

Love Letter from . . .

Tree Loving Care

Lubbock, Texas (806) 785-8733 • Midland, Texas (432) 620-8733
Spring 2019 • Serving All The West Texas Tree Needs Since 1978

Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

Most of the West Texas area has been blessed with adequate to abundant rain. The first 10 months of 2018 was one of the driest periods in my memory. Welcome to climate cycles. I had a caller on the radio show in Midland last week declare that Midland tends to be on a 12 year weather pattern. I don't necessarily subscribe to that and don't pretend to be a weatherman or climatologist, but I am convinced that weather and climate does have a pattern and can best be seen from a long (and I mean a very long) historical perspective.

Thunderstorms bring rain, but sometimes they also bring lightning, hail and high winds, all of which can be very damaging to trees. After every thunderstorm, everyone should go out and look up. Branches that are broken should be removed before they cause further injury or damage. Narrow crotches that have split should be braced and/or cabled.

Trees that have been struck by lightning should be inspected by one of our **Certified Arborists** for a damage assessment. This assessment should be done as soon as possible after the event. Lightning can be very damaging to trees. One consequence is just the mechanical damage of stripping the foliage of leaves and the numerous wounds on small limbs. Another is that insects are immediately attracted to the damaged tree. This attraction may be because of the drying effect of the heat of the lightning or insects may be attracted to the wound itself.

The Permian Basin is dealing with a sudden and severe outbreak of a wilting disease in Afghan Pine. It seems to be the most severe in the same area that got the most severe hail about a month ago. So far, I have been in almost daily contact with other arborists, County Agents, Urban Foresters, the Texas Plant Disease Lab and head of pathology at TAMU and we have no definitive answers. I have a suspect for the casual agent, but I really want lab verification. Stay tuned.



Speaking of staying tuned, you can listen live to Tree Talk for Texas every Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m. on KWEL AM 1070 or FM 107.1 if you are in the Permian Basin. If you are outside the listening area, just go to kwel.com and listen on your dotcom machine. Craig and I have a lot of fun and once in a while we talk about trees. I will be giving weekly updates on this Pine problem.

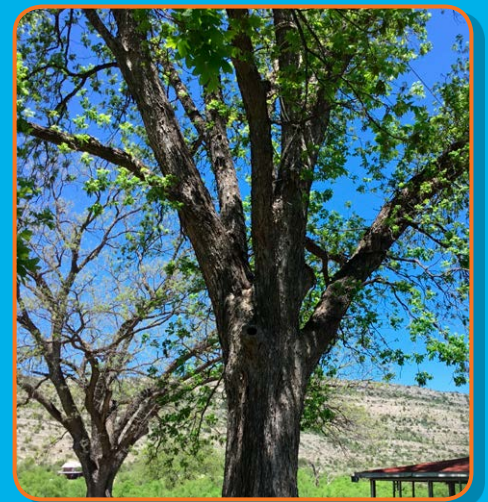
James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX0117A

Tree Of The Quarter

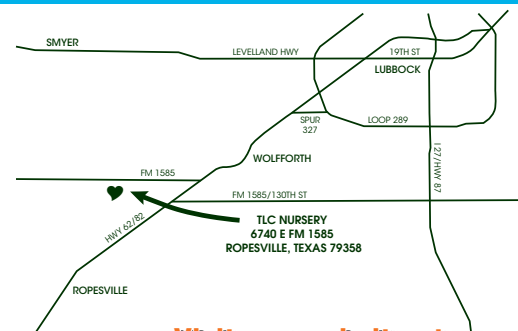
Pecan, *Carya illinoensis*, is the state tree of Texas. It is native in 200 of 254 counties of Texas. It is a bottom land tree, but is very adaptable and can be found in every county in Texas. In most of West Texas, it will need supplemental irrigation.

Pecans are large growing trees, reaching heights of over 90' and canopy spreads of 90-100'. Tree Loving Care recently worked on such a tree on a ranch 100 miles south of Midland.

TLC Nursery has some nice Western Schley and Mohawk Pecans. Both are paper shell and well adapted varieties.



Pecan
(*Carya illinoensis*)



Visit our website at
www.treelovingcare.com



TREE LOVING CARE

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Listen to
'Tree Talk for Texas' on
KWEL AM 1070 • FM 107.1
every Thursdays morning
at 9:00 a.m.



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GIVE YOUR TREES TLC

All of the rain has been wonderful. For most of the west Texas area, very little supplemental irrigation is needed right now. Please leave you sprinkler system off for a bit longer if you live in an area that has had these rains. God flushed the salts out, please don't put them back. If you haven't had rain for 3 weeks or more, turn them back on, but only once per week.

Do a 'can test' to know how much your system is putting out. When you do water, you should apply an inch or more.

TLC is in the middle of our early summer fertilization of lawns as well as the summer grub control. TLC now does grass too. Give us a call from anywhere on 877.594.8733 to have a landscape specialist come assess your landscape needs.

CRITTERS AND CRUDS

There is still a lot going on in the landscape. Spider Mites love hot dry weather and that is just around the corner. It is not too late to control Elm Leaf Beetle and there are lots of other critters munching away on leaves and sucking the life blood (sap) out of your plants.

Oak Wilt is still attacking Live Oaks and Red Oaks in many areas of West Texas. Now, we may also be dealing with another vascular wilt on Pines. If the wilting problem in Afghan Pine in the Permian Basin is caused by Pine Wilt Nematode, it has the potential to be almost as devastating as Oak Wilt, since there

is no control and management is mostly about removing trees as soon as diagnosed.

TLC UPDATE

Travis Perez, Kenneth Norris and James Tuttle recently went to the Texas Tree Climbing Championship at San Gabriel Park in Georgetown, Texas. It was Travis's first time to compete and, despite the normal nervousness of any first time competitor, he did pretty well. James wasn't nervous, as it was his 28th or 29th competition. James judged the Work Climb, one of 5 preliminary events. Miguel Pastenes won his 8th Texas championship. Second place went to Keith Cooper, a former TLC climber in the Midland office. Congratulations to all.



Welcome back to David Rios. David moved to Arizona a couple years to help take care of his aging mother. But, he missed the flat lands of West Texas (and his daughters and grandchildren) and came back to TLC last month.

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www.treelovingcare.com