

Love Letter from . . .

Tree Loving Care

Lubbock, Texas (806) 785-8733 • Midland, Texas (432) 620-8733
Summer 2022 • Serving All The West Texas Tree Needs Since 1978



Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

Two weeks ago, when starting to think about what to write in this newsletter, the phrase 'Doodlebug Dry' kept coming to mind. Doodlebugs are the larvae stage of an antlion. The name is cute, but they are devastating insects...if you are an ant. And they like it dry...very dry. The soil needs to be dry enough and sandy enough that they can kick out soil, creating a cone-shaped pit for the ant to fall into. At my place, they are generally only found in the dirt floor under the cover of the hay barn.

For the last 6 months, I've been finding them everywhere, which means 'it's doodlebug dry'. We finally got some rain in most parts of West Texas. Last week, in Alpine where they had recently had almost two inches of rain within the 2-3 days before that, I saw doodlebug pits under an Afghan Pine. That means that it was so dry prior to the rain that it didn't last very long. That's what I mean by 'Doodlebug Dry'.

Last year, in early April, most of West Texas was in Exceptional Drought. It started to rain in April and most areas of West Texas got enough rain that almost none of the area was in any kind of drought by the end of July. But then it quit raining and we went about 9 months without a rain of over .10", and we were back in Exceptional Drought.

Trees can continue to die from a drought for several years after the drought is over. We have had two severe dry spells within the last 20 or so months. Please water your trees thoroughly every month during dry periods. It takes more than a tenth of an inch to qualify as a good rain in my never to be humble opinion.

June and I just got back from a two-week trip that has been on my bucket list for decades. First stop was to see the Ancient Bristle Cone Pine Forest in the White Mountains in SW California. They are the oldest non-clonal trees in the world, up to 4800 years old. Pretty amazing.

We then went to the coast and worked our way up Cal 1, the Pacific Coast Highway, across the Golden Gate Bridge and up to see the Redwoods. Avenue of the Giants was particularly impressive. These Redwoods are the tallest trees in the world. We drove through one of the 'shorties'. That tree had been broken off and was only about 160' tall. I finally quit taking picture of trees that were only 8' diameter. Not because I lost awe of God's creation, but because I knew it would add a week to the trip if I stopped to take a picture of every one. We then went down to see the Sequoias. These trees are truly impressive. If you have never been, I highly recommend it.

If you have been pleased with our service, please give us a good review on Google, Yelp, and NextDoor and a Like on Facebook. It will help a lot. If you are displeased, please contact me so we can fix it.

James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX0117A

Tree Of The Quarter

Emory Oak, *Quercus emoryi*, is a medium size tree native to the Trans Pecos region of Texas. It is semi evergreen, as are all the Live Oaks. It is very heat tolerant, fairly drought tolerant, and grows on rocky slopes as well as down in the draws. This tree is very similar to the Escarpment Live Oak and Southern Live Oak that we commonly see in urban landscapes of west Texas. It is a little smaller than Escarpment, which is smaller than the Southern Live Oak. All are round-headed, and more broad than tall.

It also tolerates soils from slightly acidic to slightly alkaline. It is not readily available in the nursery trade, but worth the hunt.



Emory Oak
(*Quercus emoryi*)



General Sherman



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GIVE YOUR TREES TLC

Remember that roots extend outward way beyond the drip line. Average minimum for all trees is one-and-a-half time the drip line or height, whichever is greater. One of the main jobs of the roots is anchoring the tree. They do that by clasping together many thousands of pounds of soil with a zillion tiny roots. When the soil is completely saturated and turned into mud, the soil loses strength (not generally one of our problems). When the top starts dying, so are the roots, the tiny ones first. This happens a lot for us because of drought. When the tree is half or more dead, it's probably time to take it out instead of letting it fall.

CRITTERS AND CRUDS

Oak Wilt seems to be popping up more than normal this year. Watch for dead oaks in your neighborhood. If you have been watching oaks die just down the street and it seems to be getting closer, give one of our Certified Arborists a call.

Spider Mites love hot dry weather and are always a problem this time of year. Some species are a huge

problem on Junipers. Some species are also carriers of Rose Rosette Disease in roses. Our Certified Arborists will make a diagnostic visit to your site for only \$75. Call 877-594-8733 today.

TLC UPDATE

Tree Loving Care welcomes Roy Duran. Roy recently came home to west Texas after running a tree care company in Austin for 8 years. Previously, Roy did tree care sales and diagnostics for Alldredge Gardens in Midland. He has been a Certified Arborist for many years. Roy will be doing sales and marketing for Tree Loving Care as well as diagnostic work while managing crews in the Lubbock office, and on occasion, elsewhere.

James Tuttle recently went to the Texas Tree Climbing Championship in New Braunfels. James judged the Work Climb, one of the preliminary events. The Texas Tree Climbing Championship is a wonderful event, focusing on innovation and safety.

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