

Love Letter from . . .

Tree Loving Care

Lubbock, Texas (806) 785-8733 • Midland, Texas (432) 620-8733
Summer 2020 • Serving All The West Texas Tree Needs Since 1978



Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

If you live near Justiceburg or Lake Allen Henry, you can continue to bail out the boat from the 12" of rain that fell in that very localized area, but if you live in just about any other part of West Texas, you need to water. It is hot and dry. Also, it seems to have been a little windier than normal recently. When temps are near or above 100 and the wind is creating a blast furnace, it sucks the water out of your landscape, too.

If you are one of those people (most are) that water for 10-15 minutes 2-3 days a week, you may have great moisture in the top 12" of soil, but inadequate deep moisture. Permian Basin water tends to be much worse than other areas, but ground water in general is higher in mineral content than rain water; in some areas, much higher. Those minerals come with a consequence. If you water twice a week for 20 minutes and things still look bad, try watering once a week for 40 minutes. Deep moisture stays longer. If you are unsure, call one of our Certified Arborists. We are tree doctors that make house calls. Generally, a site analysis is only \$95 and sprinkler audits are \$125.

Site analysis consists of a visual inspection of all plants in the landscape, identifying them to the client along with the critter and cruds that may be affecting them, a general discussion of their needs and condition. Any lab work would be an additional charge. Sprinkler audits include measuring application rates and existing soil moisture and setting sprinkler controllers for proper watering. As most people water so improperly, it is not unusual for clients to save that cost just on their water bill in the first 2-3 months.

TLC Care is regularly scheduled visits to your landscape to assess the condition of your trees, shrubs, turf and beds and includes the site analysis and sprinkler audit. This service will ensure the best possible outcome for your landscape.

James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX0117A

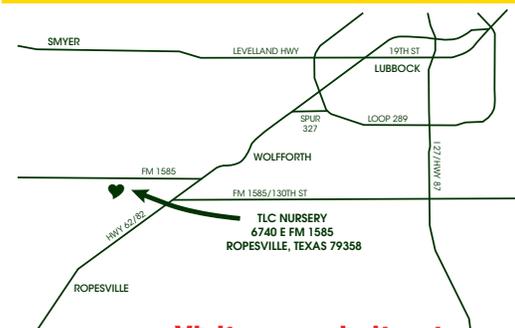
Tree Of The Quarter

Lilac Chaste Tree, or *Vitex agnus-castus*, is often thought to be a medium to large shrub with a life span of 25-30 years. However, they get much larger and live much longer. There is one in Fort Davis that is over 100 years old and 35-40' tall and at least 50' wide and thriving. *Vitex* is very drought tolerant and has almost no insect or disease problems.

Vitex has a great tendency to put on basal sprouts that need to be removed cleanly to properly train to a single trunk. Select branches to keep that have good angles of attachment and proper spacing. This will result in a plant that is far superior to one that is multi trunk with co-dominant stems. *Vitex* is widely available in the nursery trade.



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



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'Tree Talk for Texas' on
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GIVE YOUR TREES TLC

There are many trees that are in trouble right now. It is very dry in most of West Texas. If this describes your tree, turn a hose and let it run all night and maybe all day. Water at least out to the drip line. Twice that far is better if that is possible. If you have a big tree, roots may be in both neighbor's yard and if in the back yard, all three neighbors across the alley. If they don't water, wait until they go on vacation and throw a hose over into their yard and water all night also. You only need to do that during periods of drought. We are in that drought stage right now. It costs less to save a tree than remove it and start over.

We are still in thunderstorm season. If we can get some moisture, maybe we'll have some. They come with the blessing of rain, but often with high winds. We had such a wind in the Lubbock area two weeks ago. Call 877-594-8733 to have one of our Certified Arborists check your trees for a damage assessment. We can also check them for potential weaknesses and take preventative measures.

CRITTERS AND CRUDS

There is still a lot of insect and disease activity. Elm Leaf Beetle has already done quite a bit of damage to Siberian Elm, enough it is easy to spot, but nothing compared to the damage it will do over the next month.

It is still time to control many of the scale insects that annually infest many of our landscape trees. Call one of our Certified Arborists for a site analysis and diagnostic visit. Insect and disease problems are always easier to manage when they are small. Spider Mites are another timely problem. They love hot dry weather.

TLC UPDATE

After almost a year without a crane, TLC recently got a new crane. It is an 18 ton boom truck, very similar to the old one, with the same reach and a little more weight capacity. It makes very short work of some of the most difficult trees in some very tight spaces. It makes many removals so much safer and some things that were very difficult are now almost routine.

Visit our website at
www.treelovingcare.com