

Love Letter from . . .

Tree Loving Care

Lubbock, Texas (806) 785-8733 • Midland, Texas (432) 620-8733
Spring 2021 • Serving All The West Texas Tree Needs Since 1978

Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

Wow. After Snovid-21, I might want to go back to 2020. At least it has been some desperately needed moisture and the prolonged and the severe cold killed a lot of insects that would have been plaguing us in a few months.

In January and first part of February, I was worried about trees blooming out too early and the usual late cold spell would nip them. Then Snovid-21 hit. It was the coldest since the 1960's and should delay things a bit. The main damage that I have noticed from the severe cold has been brown leaves on Live oaks, which should be only a temporary thing and nothing to worry about. The worst damage that I've seen is on some small Red oaks. In several cases, including some in the nursery, is completely frozen bark which is now separated from the wood. This will kill that trunk. I also expect to see other frost cracking. However, often you really don't see it until several years later after wound wood is pushing the bark out.

With the moisture and the expected warm up, will come spring. Flowers will bloom, trees will leaf out and the remaining critters will emerge. So will the weeds. The first round of pre-emergent herbicides should have been put down in February. If you are applying herbicides, if you apply any pesticide, please thoroughly read all of the label before mixing and applying any chemical.

Some flowers were already blooming out at the Arboretum and Daffodil Days are upon us. Please come visit Lubbock Arboretum (lubbockarboretum.org). The Arboretum grounds are always open. If you are not a member, please consider joining. Click on the membership page and you can do it all on line.

Lubbock Memorial Arboretum Foundation manages the Arboretum and Botanical Gardens which is located in K.N. Clapp Park in Lubbock. The Arboretum Interpretive Center is at 4111 University, Lubbock. Come join us!!

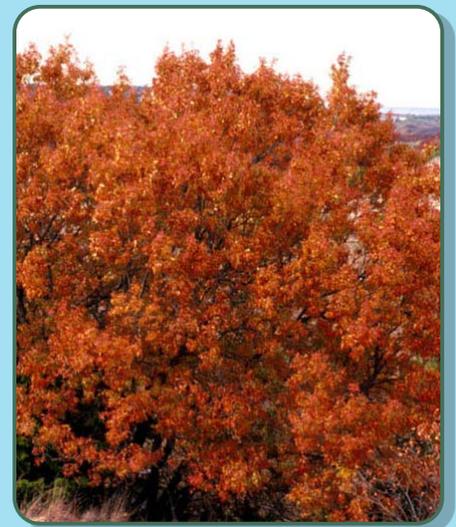
James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX0117A



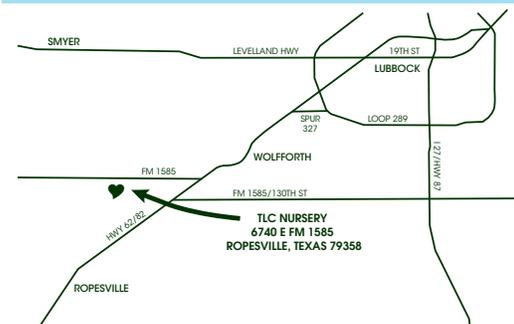
Tree Of The Quarter

Graves Red Oak, *Quercus gravesii* is also known as Chisos Red Oak. This tree is native in far SW Texas and northern Mexico and is very drought tolerant. It gets up to 55' of height with a spread of 50'.

Chisos Red Oak, as it is known in the Alpine and Big Bend area, has brilliant fall color, especially at higher elevations. It is not readily available in many garden centers. Yard Dog Nursery on Loop 338 in eastern Odessa generally carries them. It is an excellent tree that needs to be used more.



**Graves Red Oak
(Quercus gravesii)**



Visit our website at
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GIVE YOUR TREES TLC

The moisture has been nice, even if the cold wasn't particularly appealing. However, it has not been enough to overcome the exceptional drought we have been in. According to the drought map of February 9, most of west Texas is still in severe to exceptional drought. So, unless you were fortunate enough to get a really good rain, water thoroughly. Your entire landscape needs it.

It is time for deep root fertilization. Our fertilization focuses on creating a healthy soil with plenty of activity. We inject organic matter with soil activators. These are live cultures that promote microbial activity. Call 877-594-8733 today to schedule your treatment.

CRITTERS AND CRUDS

Spring is an awakening for plants that have been dormant for the winter. As the plants awaken, so do the insects and other critters. In other words, spring is a 'happenin' time' in the plant and critter world. Leaf chewing and sap sucking insects emerge, feed and breed when their food source becomes plentiful.

The best time to control insects and other pest problems is while they are small. Especially with insects that have multiple generations, if the first generation can be reduced quite a bit, the next two might not cause much problem. That is why we recommend jumping on problems early. **Call 877-594-8733 now to have one of our Certified Arborists assess your tree's needs.**

It is time very soon to inject for Elm Leaf Beetle, aphids and other sap sucking and leaf chewing insects.

TLC UPDATE

We are finally breaking ground on the new shop building at the Lubbock location. The retail building will be next. The sawmill is running and we are beginning to turn out planks for sale. If you are a wood worker or know someone that is, we have some beautiful pieces of wood. The next step will be making gorgeous live edge tables.

Visit our website at
www.treelovingcare.com