

Love Letter from . . .

Tree Loving Care

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

Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

When I wrote the last newsletter, it had begun to rain some, but most of West Texas was or still was under severe to extreme drought. No longer. What a blessing rain is. Almost no area of West Texas is even moderately dry. The drought has been broken. However, I will remind everyone, you do live in West Texas. Always, the next drought is just around the corner.

All this rain has washed a lot of salts out of the soil horizon and that is a very good thing. When we get good rain, for goodness sake, turn your sprinkler off. Don't put the salt right back.

Lubbock Memorial Arboretum is back to having our Second Saturday Programs live and in person. In the last letter, I announced that I would be speaking in August on Lightning Protection in Trees. Instead, I spent a week in the hospital in early August and asked John Wallis to fill in for me. He gave a great talk on the Arboretum's tree planting program. I will be giving my talk on September 11.

If you have never been to the Arboretum, it is the west half of K.N.Clapp Park. The interpretive Center is at 4111 University, Lubbock. If you haven't been in a long time, come back. You will enjoy the visit. The Arboretum is a too well kept secret. To become a member, visit www.lubbockarboretum.org

James Tuttle

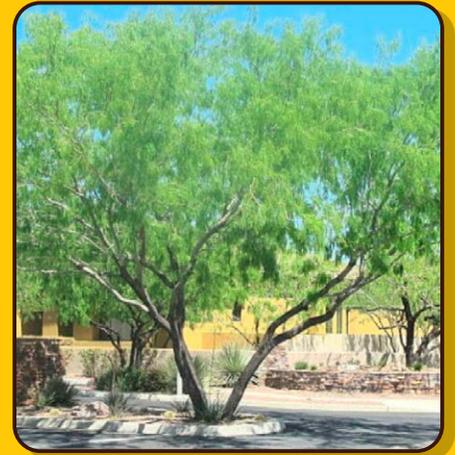
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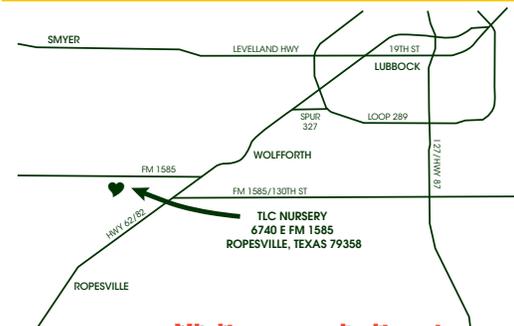
Tree Of The Quarter

Honey Mesquite, *Prosopis glandulosa*, is a native tree that is very common throughout almost all areas of Texas except the eastern one third. Mesquite has been in West Texas for centuries, but was not a common plant until the cattle drives and over grazing of the late 1800's. It is very drought tolerant.

All of the Mesquites cast a fairly light shade and that makes it more likely to be able to grow grass under the canopy. Honey Mesquite will get to be 30' tall with a canopy of about 30' wide. This makes them a tree that can be planted in the back yard closer to the power lines.



Honey Mesquite
(*Prosopis glandulosa*)



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'Tree Talk for Texas' on
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GIVE YOUR TREES TLC

Four months ago, most of West Texas was under extreme drought. Rain is wonderful. In most of West Texas, the drought is completely broken. That is great news for plants. This area also often gets a good rain from hurricanes coming up from Baja. Let's hope. Never turn down a rain in West Texas

Now is the time to plan your landscape installations for the dormant season. The best time for planting trees and shrubs is in the dormant season, roughly November through March. Be sure to mulch these new plantings. Tree Loving Care has plenty of woodchip mulch at both locations. Give us a call at 877-594-8733. No charge if you want to come shovel. If you have a lot of landscaping, we can deliver a dump trailer load.

CRITTERS AND CRUDS

The severe freeze in February seems to have greatly reduced insect populations in many insects that have been a problem at this point in the season. However, there are some problems that just never seem to go away.

Obscure Scale on oaks is active right now and needs to be controlled. Squirrels are a perennial problem also. They can be discouraged with a pepper spray called Capsaicin. It is used as a drug in certain formulations, but also a deterrent for many animals.

TLC UPDATE

In July, TLC crews from Lubbock and Midland spent a day of service at the Lubbock Arboretum. They removed numerous dead trees and pruned several others. It's amazing what you can do with well trained and well motivated crews. The Lubbock crews went back and spent another day of service in August.

The Arboretum is a very special place. If you haven't been lately, stop by for a visit. The interpretive Center is at 4111 university.

Visit our website at
www.treelovingcare.com