

Love Letter from . . .

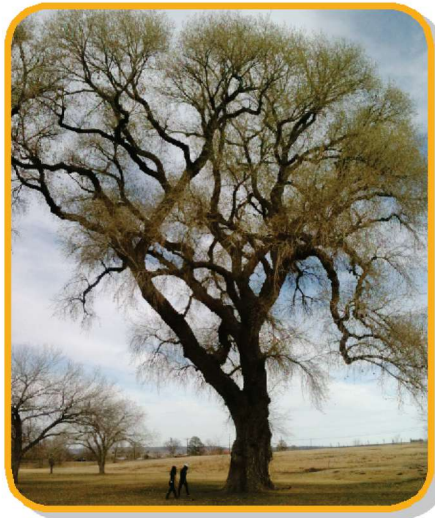
Tree Loving Care

Lubbock, Texas (806) 785-8733 • Midland, Texas (432) 620-8733
Spring 2017 • Serving All The West Texas Tree Needs Since 1978



Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

It was with a great deal of sadness that Tree Loving Care removed the Texas Champion Cottonwood from Fort Davis, Texas, this last spring. The tree had been declining for more than 40 years, ever since the spring began to dry up that fed the historic grove. I nominated another tree in the grove to be the new Texas Champion Rio Grande Cottonwood. The Texas Forest sent representatives to verify measurements and now, Fort Davis still has the champion. The new champion is just under 7' diameter, 100' tall with a crown spread of 101'. Another future champion may be from one of the sprouts that were rooted as a cutting. There are presently, about 20 clones of the tree doing well. (picture of new champion)



New Texas Champion Rio Grande Cottonwood

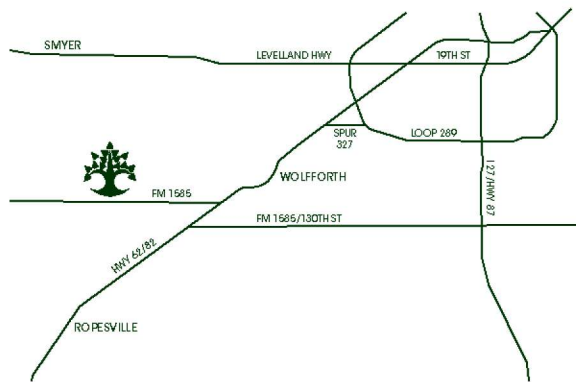
Spring and summer both came a little early this year. The thunderstorms that often come with late spring and early summer have not been severe and there have been few big rain events to go along with that. That means we are only about average to below rainfall, so you probably need to give your entire landscape a good drink. I am often asked exactly what 'give it a good drink' means. To me, that means water long enough to get at least the top 24" of soil wet. That also generally means the equivalent of a 2" or more rain spread over a full day. One thing you can count on in West Texas is that if you are not in the desert, you are not too many miles or too many days from it.

I recommend that most landscapes that are not xeric be watered a minimum of an inch per watering, but that be done a maximum of once per week. Many people water twice or even three times per week, but those same people often call TLC to diagnose problems with their trees. They are the same people that manage the landscape for the grass. It is important to remember that grass responds in days and weeks, whereas, trees respond in years and decades.

If your landscape, or portions of it, are xeric or low water use, then watering thoroughly once every 2-3 weeks is generally more than enough if we don't get rain. If your landscape is designed to truly fit your environment, then it should only need to be watered to get it established and during long dry periods.

If you haven't visited the Lubbock Arboretum this spring, I encourage you to visit. I also encourage you to join. Family memberships are only \$40 per year.

James Tuttle,
Certified Arborist TX0117A

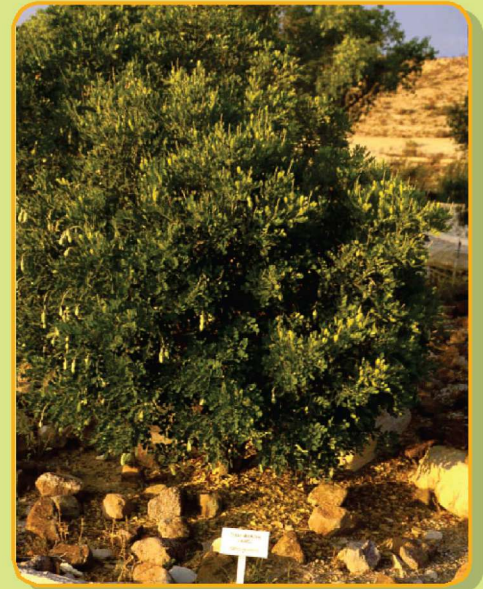


Tree Of The Quarter

Texas Mountain Laurel, *Sophora secundiflora*, is a small broadleaf evergreen that is native to much of central to southwest Texas, southeast NM and down into parts of Mexico. Another common name is Mescal Bean. It commonly grows on poor rocky soil.

The flowers are purple and fragrant. Seeds are brilliant red and were used by the Indians for medicinal purposes as well as a hallucinogen.

Texas Mountain Laurel can grow to 30' but is more commonly 10-15' tall and about as broad as tall. It is a perfect tree to grow near and even under power lines in the alley.



Texas Mountain Laurel
(*Sophora secundiflora*)



James Tuttle
Cell 806.789.8733

9821 Highway 62 • Wolfforth, TX 79382-5100
james.tuttle@solarwindenergycompany.com



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GIVE YOUR TREES TLC

Trees are forest organisms. They have most of the same needs as grasses: water, nutrients and sunlight. However, most trees have a greater need for organic matter and all do better when they have a higher level of organic matter. Grasses can do ok in poor soil.

Lawn grasses need sunlight. The tree, just by virtue of being taller, gets the light first and the grass gets what filters through. The grass starts thinning out and eventually, in the densest shade, there is just bare soil. If this is your situation, consider doing both plants a favor and try ground covers, flower beds or shrub beds in those most shaded areas.

CRITTERS AND CRUDS

Elm Leaf Beetle is munching away on elm leaves, as they always do at this

time of year. They do seem to be a little less of a problem this year, but only because they have been such a devastating problem for the last 5-6 years. It is time to apply an insecticide to control this problem.

Oak Wilt continues to be a big problem in Lubbock and the Permian Basin. Proper Oak Wilt management includes good monitoring by an Oak Wilt Specialist. James Tuttle and Butch Lathey are both Texas Oak Wilt Certified Specialists. Dial 877-594-8733 from anywhere to have one of our Certified Arborists assess your tree health needs.



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TLC UPDATE

In early May, James Tuttle and Butch Lathey attended a 2 day workshop in Austin on Oak Wilt. The Texas Forest Service is in the 2nd year of recertifying Oak Wilt Specialists and are phasing in a new process. Oak Wilt Certification has been around for almost 20 years, and James Tuttle has been certified since the inception of the program. There was some excellent information from Dr. Dave Appel, head of Plant Pathology at TAMU.

The next week, James and Chris Lathey went back to Austin for the Texas Tree Climbing Championship. Chris attended an advanced rigging workshop while James helped set up for the climbing the next day. James judged the Work Climb, one of the preliminary events. It is always fun as well as inspirational.

Congratulations to Jimmy Prichard, the 2017 Texas Tree Climbing Champion. Jimmy has made the finals several times, but this is his first championship.

James also spoke at the Lubbock Memorial Arboretum at the Second Saturday program. His talk was titled 'Trees and Grass are Natural Enemies'. The presentation detailed the differences in the needs of the two plant communities and how they compete for resources.

