

Love Letter from . . .

Tree Loving Care

Lubbock, Texas (806) 785-8733 • Midland, Texas (432) 620-8733
Spring 2025 • Serving All The West Texas Tree Needs Since 1978



Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers,

Spring has sprung, fruit trees, and a few others are budding out, leaves are unfolding and insects are emerging. All of these processes take quite a bit of water and only the northern part of our area in and around Lubbock, do we have adequate soil moisture. The Permian Basin is in severe drought and the Trans Pecos region and west to El Paso is all under exceptional drought conditions.

About the time you get this newsletter, I will be in New Braunfels, judging at the North American Tree Climbing Championship. If you get this in time, the event is a great family affair, a lot of fun, and well worth the trip. It is March 21-23 in Cypress Bend Park.

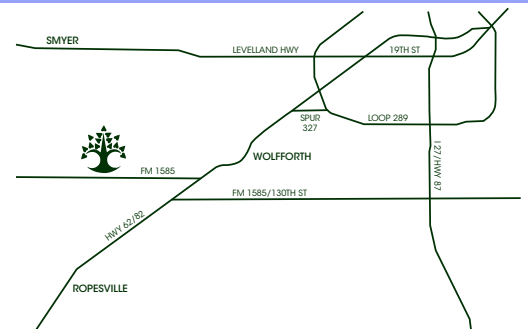
James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX 0117A

Tree Of The Quarter

Texas Mardone, *Arbutus xalapensis*, is a small to medium evergreen tree in the heather family. It is found in canyons and rocky hill sides of West Texas, eastern New Mexico and down to Mexico. It is not as common as some oaks, but it does grow in Oak Woodlands up to 10,000 feet elevation. It is notoriously difficult to move from the wild. It will take more effort, but it is well worth it. You should be able to find some in small containers up to perhaps 5 gallon size.




NORTH AMERICAN TREE CLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIP
Texas, USA | 21 - 23 March 2025



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TREE LOVING CARE

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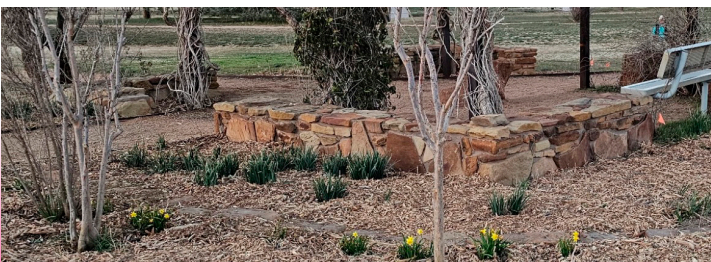
Trees are a forest organisms.

The soil biome in a forest soil is quite different than a prairie soil or a desert soil. This is primarily because the forest soil has a larger amount of carbon in it. Basically, organic means carbon in a forest soil could be as high as 10% organic matter whereas a prairie soil is generally under 2% and a desert soil could be under 1/2 of a percent.

The bottom line for this is that if you want a more healthy soil for your trees, and organic matter. The best way to do that is with wood chip mulch. That is the closest thing to replicating the natural situation for a tree.

So, if you need mulch, Tree Loving Care has it. If we load it, it's about \$20 per pick up load. We can deliver a dump trailer load for about \$300 per load. Re-ground and composted mulch is about \$400 per load.

Mulch not only decays and returns nutrients, it insulates the soil temperatures, keeping soil warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. Perhaps the greatest benefit is retaining moisture, and preventing soils from drying out. A 2 inch to 3 inch layer is recommended, but do not pile mulch up against the trunk of a tree.



TLC UPDATE

James Tuttle recently went to a two day workshop on soil and plant biomes. One of the biggest takeaways was that everything should be in balance. If one thing gets out of balance that leaves room for some other organism to flourish and then the system gets even more out of balance. Doesn't take long to be out of balance for you to get sick.

It's the same way with your plants. High nitrogen fertilizers inhibit many microorganisms and is a great way to get your system out of balance. All plants need nitrogen in greater amounts than the other 12 essential elements. However, most people tend to over fertilize with nitrogen.

CRITTERS AND CRUDS

One of the earliest trees to leave out is the Siberian Elm, and one of the earliest insects to emerge is the Elm Leaf Beetle. Is it time right now to control that insect. Spring and early summer is the best time to control most insect. It is far easier to solve insect infestation when they are still small.

Call Tree Loving Care to have one of our Certified Arborist inspect your trees and making recommendations. We make this house call for only \$80.

Visit our website at
www.treelovingcare.com