

Love Letter from . . .

# Tree Loving Care

Lubbock, Texas (806) 785-8733 • Midland, Texas (432) 620-8733  
Spring 2012 • Serving All The West Texas Tree Needs Since 1978

## Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

Spring sprung a little early on us this year. It seems to me that almost everything blooming of elms to the buzzing of flies is about 2-3 weeks ahead of normal. Flower and leaf bud opening and the emergence of most insects are driven by accumulation of heat units. In other words, how long has it been warm is more important than how warm did it get one or two days. Now, if we can only get a little bit more moisture.

We are well below our normal rainfall and still in an official drought throughout this area. A good part of the eastern half of Texas has officially broken their drought, but we aren't so fortunate in west Texas. One thing that means for us is that we need to water to save many of our landscapes, but it doesn't mean that we need to waste water.

In Lubbock and Midland/Odessa the water restrictions in place still allow enough water to keep your landscape alive and reasonably healthy if the water is applied wisely. Sometimes, these watering restrictions seem to be promulgated by a bureaucracy that has little common sense.

The Midland/Odessa restriction that only allow hose watering on a certain day of the week is probably enough to keep trees and shrubs alive; is easily skirted by a little ingenuity (what is to keep you from holding one hose, Susie from holding another and Johnny from holding another? I see a whole new cottage industry of hiring Jr. High and High School students to hold a hose.); and flies in the face of, what is to me common sense. If you have a state of the art sprinkler system, what can be more efficient than that system?

There are certain things about watering with a hose that I commonly recommend. Water coming out the end of a hose at least will have little if any evaporation; the smaller the droplets, the higher the evaporation loss.

We welcome you to visit our website [www.treelovingcare.com](http://www.treelovingcare.com). We recently upgraded the website and tried to make it more informative and more user friendly. One feature that we added was testimonials. If you have been delighted by our service, we would love to be able to tell the world. If you have been less than thrilled, please call our office so we can correct any deficiencies.

I would also like to tell everyone about the new spider lift that we bought a few months ago. It has a working height of 60' and will reach out 30' at 30' high and will fit through most residential front doors. It is an ideal machine to get into any back yard and for tree work but is also ideal for working inside buildings with tall ceilings and can do most jobs that require scaffolding in the amount of time that it takes to set up the scaffolding. We have changed bulbs in a church building with it and it worked very well. It will run on electricity once inside to eliminate exhaust fumes.



Spider Lift Inside Church

James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX0117A

Listen to  
'Tree Talk for Texas'  
9:00 a.m. Fridays  
on KRFE AM 580

Streaming Live on  
[AM580Lubbock.com](http://AM580Lubbock.com)

## Tree Of The Quarter

Carolina Buckthorn, *Rhamnus Caroliniana*, is a small tree commonly found in the acid soils of the eastern half of Texas and on more calcareous bottomlands in other parts of the state. Aggie Horticulture lists it as having a mature height of 15' but there is one outside of Waco that is at least 16" caliper and 25' tall. There was a lost population of them in, what is now the bottom of Lake Alan Henry. Some of them were in the range of 25' tall.

This tree is deciduous, has few if any insect pests and is very drought tolerant. Bear in mind that we are currently in the most severe drought on record, so when someone says that a plant is drought tolerant, that doesn't mean drought loving or tolerant of severe drought.



Rhamnus Caroliniana

Spring 2012

Visit our website  
at  
[www.treelovingcare.com](http://www.treelovingcare.com)



# TREE LOVING CARE

9821 Brownfield Hwy • Wolfforth, Texas 79382

Return Service Requested



## Give Your Trees TLC

When trees are under the kind of moisture stress that our trees have been under lately, they need a boost. Our organic fertilizer with humic acid, kelp, compost tea and iron is just what the Dr. ordered. The compost tea is packed with micro-organisms that help increase the uptake capacity of the root system. With little moisture falling from the sky, what moisture plants have been getting has been pumped from the ground. In one way, this adds to the difficulty. Water pumped from the ground is laden with dissolved minerals. These minerals create imbalances and in most cases we need to apply gypsum to help lower the pH and bring the calcium levels back into balance.

Addition of organic matter in just about any way you can get it in the ground is always beneficial. Adding mulch over the root zone of plants is another great way to improve soil. Organic matter holds and releases nutrients. It is the one thing most lacking in our soils.

## TLC Update

Tree Loving Care has done some business in the Permian Basin for over 20 years and have always thought that the trees in that area needed more love. To be better able to love all of West Texas trees, we have opened an office in Midland. Our phone number in the Permian Basin is 432-620-8733. If you have friends in that area, just tell them to remember to call 620-TREE.

Our new website should be up and running any day, hopefully, by the time you get this letter. We have been working on it for a couple of months and hope that you will find it much more helpful. One of the objectives has been to make it more easily changed, therefore more easily kept up to date. We are very good at loving trees, but not so good at computers, so our website designer has worked hard at making it something that even we can do. Click on the same address, [www.treelovingcare.com](http://www.treelovingcare.com) to see the new website and pass along any comments that you might have.

## Critters and Cruds

In the world of plants and the critters that feed on them, spring is a period of high activity. Aphids tend to feed on young succulent tissue, Elm Leaf Beetle are already hatching the first generation, Pine Tip Moth burrows in the growing tip of pine trees and many insects are laying eggs or are feeding heavily, preparing to lay eggs.

Most of these insects can be easily managed with applications of an insecticide that doesn't require throwing a chemical into the air. We use a variety of methods and products that target just the pest, eliminates drift and is very effective at controlling insect outbreaks.

Ideally, with our organic fertilization program and a balanced approach and a healthy soil, we can get your trees and shrubs healthy and not need to work so hard at controlling insect outbreaks. It is very difficult to overcome the constant barrage of commercials on TV telling the public to fertilize.

Most of the insect and disease problems we deal with stem from plants being overfed and over watered, not the other way around.



*Pine Tip Moth Damage*

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