

Love Letter from . . .

Tree Loving Care

Lubbock, Texas (806) 785-8733 • Midland, Texas (432) 620-8733
Summer 2018 • Serving All The West Texas Tree Needs Since 1978

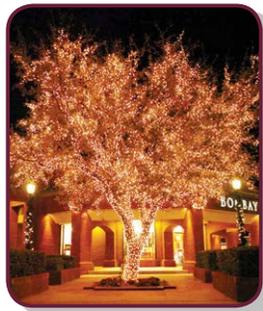
Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

Hopefully we will need to update the drought map before this letter goes to press!!! First week of September, most of West Texas got 2-5" of rain. In many areas, this doubled the total for the year. I know at my house, I've gotten just under 4" in 10 months and now in the last month I've gotten a little more than 4" of rain.

According to the Farmers' Almanac, this winter we will have 'Stinging cold, average precipitation'. Since I think Farmers' Almanac is pretty accurate, I recommend that for now, you just consider this a brief respite from the drought but keep the water hose handy. It has been great to flush some of the salts out of the soil, so don't put the salt back right now, but don't put the water hose up for winter storage.

Many times over the years, I have said 'Do you know why they call this fall? Because leaves fall! Do you know why they call them leaves? Because you are supposed to leave them right there!' Leaves are the insulating blanket that God sends every year to moderate extreme temperature changes in the soil as well as to conserve moisture and recycle nutrients. I know that most people will never leave their leaves on lawn areas, but please, leave them under shrubs and trees for the winter. And, by all means, don't put them in the dumpster. They are not trash. If you must rake, put them in your compost pile. If you don't and won't have a compost pile, have Tree Loving Care rake them up. We will put them in our compost pile and we can sell them back to you next year as compost. Trees and our soils need the organic matter.

Christmas is just around the corner. I'm not talking about the number of days of shopping left, but the time to put up the lights and décor. **Christmas Décor by Tree Loving Care** is part of the **Christmas Décor** franchise system. We are gearing up for the season. If you are tired of dragging the boxes out of the attic, not knowing if things will work or not and making 6 trips to Lowes in 2 days, call Christmas Décor by Tree Loving Care. One of our decorators can come to your home, create a display on a computer, show you what it will look like at various degrees of darkness and give you literally dozens of decorating options.



If you would like just basic fascia and/or ridge lighting or a multicolor display of all of the house, trees and shrubs, walks and gazebo lit and even dancing to the music, we can do that. Just remember that it gets pretty crazy by the first of November. If you have a large commercial situation, we can do that, too. West End Shopping Center on the West Loop and Kingsgate Shopping Center in Lubbock are a couple of our larger displays. The only caveat is that, because it is a franchise system, we refer Midland and Ector Counties to Turf Specialties as they have those areas.

If you love trees and want to learn more about them and associate with like-minded people, while supporting your local community, join the **Lubbock Arboretum**.

James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX0117A

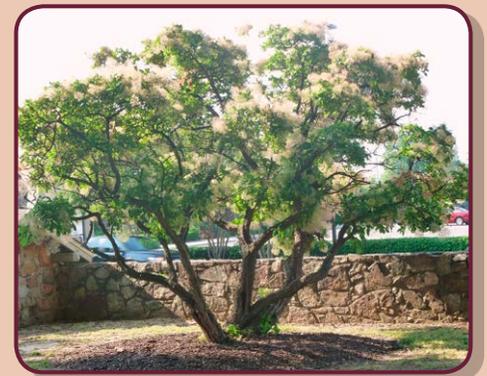
Tree Of The Quarter

Common Smoketree, *Cotinus coggygia*, has been cultivated since the mid-1600's. It's cousin, **American Smoketree, *Cotinus obovatus***, 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.

