

Love Letter from . . .

Tree Loving Care

Fall 2011 • Serving All The South Plains Tree Needs Since 1978 • (806) 785-8733

Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

The rain we had a little over a week ago was the most beneficial rain that the Lubbock area has gotten in over a year. The Atacama desert in Peru is generally considered to be the driest place on earth with an annual average of near 4.6" of rain, although some areas of the desert has gotten no rain since records have been kept. Prior to the rain last week, we had gotten about 5" in 14 months. In other words, we were competing with the average rainfall of the driest place on earth. I think that is all one needs to say to explain why so many of our trees and landscapes are struggling. The rain we had was wonderful, but please don't think the drought is broken. We are now at about 7" in over 14 months. WOW!!!

Last month I went to Brazil for two fantastic weeks. The vegetation was far different from what I'm used to, but I did see a few trees that I recognized. In one small city park, I did see Sweetgum, Chinese Pistachio and Goldenrain Tree. All three should do a little better there than here. It was very early spring and in the dry season there and still rained 3 times in 2 weeks. It was fantastic to see trees that we only grow as small house plants in their native or normal situation. Weeping Fig were common along streets and with 22-24" trunks. I saw one Rubber Tree that had a trunk diameter of over 6'.

One of the saddest things about the trip was the realization that everyone lives behind bars. Steel bars cover almost every door and window. It isn't that crime is so rampant as it is that it is the only way people and protect themselves from crooks, since guns are illegal. That means that only the police and outlaws have guns. I had a hard time remembering if I had even locked my house. VIVA Texas where gun control means using both hands.

Christmas season will be upon us very soon. Please come out to enjoy our animated Christmas light display. It will have over 100,000 lights and you can sit at the curb, tune into our FM transmitter and watch the lights that are coordinated with the music. We will be putting up a 60' tree as the center piece of the display.

Christmas Décor by Tree Loving Care will also be putting up a tree for Hospice of Lubbock in their Light Up A Life event on the corner of 74th and Quaker Ave in front of Haverty's Furniture. Hospice of Lubbock provides end-of-life care and bereavement services for terminally ill children, adults and their families, regardless of their ability to pay.

James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX0117A



Atacama Desert

Tree Of The Quarter

Texas Buckeye, *Aesculus glabra*, is a large shrub to small tree native to the Cross Timbers and Edwards Plateau regions of Texas. In the spring, the entire canopy of the plant is covered with pink blooms, an absolutely gorgeous plant.

It is normally found in limestone hillsides in an area that gets 4-6 inches more average rainfall than the high plains of west Texas. Spread mulch a 3-4' area around the new plant to conserve moisture and control weeds. Finding the plant might be a little difficult, but it will be well worth the effort.



Texas Buckeye

Fall 2011



Visit our website
at
www.treelovingcare.com



TREE LOVING CARE

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Return Service Requested



Give Your Trees TLC

The rain in August and September (almost 4") is more than in the previous 13 months combined and not everyone around got all of that. Our average is over 18" per year and we are now at about 5 for this calendar year, on our way to setting a new record low rainfall total. Please remember that trees need moisture to grow roots and fall is a main period of root growth for almost all species of trees and shrubs. Please water thoroughly now if you didn't get any or much of the recent rain and water thoroughly within a month if you don't get any more.

Fall is a great time to mulch to conserve what moisture you do have. It also insulated the soil from the extreme cold temperatures of winter and prevents many of the winter weeds from germinating. Our composted mulch is only \$25 per cubic yard in bulk,



Composted Mulch - \$25 per cubic yard in bulk

loaded on your pickup or trailer.

Fall fertilization is very important for root growth. Call 806.785.TREE to have one of our Certified Arborists explain the benefits of our organic fertilization program and look on the website for coupons for a substantial discount off of fertilization and all of our services.

Critters and Cruds

Fall isn't normally a period of high insect or disease activity. It is a great time to apply TLC's organic fertilization, which is loaded with the flora and fauna normally found in a forest soil and does wonders for balancing the nutritional needs of trees. Ask about our compost tea. Watch for updates to our website that will allow you to order the compost tea directly from the website.

Mark your calendars



It is a good time to make notes on your calendar about insect damage that you did have for the year, as the best time to control problems is early in the season when the damage is still minimal.

TLC Update

This last quarter, Anthony Rivera celebrated his 7th anniversary with TLC. Thanks Anthony for your great work. And welcome back to Steve Proa, who worked for TLC for 4 years before going on to greener pastures. Steve and Anthony have both competed in the Texas Tree Climbing Championship and we look forward to their competing again.

Colby and Butch, two of our Certified Arborists, will be attending the Texas Tree Conference in Waco next month. Two of the most sought after speakers in Arboriculture will be presenting. Looking forward to all the new information they come back with.