

Love Letter from . . .

Tree Loving Care

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

Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

Wow, what a short spring. About 3 days if I remember right. I know it froze the beginning of the second week of May in Lubbock and was bumping 100 degrees before the month was over. Somewhere in there was a very short spring. The Permian Basin wasn't much different. Even the far southwest areas of Fort Davis/Alpine to Big Bend got a killing frost in late April, about a month after their average.

We did finally get some rain. It has come with high winds from severe thunderstorms. In the Lubbock area, we had about 2" of rain in couple June 5 along with winds of 85 mph. The rain came just in time to save many trees, but at great expense to many other trees.

Those winds blew at least 50+ trees completely down and broke countless limbs. Trees break first at defects and that kind of wind will expose many of those defects. We have seen many split co-dominant trunks and branches on trees that have normally strong wood. Narrow crotches are defects because they tend to have trapped bark in the valley of the crotch instead of joined wood. Most of the trees that blew down had dead and decayed roots on at least one side, were naturally poorly rooted trees or the whole tree was dead or almost dead. In other words, most of the trees that blew down should have been taken down months or years ago and most of the split trees should have been cabled or braced.



split tree



braced tree



uprooted tree

There are many splits and breaks that are not yet visible to the untrained eye. One of our Certified Arborists can inspect your trees and show you this kind of defects and prescribe a solution. Call the office to set up an appointment.

The rains that we have gotten over the entire region have been very welcome where they have fallen, but were not wide spread and have not solved the drought. We need 3-5 more inches in most places to get significant deep moisture. So, in spite of the recent rains, continue to water deeply and thoroughly about once every 3-4 weeks. This will be enough water to keep your grass alive also. The key is deep watering, not watering for 15 minutes Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

We will be rolling out a new [Tree Loving Care](#) website in a few days. Look for promotions that we will be running to introduce the website. Please check it out. We will be sending a link to the new website as soon as it is finished. If you have a new email address, please notify the office and we will update our records.

We have moved the Tree Talk for Texas radio show on [AM580 KRFE](#) to 12 noon on Fridays. Listen and call with your tree care questions. We talk about trees and all that goes on under trees. Tune in and join the conversation. Both stations have live streaming if you want to listen on your computer. You may also join us on Face Book and if you would like to follow me on Twitter, my handle is [JamesTuttleTLC@twitter.com](#). I tweet mostly about weather, insects and other things going on in the landscape.

James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX0117A



Visit our website at
www.tree-lovingcare.com

Listen to
'Tree Talk for Texas'
9:00 a.m. Thursdays on
KWEL AM 1070 • FM 107.1
Noon Fridays on **KRFE AM 580**

Both have live streaming

Tree Of The Quarter

Afghan Pine, *Pinus eldarica*, was introduced into the West Texas landscape trade about 50 years ago and has become one of our best evergreens. It is a fairly fast growing tree that is both drought tolerant and insect and disease resistant. It grows to at least 60' and can spread over 30'. We did lose some Afghans in the Fort Davis area last year to an outbreak of Pinyon Pine Bark Beetle, but that is the desert in the most severe drought ever. Trees that were watered thoroughly 3-4 times during that drought were not affected.

Tree Loving Care recently worked on the state champion Afghan Pine. It is on a ranch near Van Horn. That is in the Chihuahuan Desert. The tree is 33" diameter and about 60' tall. If you would like to know more about the [Big Tree Program](#) go to [Texas Forest Big Tree Registry](#).



Afghan Pine



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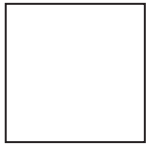
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TLC UPDATE

Several arborists from Tree Loving Care went to the Texas Tree Climbing Championship in May. Anthony Rivera, Dominic Rendon and Tommy Schooler competed. Anthony finished 22nd in the state and was the best finisher of our climbers. It was Anthony's and Dominic's 3rd time to compete and Tommy's first. Next year we may have as many as 5 competitors of the 35 competitors allowed. That would be the most ever from any company in West Texas. Steven Proa was a technician on the Belayed Speed Climb and James Tuttle judged the Throw Ball event. These are both preliminary events.



GIVE YOUR TREES TLC

We have finally had some good rains in June, more than the last 3 years. In Lubbock, it doubled our moisture total for total for the year. That is because

we have had so little, not because we got so much. It is just in time to save many trees that were very drought stressed. However, many trees will continue to die from this drought well after it is broken. It is the nature of trees to respond to conditions in years and decades, not in days and weeks like grass. So, until the drought is completely broken, continue to water deeply and thoroughly about every 3-4 weeks.

If you have restrictions on watering, you may have to adjust how you water. For instance, if your restrictions are 2 hours of hose watering on Monday and Thursday and that isn't enough to get the ground thoroughly wet in your landscape in one watering, then water one side or one part of one side for the entire 2 hours. On your next allowed day, water the other part thoroughly. If you get the ground thoroughly wet, once every other week is adequate and better than slightly wet all the time.

If your restrictions are a maximum of 1 1/2" per week, multiply that out for the year and you get 78" of water per year on top of what falls out of the sky. Thank God no one does that, because that is entirely too much water and is harmful to many plants. Also, always remember that watering means applying minerals (salts) to your landscape and that, at the very minimum means that you have something else to manage. The arborists at [Tree Loving Care](http://TreeLovingCare.com) can help you manage the landscape and you can have a nice landscape even in drought. It just takes proper management of your resources.

Tree Loving Care's organic fertilization is a big part of that proper management. It helps re-create the forest soil environment that trees and shrubs need. Check out the new website for special promotions on fertilization.

CRITTERS AND CRUDS

It is still time to manage several insect problems. Many sap sucking and leaf chewing insects as well as several galls on Oaks can be managed with a soil drench of a systemic insecticide. Call now to set up an appointment with one of our [Certified Arborists](http://TreeLovingCare.com).

Visit our website at
www.treelovingcare.com