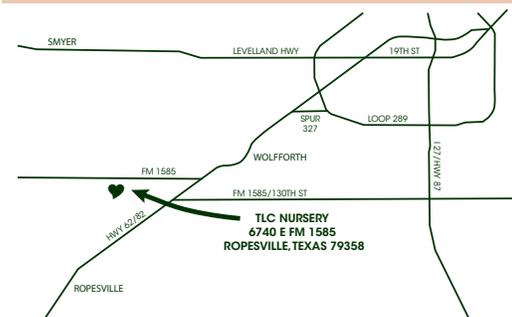
Both of these Smoketrees are small trees with a great deal of character in old age. Neither have any serious disease or insect problems. They prefer sunny, well drained loamy soils, but are adaptable to a wide range of soil types and pH.

Smoketree 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 of any native tree.

Common Smoketree is fairly available in local nurseries and there are a good number of specimens in Texas. There are a number of cultivators. American Smoketree may be a little harder to find.



Common Smoketree
(*Cotinus coggygia*)



Visit our website at
www.treelovingcare.com



TREE LOVING CARE

9821 US 62 • Wolfforth, Texas 79382

Listen to
'Tree Talk for Texas' on
KWEL AM 1070 • FM 107.1
every Thursdays morning
at 9:00 a.m.



GIVE YOUR TREES TLC

The drought map released September 4, shows shrunken areas of West Texas under severe drought and extreme drought. Since the majority of the areas rain came September 6 & 7, perhaps the upcoming map will show neither condition. Most of the area is still under normal rainfall. Fall and winter is normally a dry period. Trees and shrubs need a thorough watering at least once during the winter.

Tree Loving Care has begun the fall round of organic fertilization. It is time to call Tree Loving Care office at 877-594-8733 to have one of our Certified Arborists assess your tree care needs. Specifically, if you have trees that were chlorotic (yellow), ask about our Fall Program For Chlorotic Trees.

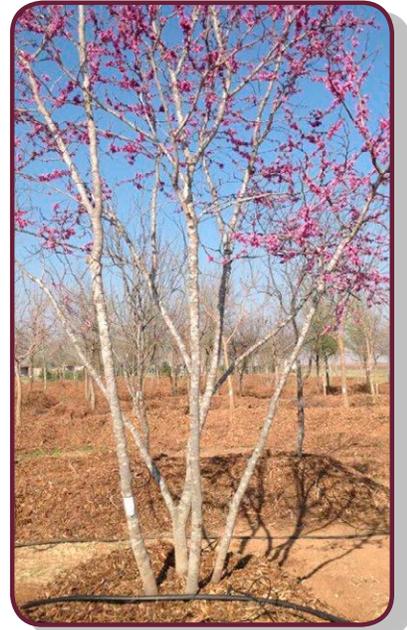
CRITTERS AND CRUDS

Things begin to wind down this time of year but there are many things you can still do to reduce the amount of critters you may have next year. A TLC crew was removing dead and almost dead Siberian Elms on a golf course a couple of weeks ago. When a large piece of bark fell off of a tree, underneath the bark, already ready for overwintering, was about 200 adult Elm Leaf Beetles. This insect did a lot of damage this year. They overwinter under bark and shingles, in piles of wood, etc; anywhere they can get a little protection. If you have Siberian Elm (it's the one that many people call Chinese Elm and it is one of the dominant trees from here to the Dakotas), put on your calendar now to control this destructive insect in March of next year. That will be before you notice any damage.

TLC UPDATE

Fall is the best season for planting trees and shrubs. TLC Nursery has an excellent selection of trees that are well adapted to our West Texas environment. TLC Nursery is located 2.5 miles west of the Lubbock County/Hockley County line of FM 1585, about 6 miles west of Wolfforth, Texas. Stop by and look at the trees.

Tree Loving Care produces a lot of wood and chips daily. TLC recycles just about everything. If you have any area of bare ground, it needs mulch. Mulching in the fall (that is how and when God does it) helps retain the moisture from the recent rains and keeps the soil warmer for the winter. Both of these things mean more root growth over the winter, which means healthier tree next spring. From now until October 31, TLC is running a special on mulch; just \$30 for any size pickup load and we load it with a front end loader.



Visit our website at
www.treelovingcare.com