

Love Letter from . . .

Tree Loving Care

Lubbock, Texas (806) 785-8733 • Midland, Texas (432) 620-8733
Fall 2012 • Serving All The West Texas Tree Needs Since 1978

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Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone at Tree Loving Care. We hope that God has blessed and will continue to bless you as richly as He has blessed us this past year.

It has been a very busy year for the Tree Loving Care family. For one thing, our family has gotten larger. We end the year with 4 more employees than when the year began and hopefully, will have at least 3 more before spring to help staff the Midland office. We have been growing for the last several years and this year has been an exceptional growth year. Opening the office in Midland then working a great deal in the Alpine/Fort Davis area has kept us very busy this year. Our yellow page advertising now covers 42 counties of west Texas; an area from Friona to Guthrie to Sweetwater to Big Bend to Van Horn to Seminole. That, of course includes Lubbock and Midland/Odessa.

This area also includes such diverse areas as the High Plains, the Llano Estadaco and Caprock and the Trans-Pecos. The Trans-Pecos is a much more varied flora and fauna than most people realize, especially the area around Fort Davis.

We also bought South Plains Wind Power, a small wind turbine and solar business from Arlen Simpson and are trying to grow that business also. We are now authorized dealers for Southwest Wind Power, Bergey Wind Power and Westinghouse Solar. If you would like to save money on your electricity, give us a call. **WE CAN INSTALL AN ELECTRIC GENERATING SYSTEM FOR WHICH THE FUEL IS FOREVER FREE.**

We thank God and you for this and we look forward to the opportunity to serve you in the coming year.

The last 2 years have been very difficult on plants. The record setting drought was broken in the eastern half of Texas, but even though the western half of Texas was removed from the severe drought status, we are still in drought conditions and in what is normally the driest period of the year. **HELP US PRAY FOR RAIN.** There are many things that need to be done to help trees and shrubs through tough times like these. Call one of our Certified Arborists to assess the needs of your landscape. It is a valuable investment in need of TLC.

James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX0117A

Tree Of The Quarter

When West Texas was first being settled, it was thought by many that Siberian Elm (miss named Chinese Elm by many) was about the only thing that would grow here and they were over planted. Since their seed are wind disseminated, they also self sow easily. Later, in the '50s and '60s, Mulberries, Honey Locusts and Maples were the popular trees and were planted in large numbers. Many, if not most, of them are dying from this drought, if other problems haven't gotten them already. In the '70s-'90s, Texas Red Oaks, Escarpment Live Oak and Cedar Elm were popular and were over planted in new neighborhoods. For over 20 years, we have been dealing with Oak Wilt in many of these neighborhoods.

The point is to plant diversity. Look around at your neighborhood and if you see half of the trees in one family, plant something else.

Chinquapin Oak, *Quercus muehlenbergii*, great small to medium size tree that tolerates our arid to semi-arid environment.

It is becoming much more readily available in the nursery trade and is a fairly rapid grower in its juvenile years. It is in the white Oak group and therefore not killed by the Oak Wilt fungus. It needs to be used more.



Chinquapin Oak



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Winter 2012

Visit our website
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TREE LOVING CARE

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Return Service Requested



Give Your Trees TLC

In spite of some earlier predictions of a cold wet winter, and even though we had an earlier than normal first frost, it has been warmer and drier so far this fall. Fall and winter is normally a very dry period in all of west Texas. If it had not been for the record setting low rainfall for the Lubbock area in 2011, we would be setting a new record this year. The rainfall total for Lubbock and the South Plains for the last 30 months is just about our annual average. The Permian Basin is in about the same boat. They are both sitting in dry dock waiting for repairs.

A good rain would fix our spirits, but it won't fix all tree problems. Trees will continue to die from this drought for several years. One thing that will help is organic matter and an improvement of soil life. Our compost tea that is part of our organic fertilization and mulching any bare ground is two things that are highly beneficial. A mulch layer greatly reduces evaporation loss, insulates the soil from temperature extremes, increases the rooting area and supports soil life. It is what trees need. And, we have lots of it.



Composted mulch is \$25 per cubic yard plus \$60 for delivery for up to 13 cubic yards in the Lubbock area. In the Permian Basin, there is a mileage charge also, as we only have the compost

in the Lubbock yard right now. Hopefully that will change soon.

TLC Update

Arboriculture is the art and science of the care of trees. At Tree Loving Care, we practice the art and study the science. One of the ways we do that is by attending conferences and workshops and taking advantage of other continuing education opportunities. In late September, Colby Hurd attended the Texas Tree Conference in Waco. As usual, it was chock full of good information on the latest research and techniques in tree care.

James Tuttle, Butch Lathey and James Majors attended a week long school in Flagstaff, Arizona on small wind turbine installation and maintenance. We are now authorized dealers for Southwest Wind Power and Bergery Wind Power, the two leading manufacturers of small wind turbines. We are also an authorized for Westinghouse Solar. This is all part of our continuing efforts to be good stewards

of the earth.

The wind and solar business operates under the name of SolarWind Energy Company but is, for now, under the umbrella of our parent corporation that does business as Tree Loving Care. If you would like to have an electrical generating system of your own that operates on fuel that will forever be free (at least until the government figures out a way to tax it), give James Tuttle a call. Wind turbines need at least a half acre, but solar can be utilized on almost any site.

Critters and Cruds

Generally there isn't much insect activity in the winter, as they are all cold blooded critters. This fall has been very warm and flies have certainly continued to be active. If it continues this trend throughout the winter, we will have a lot of critters that survive winter and critters that have multiple generations will get an earlier start and have more generations than normal.

One that might have a great detrimental effect on your trees is Eriococcus Scale. This insect has been a problem on Red Oaks since it was discovered in the Lubbock area about 8-10 years ago. The second year it was found here was a very mild winter and it had a brood hatch in late January-early February. So far, this insect has not been found in the Permian Basin. If it does make it to the area, look out. It has a tremendous reproductive potential. Fortunately, it seems to only attack the Red Oaks.

Dormant oil is a very good broad spectrum tool to manage pest populations in the winter time. We spray dormant oil in mid-late winter, primarily to target aphid, scale and mite populations. These all have multiple generations and if you can knock that first generation or two back, they tend to be much less of a problem later in the season. If you love your trees, have one of our Certified Arborists take a look at your landscape to assess your tree care needs.



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