

Love Letter from . . .

Tree Loving Care

Lubbock, Texas (806) 785-8733 • Midland, Texas (432) 620-8733
Summer 2023 • Serving All The West Texas Tree Needs Since 1978



Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

At this time last year, everyone in all parts of the Tree Loving Care service area was complaining about how dry it was. This year, some of those areas are soaked, some are parched.

At this time last year, in the Permian Basin, it had been about 8 months since we had a rain of more than .1". Then we got 8-9" in late June through August and the drought was essentially over. But since then, we've had 3" and there is no deep moisture.

Lubbock and much of the South Plains was in the same condition. Now, however, that area is in pretty good condition with some areas downright soaked. Alpine and Fort Davis is in pretty good shape right now, but the rest of the Trans Pecos is in it's normal transition zone to the desert.

We had a great time at the Texas Tree Climbing Championship in Austin last month. I was head judge on the Throw Line, one of the 5 preliminary events. That is how the climber gets his climbing line in the tree for ascent. It was the first time I have judged Throw Line in over 10 years. What was the committee thinking? But, we pulled it off.

Texas has a new men's champion: Dustin Goodman, who hails from Texarkana, won his first championship. Star Quintero won her third championship in the women's division.

If you want to see the best in the world, a nearby opportunity is coming in August. The International Tree Climbing Championship will be August 11-13 at Hyder Park, Albuquerque, NM. Come cheer on our Texas climbers.

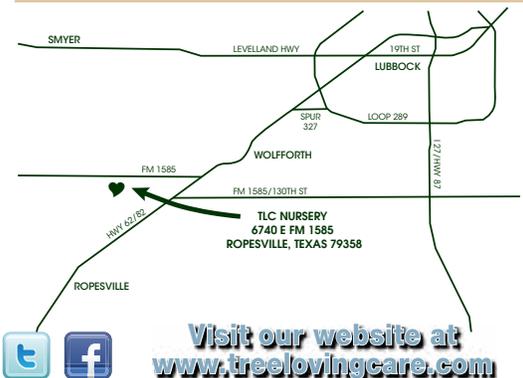
James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX0117A

Tree Of The Quarter

Blackjack Oak, *Quercus marilandica*, grows in sandy and poor soils in most of Texas but mainly in the Cross Timbers region. It is a medium size tree, commonly growing to 25', rarely to 45' tall. It seems to be sometimes accidentally planted in the landscape by unknowing landscapers buying trees from tree diggers that collect 'Red Oaks' from pastures from the Cross Timbers region. It's a good tree for small landscapes. Fall color is red to russet. It is pretty insect and disease resistant, although it is susceptible to Oak Wilt.



Blackjack Oak
(*Quercus marilandica*)



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GIVE YOUR TREES TLC

It is very important to realize that trees are forest organisms and when we bring them into the urban landscape and plant turf under them, they often suffer. Sometimes from too much kindness. In the forest, the forest floor is generally covered with leaf and wood litter that promotes a lot of life. You just don't get the same activity with turf under a tree.

The fertilization that Tree Loving Care uses is humic acid with compost tea and earth worm castings which give the activators and enzymes that are generally missing from urban soils. We normally apply in spring and fall. There is never a bad time.

If God has blessed you with rain, please leave your sprinkler off for a while. Please don't put the salt back that the rain flushed out of the soil.

Summer is a great time to prune trees. Removing dead trees is an ongoing task every summer. When the desert is having a drought, dead trees will always be with us. TLC removes dead (and live) trees and makes it look easy. After we grind the stump, it's like the tree was never there.

CRITTERS AND CRUDS

There is still a lot of insect activity in a lot of trees. Aphids are sucking sap from Pecans, Oaks, Crape Myrtle and many others. Elm Leaf Beetle is in it's 2nd and 3rd generation and doing a lot of damage.

Oak Wilt is a perennial problem and early summer is a good time to inject a systemic fungicide to manage the symptoms. Call one of our Certified Arborists to assess your tree's needs.

TLC UPDATE

Welcome back to Tommy Schooler to the Tree Loving Care family. Tommy has been working off and on for TLC since he was 3 years old. He was 3 when his dad, Tom, started working for TLC about 1980. He about grew up in TLC and has developed into a very good arborist. He has been an ISA Certified Arborist for about 10 years.

In May, David Weatherford and Gatlin Copley went to a workshop covering advanced climbing and rigging techniques and ariel rescue. The workshop was the day before the Texas Tree Climbing Championship and was taught by Mark Chisholm, three time winner of the International Tree Climbing Championship.

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