

Love Letter from . . .

Tree Loving Care

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Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

For the last couple of weeks, I've been on the city's case pretty hard about at least the perception of poor planning on their part in handling the category 4 emergency water restrictions that we are under during record rainfall. At least, we've had the good fortune to have the rainfall and almost every established tree I've talked to has expressed relief that someone finally turned the water off.

The plants that will suffer from these restrictions are newly planted plants. Trees take 6-9 months per diameter inch to become established. Shrubs generally take considerably less time because they are generally planted from containers and have more roots relative to the size of plant and of course bedding plants and sod generally establish in a few weeks to a few months. The water restrictions do allow watering with a hose.

I really think that if everyone were to follow good common sense about watering, we wouldn't need the restrictions. It isn't always that people don't have common sense, sometimes it's just that everyone is busy and they forget. So this is a reminder. If your landscape is well established, it will be fine if it doesn't get watered for a couple of weeks. If it turns off hot and dry and your grass starts to turn brown, it won't die. The restrictions should be over by the end of June and by the second watering, everything will turn green again.

For those new plantings, you need about 2 inches of our great composted mulch. Mulch helps conserve the moisture that you have. We sell it in bulk for \$20 per cubic yard (\$30-40 per pickup load). Another great boost to plants is our new compost tea. Call 785-8733 and ask about these 2 great organic products.

The abundance of rainfall that we had in March, contributed to one of the most devastating weather events that I've seen in almost 30 years of working with tree. The freeze on Easter Week-end nipped the succulent growth of many trees and shrubs. Red Oaks were hit particularly hard. As water between cells froze, the bark was pushed away from the wood. As the water thawed, the bark stayed in the new position separated from the wood. In a few hours, that bark soon died; as it dried, it peeled away from the wood. That wood subsequently dried and died and no longer moved water up the branch. In those cases where the bark separation was all the way around the branch, those branches have died from there out. Many more branches will die later this summer as the weather turns hot and dry.

James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX0117



Bark Splitting

Tree Of The Quarter

Cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*), Blue Atlas Cedar (*C. atlantica*) from North Africa and Deodora Cedar (*C. deodora*) from the near east are the true cedars. Many of the plants that are commonly called Cedar are actually Junipers. All were introduced to America over 150 years and are well proven.

There are a good number of Deodora Cedars planted in Lubbock and a few of the other Cedars. All three species are planted at the



Cedar of Lebanon

Arboretum, just north of the Garden and Art Center. Cedar of Lebanon is native to the dry mountain regions in Lebanon, Syria and Turkey from 4,000 to 7,000 foot elevation. Our elevation is about 3,500 and we have alkaline soils and dry conditions as their native range. They do need supplemental watering in the winter.

As do most conifers, the Cedars grow pyramidal in their youth and tend to flatten out in old age. They should be fairly easily found in the local nurseries.





TREE LOVING CARE

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TLC Update . . .

The Texas Tree Climbing Championship (TTCC) was held April 20-21 in Plano. James Tuttle was head judge of the Aerial Rescue event and James Majors judged the same event. All preliminary events have 3 judges. We all had a great time. Vicente Navarro won the Texas title and will represent Texas at the International Tree Climbing Championship in Hawaii in August. For more info,



Judges at Aerial Rescue

check out www.itcc.com.

James Tuttle was recently appointed chairman of the 2008 TTCC, which will be held in Ft. Worth. The first Jamboree (as it was known in the early days) was held in Ft. Worth 20 years ago. If you would like more info and would like to come out to support the local team, go to www.isatexas.com or follow the planning our website, www.treelovingcare.com.

If you have questions about your trees, you may call 785-8733 to talk to a Certified Arborist, contact us on the web through our website or listen to Tree Talk for Texans, 9:00 a.m. Friday on AM580 KRFE.

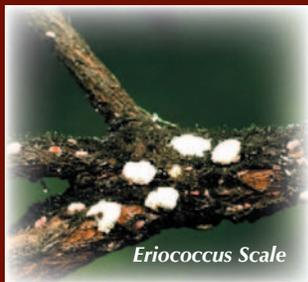
James Tuttle just returned from the second National Oak Wilt Symposium in Austin. The first was held in Austin in 1992. There were numerous papers presented describing most of the current research on Oak Wilt as well as a day of field demonstrations of trenching and application techniques.

Sadly, there hasn't been a great deal of break through in managing Oak Wilt. At times, science does seem to plod along. The most exciting work presented was the research on new resistant or tolerant varieties of oaks, and that work is certainly still in its infancy.

Critters and Cruds

The Eriococcus Scale that our arborists discovered in southwest Lubbock has been spreading. We've now found it north of 50th St. We've also figured out one reason that its reproductive potential is so great, is that it has more than one generation per year. Little is known about this pest. Only within the last few months have we been able to determine that it has a common name, Oak Felt Scale. Still have no good idea where this exotic pest came from. This insect is controllable with a systemic insecticide such as Merit.

Another scale insect that is a problem on red and live oaks is Obscure Scale. It hatches late July-early August. The window of opportunity to control this insect is much smaller than the Oak Felt Scale and the systemics don't seem to control as well. It does need to be sprayed in the crawler stage.



Eriococcus Scale

Give Your Trees TLC

The record rainfall that we are having has led to some problems. Weeds are growing like crazy and much of the weed control was lost. If you've not applied pre-emergent herbicide, it is time. If you applied a high nitrogen fertilizer, much of the nitrogen has been lost due to leaching. One of the reasons that TLC prefers organic fertilizers is that they aren't lost as easily to leaching.

The high rainfall has helped flush some of the salts from the soil profile. Most lawns are still loaded with salt. The rain has certainly helped, but it might take 5 years of rain like we've gotten this spring to solve that particular problem. An application of gypsum helps flush salts from the soil. If you've not had your soil tested, call one of our Certified Arborists for an appointment.