

Love Letter from . . .

Tree Loving Care

Lubbock, Texas (806) 785-8733 • Midland, Texas (432) 620-8733
Fall 2022 • Serving All The West Texas Tree Needs Since 1978

Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

Isn't rain great! I knew that if we waited long enough, it would finally rain. The drought map looks so different that it did a month ago. As of this writing, there is still a little bit of West Texas under Exceptional Drought. A good bit around Seminole is still very dry, but most of West Texas has gone from Exceptional Drought to Moderately Dry. I will remind everyone that 15 months ago, most of West Texas was in Exceptional Drought, then it rained for 3 months and we went from Exceptional Drought to almost no part of Texas under drought conditions. Then...it didn't rain for 9 months and we were back to Exceptional Drought. Moral of the story, I've waited longer for it to rain than I've waited for it to dry out.

When we do get good rain, for goodness sake, turn your sprinkler systems off. Don't put the salt right back.

Tree Loving Care is in the process of redoing our website to make it more informative and user friendly. It should be up and running before you get this letter. Please stop by www.treelovingcare.com and check it out. Also, stop by Tree Loving Care on Facebook and give us a thumbs up.

Good reviews on Facebook, Google and Yelp, as well as who knows how many other platforms, are a great way to recommend us. And, of course, the old-fashioned recommendations to friends and family are always greatly appreciated. If we've disappointed you, please tell us so we can fix whatever we broke.

Tree planting season is upon us. Trees and shrubs do so much better when planted in the fall. TLC has some very nice trees that need to be in someone's yard.

Look for the Lubbock Arboretum Fall Plant Sale October 1, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. The Arboretum is located at 4111 University Avenue, Lubbock. Tree Loving Care has donated a 3" caliper Shumard Red Oak to be raffled off as a fund raiser. Tickets are \$25 each or 5 for \$100. You can buy tickets from TLC, at the Arboretum, or from any Arboretum Board member.

James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX0117A



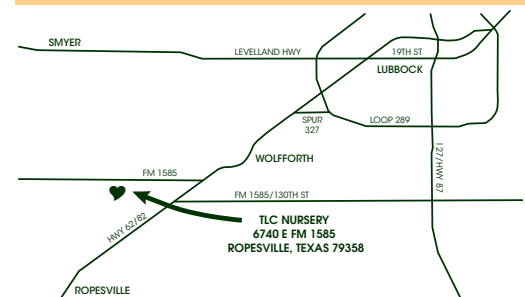
Tree Of The Quarter

Vitex or Lilac Chaste Tree, *Vitex agnus-castus*, is generally thought of as a large shrub to small tree but few people realize how big they can get. Achieving 25' height and 40' spread is not uncommon with age. This still puts them in the small tree category. They are almost always wider than tall so give them room.

Vitex has purple blooms that cover the plant for over two months in early summer. Occasionally they will have a second bloom in late summer, especially following a rainy spell after a dry spell. They have become very popular and deservedly so. They should be abundant in the nurseries.



Vitex or Lilac Chaste Tree
(*Vitex agnus-castus*)



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www.treelovingcare.com



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GIVE YOUR TREES TLC

Tree pruning is just one of the many tree services that TLC offers. Tree removal, stump grinding, tree fertilization, tree injections, tree insect and disease management, and tree diagnostics are just some of the services that we offer. Call 877-594-8733 today to have one of our ISA Certified Arborists assess your tree's needs.

Fall is an important time to fertilize trees. In nature, a 3-4" layer of leaves fall and provide a mulch layer on the soil. This mulch layer keeps soil warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer, it decays and recycles nutrients and adds organic (carbon) which promotes a great variety of soil life. This is God's way of fertilizing. At Tree Loving Care, our organic tree fertilization tries to duplicate these ingredients.

If you have bare ground, please cover it with wood chip mulch. If you don't have it available, come get some. Bring your shovel and pickup and have a ball. If we load it, that will cost \$5 per scoop with a front-end loader (loading has to be coordinated through the office as we don't always have someone there to load) and will cost more if we haul it.

CRITTERS AND CRUDS

Aphids are making their annual impact on the landscape. Trees and shrubs (and the cars and lawn furniture below them) are sticky with honeydew. Aphids are often not very harmful to trees but they are always a nuisance. Tree Loving Care generally applies a systemic insecticide to control them. Spraying an insecticide would also kill the Ladybugs and Lacewings that are feeding on the aphids. Call one of our Certified Arborists to have this taken care of.

TLC UPDATE

Tree Loving Care is always looking for good employees. If you have a son, grandson or know of any youngster that is looking for an intriguing, exciting job, send them our way. Tree care is a very interesting profession. About the time this goes to the printer, James and June, along with Butch and Joyce, will be at the annual Texas Tree Conference absorbing the latest in tree care techniques and equipment. When we get back, we will be passing along that information in training sessions to all of our employees.

Visit our website at
www.treelovingcare.com