

Love Letter from . . .

Tree Loving Care

Lubbock, Texas (806) 785-8733 • Midland, Texas (432) 620-8733
Summer 2016 • Serving All The West Texas Tree Needs Since 1978



Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

The weather this year reminds me of 2010, when we had 22" for rain through July 6, and 2.5" the rest of the year, before it really got dry. Let's hope that is not a harbinger of the rest of the year. I have often said, 'it takes weather extremes to make weather averages', but, extreme or not, I will never turn down a rain in west Texas. Rainwater is mildly acidic and does a wonderful job of flushing out some of the salts that we apply to the soil every time the sprinkler comes on.

One of the most important thing we can do in the urban landscape for water conservation is to plant trees and shrubs that are adapted to our soil and water, taking into consideration both quality and quantity. Another important thing is to water deeply and thoroughly, not frequent and shallow. Frequent shallow watering results in excessive salt build up in the top few inches of soil. A result of that is higher pH and tie-up of micro nutrients such as iron. One of the trees that suffer the most from this chlorosis is Bradford Pear. If your trees are yellow, give us a call. We can fix that.



I know that summer is just coming on and Christmas is the last thing on everyone's mind, but we will begin [Christmas Décor](#) installations in only 4 months. It is time to start thinking about that season. Christmas Décor by Tree Loving Care actually decorates for other holidays as well. Give one of our designers a call and we can explore the possibilities.

James Tuttle, Certified ArboristTX0117A

Tree Of The Quarter

Southwest White Pine, *Pinus strobiformis*, which was grouped in with Limber Pine, *Pinus flexilis*, for many years. It grows in the Davis Mountains and the Guadalupe Mountains of far SW Texas. It is a tall graceful tree. It is hard to find in nurseries, but well worth is if you can find it. I know that a local entomologist was growing some several years ago at their place in NM. It is quite drought tolerant and should do very well for us in most of the western half of Texas.

Actually, the Limber Pine, which is found further north in NM around Taos and Las Vegas area, should also do well here. You may have a little easier time finding it and it does quite well here.



Southwestern White Pine
(*Pinus strobiformis*)



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GIVE YOUR TREES TLC

Along with the severe thunderstorms of the season, comes the potential destruction to your trees. The most wide spread destruction will come from high winds. Trees break first at defects, but a collapsing thunderstorm can kick up winds that break even a sound tree. Branch angles less than 30 degrees tend to be weak and are the kind that split first. If you have these narrow crotch trees, please give one of our [Certified Arborists](#) a call. We can install a cabling and bracing system that meets the ANSI standards and can prevent a lot of damage.



Split Tree

Lightning can also completely destroy a tree in seconds. Tree Loving Care can install a Lightning Protection System to direct the strike safely to the ground. Lightning often strikes a tree and then flashes over to the house. Protect yours now. Call Tree Loving Care for an assessment.

CRITTERS AND CRUDS

Severe prolonged cold temperatures are one of the most important parts of controlling insect populations. West Texas had a fairly mild winter and critters that normally have multiple generations may have one or two more this year. When you are dealing with critters that can lay upwards of 200 eggs and most are viable due to lack of natural controls, that last generation can be a doozy. Getting a handle on problems early is very important. Give one of our [Certified Arborists](#) a call.

In the entire area, we are seeing a greater occurrence of Oak Wilt. This uptick seems to be greatest in Midland, but TLC has been getting more calls for Oak Wilt this year than normal over the entire area. So far, Oak Wilt has not been found in the Fort Davis, Marfa and Alpine area. Let's hope that area never gets that disease.

Cottonwood Leaf Beetle and Elm Leaf Beetle are both busy chewing their way through leaves and causing stress on trees. A timely application of a systemic insecticide will manage this problem.



Elm Leaf Beetle Damage

TLC UPDATE

James Tuttle and Clint Taylor spent 2 days in New Braunfels in May helping set up the Texas Tree Climbing Championship event and attending an Aerial Rescue workshop. Clint then spent the day in the top of a tree as tree top technician in the Throw Ball Event. James was a ground tech on the Work Climb. It takes about 40 judges, technicians and scorer to run the event. Georgetown is the most likely site for next year. Put it on your calendar now. It is a wonderful time.

Johnny Duncan, Kevin Perry along with James and Clint attended the international Tree Climbing Championship a month earlier in San Antonio. It was the first time the ITCC has been in Texas since 1986. It was a phenomenal event. It is always inspirational to be able to watch the best of the best.

When Tree Loving Care is working in your yard, we want you to be confident that we have the proper training to do this very dangerous profession. In almost 40 years in this field, Tree Loving Care has never had a serious injury and we want to keep it that way.

Visit our website at
www.treelovingcare.com