that we recycle from the tree pruning and removal operation. We do not sort this wood by species and all woods have different qualities, but this good wood and well seasoned. Normal price is \$230 per cord for split seasoned wood picked up at our yard in Lubbock or Midland. Delivery and stack is available in the local areas for an additional \$60, all plus tax. Smaller amounts are also available.

We also have fresh wood chip mulch and composted wood chip mulch. These products are a wonderful addition to any landscape. Mulch provides an insulating blanket to the soil surface, moderating temperatures, conserving moisture, returning nutrients to the soil and promoting soil life.

James Tuttle, Certified Arborists TX0117A



Tree Of The Quarter

Pinyon Pine is the common name given to more than one Pine species, *Pinus edulis* and *P. cembroides*, respectively, the Colorado Pinyon and Mexican Pinyon. Some botanists include other species and some count the others as sub-species or varieties of one or the other. In any case, all are very drought tolerant, slow growing and very insect and disease resistant when grown in a dry landscape. The Colorado Pinyon is the more common tree that has been transplanted to the landscape in our areas.

Both will grow to over 30' tall and are, generally, a little taller than broad, although, their growth habit can be greatly influenced by their environment. They are readily available in the nursery trade, usually collected from pastures of New Mexico and Colorado. Collected trees are generally bigger for the same amount of money, since a tree digger can go buy from the rancher for a nominal price, the rancher is glad to get rid of the tree that shaded the grass and the tree digger has no land cost, just the labor and transport cost that one would have with a nursery grown tree.

Pinyon Pine make a great live Christmas tree. Just be sure to keep them watered while in the house. The air is even drier in a furnace heated house than west Texas outside air.

Once established, Pinyons will be fine with only an occasional watering in severe droughts. Probably the most common problems that Tree Loving Care encounters with Pinyons are associated with over watering, not under watering. The last 2 years, this has not been the case, especially in the Fort Davis area, but the Pine Bark Beetle outbreak that devastated so many trees was a very unusual event in a historic drought.



Pinyon Pine
(Colorado Pinyon)



Visit our website at
www.treelovingcare.com



James Tuttle
Cell 806.789.8733

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



TREE LOVING CARE

9821 Brownfield Hwy • Wolfforth, Texas 79382

Return Service Requested



GIVE YOUR TREES TLC

THE DROUGHT IS NOT BROKEN!!! Predictions for a colder and wetter than normal winter will have to come true in spades to break the drought we continue to be in. If we get 15" of moisture between now and summer, the drought will be broken but our average during this period is about 4". Continue to water during the winter. The recommendation for very drought tolerant trees is 1-2 good soaks over the course of the winter. For less drought tolerant trees, a good soak once a month is plenty. The last thing you should do is water 2 times a week.

Every fall, leaves fall. That's why it is called and why they are called leaves. Ok, so maybe not, but leaves do blanket the ground and insulate the soil and moderate temperature. The mulch layer keeps the soil from getting so cold in the winter and so hot in the summer. The mulch layer also composts and returns nutrients to the soil as well as promotes soil life. Tree Loving Care has plenty of composted wood chip mulch to cover any bare ground you might have. We can deliver loads of fresh wood chips or well composted mulch.

CRITTERS AND CRUDS

Insects are all cold blooded critters so there is little insect activity in the winter. That also means that the ones left above ground, including the ones that winter on the tree, are also weak. When it is only warm enough for them to feed intermittently, they just don't get enough energy to thrive. Since they are weak, it is a good time to kill them. Dormant oil is a great way to suppress insect pest populations. Call the Lubbock office at 806-785-8733 or the Midland office at 432-620-8733 to schedule an appointment with one of our Certified Arborists.

TLC UPDATE

Our original plan of Anthony Rivera moving to Midland changed with his getting married and their new family about to also grow.

Instead, Tommy Schooler and wife and family will be moving to Midland to be the Lead Arborist. Tommy was 3 when his dad, Tom Schooler went to work for Tree Loving Care. Tom was the second Certified Arborist in West

Texas, so the tradition continues. Maybe, Thomas, 13, will be a climber with us someday.

James Tuttle, Butch Lathey and Colby Hurd attended the Texas Tree Conference in Waco in October. It was an excellent conference, full of good information on how best to care for trees. Dr. Kim Coder presented great information on [Lightning Protection](#) (lightning page on our website) and the effects of lightning on trees.



Lightning Struck Tree

In West Texas, trees are a highly valued asset for every landscape. It is a stressful environment on trees and we need to do whatever we can to protect and preserve them. We always welcome moisture in West Texas, but sometimes that comes from thunderstorms in the spring and early summer. Thunderstorms can also bring high winds and lightning; both are very hard on trees. If you have a high value tree near your house, have a Tree Loving Care Arborist assess your trees for these particular risks.

At the conference, Tree Loving Care also acquired a Resistograph. The Resistograph is a diagnostic tool that measures relative density of wood. It is primarily used as a hazard evaluation tool. As it measures the relative density, a needle puts the evidence on a strip of graph paper, much as an EKG does, giving the arborist a picture of the amount of decay as well as documenting that evidence. As one might guess, this is a fairly pricey device, but should greatly enhance Tree Loving Care's ability to accurately diagnosis tree health and stability.



Arborist Using Resistograph

Visit our website at www.treelovingcare.com