

Tree Loving Care

Spring 2006 • Serving All The South Plains Tree Needs Since 1978 • (806) 785-8733



Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

Well, we've had a whooping inch of rain in about 6 months. At that rate, we will again qualify as Chihuahuan desert. You know it's dry when this sandy land starts to crack. I fear that I was right when I predicted that the 35 inches that we had in 2004 will be looked at historically as just a very wet year in a prolonged drought. It is critical that you water, but remember, WATER DEEPLY AND THOROUGHLY, NOT FREQUENTLY.

If you are watering with a sprinkler system, it should run long enough to water a MINIMUM of 1" per watering and 2" is preferable.

If you are going to plant trees or shrubs, it needs to be done very soon. No more winter than we had, we might not have much spring either. One of the main stresses on new plantings here are our hot dry summers. This is certainly shaping up to be one of the driest.

A very important cultural practice that every one needs to adopt is to mulch all new plantings. Check our website, www.treelovingcare.com, for details on proper planting techniques and watering practices.

The ongoing saga of updating our computer program that keeps track of everyone continues and so does the accompanying learning curve. If we've missed your call, I apologize and please call again.

James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX 117



Daniel Webster the greatest orator in American history stated the following: If we work on marble, it will perish; if on brass, time will efface it; if we rear up temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon minds and imbue them with principles, with the just fear of God and the love of our fellow men, we engrave on those tablets something that will brighten all eternity. God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are always ready to guard and defend it. By the blessing of God, may our country itself become a vast and splendid monument not of oppression and terror, but of Wisdom, of Peace, and of Liberty, upon which the world may gaze with admiration forever.

Tree Of The Quarter

Common Smoke Tree (*Cotinus coggygria*) has been cultivated since the mid-1600's. Its cousin, the American Smoke Tree can still be found in the wild west of San Antonio around Bandera and Uvalde in the hard limestone of the southern Edward's Escarpment. Both are small trees with a great deal of character in old age. Neither have any serious disease or insect problems. They prefer sunny, well drained loamy soils, but are adaptable to a wide range of types and pH.

Smoke Tree gets its name from the flowers which are held on the outside of the plant and are so light and fluffy that it looks like smoke. The fall color is one of the most consistent and outstanding that we can have on trees found here.

Common Smoke Tree is fairly available in local nurseries and there are a number of good specimens on the South Plains. There are a number of cultivars. American Smoke Tree may be a little harder to find.

TLC Update . . .

It has been a fairly uneventful winter at Tree Loving Care. No major storms, no new babies.

Several of us will be going to the Texas Tree Climbing Championship in Waco in May. It will be Anthony's

first competition. He has been practicing hard.

Anthony is on a short mission trip to Mexico as this is being written. Our thoughts and prayers are with him.



Common Smoke Tree

Visit our website at www.treelovingcare.com



TREE LOVING CARE

7704 66th Street • Lubbock, Texas 79407

Return Service Requested



Give Your Trees TLC

As was mentioned earlier, rain has been an extremely scarce commodity. In droughts like this, trees can really suffer. They need a good soak (2" or more that all comes at one time) at least once every season. If you didn't give it to your trees, they didn't get it.

You do need to take care of what moisture you do get. Trees and shrubs need about a 2-3" layer of mulch. We have

about 400 cubic yards of aged mulch (more



Mulch

than 2 years old) and 500 cubic yards of fresh mulch that is still free for the shoveling. If we load it on your vehicle, it is \$10 per yard and if we haul it to you, it is \$25 per yard for 3 yards and less or \$20 for 4 yards and more.

This is an excellent material for conserving moisture and for helping to control weeds.

The spring thunderstorm season is upon us. These thunderstorms present a two pronged threat to your trees. As thunderstorms blow through, it isn't uncommon to have winds in excess of 80 mph. Those winds may not last very long at all, but can blow a tree completely apart. Trees with narrow crotches need to be properly cabled to manage this threat to your trees. The other danger, lightning, may damage fewer trees, but has the potential to kill any tree it hits.



Tree Struck by Lightning

Lightning that hits a tree, also might flash over

to the house. Tree Loving Care installs cabling systems and lightning protection systems to help manage these risks.

It is also time to fertilize trees for the spring and summer growth cycle. Call to schedule fertilizing with our organic blend fertilizer. Organic fertilizers tend to have a much lower salt index than most commercially available products. Excess salts are a continual problem for West Texas. Because these fertilizers are so low in salts, it's almost impossible to burn your lawn with these products.

Critters and Cruds

Often in the spring newsletter, I'll mention something about foliar disease problems that tend to crop up in the spring. Since they are generally associated with cool wet weather, we may not have any problem this year. We can hope though.

One crud you want to avoid is Oak Wilt. If you must wound an oak in any way or it gets inadvertently wound between now and July, paint the wound ASAP. The black tree paint is best.

Oak Leucanium scale will be hatching about mid-May. They can be a problem on all most oaks, but are primarily on Live Oak. For about 3-4 weeks before that they will be feeding enough to make the sidewalks sticky. When you start to stick to the walk and driveway, call us to schedule spraying.