

Love Letter from . . .

Tree Loving Care

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



Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

The last two years have been quite the roller coaster ride in so many ways it's hard to count.

First, the pandemic and government tyrants shutting down the entire economy. That was a first! Then one of the most severe droughts in Texas history. Hopefully, historically, it will prove to be shorter lived than the drought of 2010-2013, which was the most severe in recorded history.

Then, after a mild early winter, Texas gets a week of the coldest weather in most of our memories. Cold enough to have killed all or most of many trees. Even native trees. Ash seems to be the hardest hit. We've even had a few Lacebark Elm die from the cold, which surprised me. The trees and shrubs that were lost most were a little bit marginal for cold hardiness in the first place.

At least, after almost a year of most of the west half of Texas being under 'exceptional drought', now we are only 'unusually dry'. However, after several weeks of cooler than normal and some very beneficial rains, it has turned hot and dry. In Texas, summer always gets here. So, unless you are in one of those pockets of plenty of rain, get ready to water. If you planted trees or shrubs this last winter or spring, still water twice per week.

One result will be that we will have an extraordinary amount of firewood this coming winter.

Lubbock Arboretum is back to having Second Saturday programs. July Second Saturday will be Dr. Vikram Baliga speaking on Preparing Your Plants for Summer Heat and for August Second Saturday, I will give a talk on Lightning Protection in Trees. Come joins us at the Arboretum.

James Tuttle, Certified Arborist
TX0117A



Tree Of The Quarter

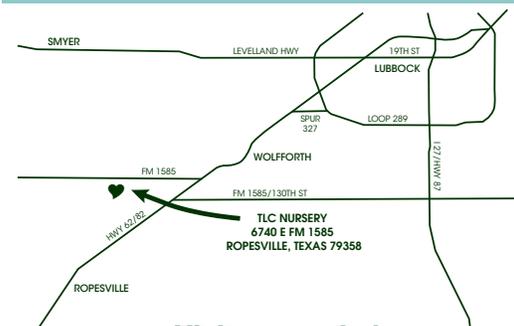
Escarpment Live Oak, *Quercus fusiformis*, has always been a Texas favorite. It is the Live Oak native to the hill country. Escarpment Live Oak is a large growing tree, getting up to 50' tall and 100'+ feet canopy spread.

There are over 30 different species of Live Oaks native to Texas. The Escarpment Live Oak is native to the Hill Country of Texas and is drought tolerant and more cold hardy than the Southern Live Oak.

However, there can be a great deal of difference of cold tolerance within one species. Escarpment Live Oak native to near Abilene will be more cold hardy than Escarpment Live Oak from south of San Antonio. Try to find out from your nursery or grower where is the seed from.



Escarpment Live Oak
(*Quercus fusiformis*)



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TREE LOVING CARE

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'Tree Talk for Texas' on
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at **9:00 a.m.**



GIVE YOUR TREES TLC

Summer has finally gotten here. The rainfall was very nice, but most of West Texas is either at the edge of the desert or in the desert. That means that the next drought is just around the corner. As summer progresses, water established trees about every other week. Thoroughly. That means more than 10 minutes.

If you don't know what your sprinkler system puts out, do a can test. That means put out a tuna can or something similar, turn your system on and see how long it takes to fill up the can (or how long it takes to get an inch). One inch should be a minimum watering for established trees, shrubs or turf and should be done a maximum of once per week.

CRITTERS AND CRUDS

The severe cold of mid-February killed a lot of trees and shrubs and that has been devastating to many landscapes, but it also killed a lot of insect pests. Many insect pests, especially ones that have multiple generations, have been greatly reduced so far this year. If your landscape plants do look abnormal, **call Tree**

Loving Care at 877-594-8733 to have on of our Certified Arborists assess their needs.

TLC UPDATE

The severe freeze in February killed a lot of trees and shrubs, not only in the landscape but in nurseries all over Texas. The federal government has been printing money like crazy and paying people to not work. A result of this is that there are too many dollars chasing too few goods and presto, inflation. Then throw in something like the freeze eliminating a lot of the supply and you get plants that suddenly cost 2-3 times as much as they did a year or two ago.

Visit our website at
www.treelovingcare.com