

Love Letter from . . .

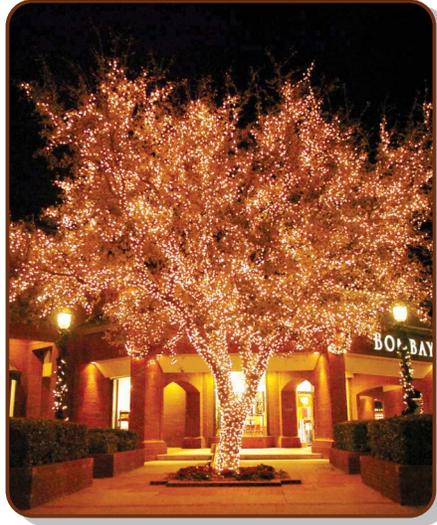
Tree Loving Care

Lubbock, Texas (806) 785-8733 • Midland, Texas (432) 620-8733
Winter 2019 • Serving All The West Texas Tree Needs Since 1978



Dear Friends and Fellow Tree Lovers

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Tree Loving Care family. It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone so quickly. We hope and pray that you will have a wonderful 2020. While you are out looking at Christmas Lights this year, stop by the Diamond Tree in front of Malouf's at Kingsgate Shopping Center and the tree in front of the Kent Hance Chapel on Texas Tech campus in Lubbock. We put over 20,000 lights in each tree.



TLC has always considered our employees family and have tried to provide for family first. We recently lost a member of the family. Tommy Schooler was about 3 when Tom Schooler went to work for Tuttle Landscape Company, which was to later become Tree Loving Care. At the time, Julie was pregnant with Judith. About a week ago, Tom walked in to find Julie had passed away in the bathroom. Please keep this family in your prayers.

All too often, homeowners call us only after an insect or disease problem is so severe that the damage is great. For that reason, Tree Loving Care is introducing TLC Care for your landscape. This is actually formalizing something we have been doing for decades. TLC Care is our name for Plant Health Care, which is a comprehensive integrated approach to the ecosystem that is your landscape. Click on this link to read a brochure from the International Society of Arboriculture explaining the systemic approach to Plant Health Care.

Plant Health Care focuses on all of the components in the system. The trees, shrubs, turf and groundcovers are all utilizing the same space, the same soil and the same water. Tree Loving Care will offer a customized program to regularly monitor all of these components. The goal of TLC Care is to systematically use our knowledge of the unique conditions and plants in your landscape to anticipate or identify problems. This will allow us to address issues before they become too costly or before they threaten to negatively change the appearance of your property. Because proper management of water is so critical to landscapes of West Texas, TLC Care includes the setting and management of your sprinkler system. Over the decades, one of the biggest problems I have encountered in the West Texas landscape, is improper watering of the landscape. Often, it is too frequently watering of plants that are semi-arid. This leads to suffocation of the root system and mineral excesses. TLC Care can solve many of these problems.

The first part of TLC Care will be the mapping, identifying and cataloging of every plant in the landscape. The initial site visit and analysis will incur an hourly charge. Subsequent charges will depend on the level of management that the client that the client chooses. Regular TLC Care will consist of three diagnostic visits to your landscape. These visits would be spring, summer and fall. TLC Care Gold will consist of diagnostic visits every other month. These visits would include on site visual inspection of each plant in the landscape, checking the sprinkler controller to verify proper setting and checking for proper soil moisture. The Plant Health Care

James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX0117A

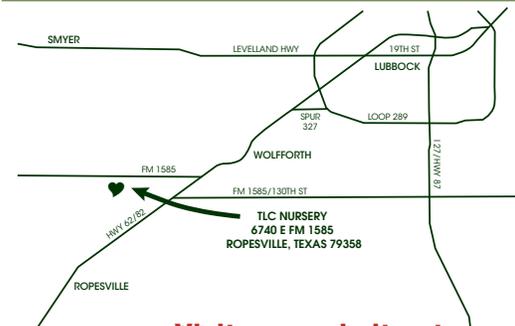
Tree Of The Quarter

Desert Willow, *Chilopsis linearis*, is a well adapted small tree for our environment and simply gorgeous while in bloom. Desert Willow isn't actually a willow. It has narrow willow shaped leaves, but is actually kin to Catalpa and Trumpet Vine.

Desert Willow is a heat and drought tolerant tree and should be planted where it will get plenty of sun. Water thoroughly twice a week (as with all other new trees) until established and then you can get by with watering only during periods of drought. Check out some of the improved cultivars.



**Desert Willow
(*Chilopsis linearis*)**



Visit our website at
www.treelovingcare.com



TREE LOVING CARE

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**'Tree Talk for Texas' on
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GIVE YOUR TREES TLC

Winter is normally a very dry period in West Texas. We had a lot of rain in some spots in early October, but that was two months ago. Give your landscape a good drink about every 3-4 weeks during the dormant season.

If you have bare ground anywhere, cover it with a 3-4" layer of composted wood chip mulch. TLC has a mountain of mulch in both the Lubbock and Midland locations. If we load it, there is a loading charge. TLC also regrinds the mulch and composts the mulch. We do charge for reground mulch and compost but the cost is nominal compared to what one can buy in a bag.

CRITTERS AND CRUDS

Dormant oils are applied in mid-winter, when insects are weakened by winter temperatures. Oils also kill many eggs through suffocation. This is especially effective for controlling populations of scale and mites.

For the last decade at least, Elm Leaf Beetle has been especially troubling on Siberian Elm. Call TLC office at 877-594-8733 to have one of our Certified Arborists schedule an early spring application to control this insect. It is much easier to manage when you knock down the first generation. This insect has 3-4 generations per year and knocking down the first generation can have a tremendous effect on the third and fourth numbers.

Last year, Midland was hit with a hail storm. Within 2 weeks, north central Midland had a severe outbreak of Diplodia Tip Blight that killed many Afghan Pines and severely damaged many more. The onset

of the disease was so rapid that it left all of the arborists in the area stymied. Testing by the Texas Plant Disease Lab confirmed that the problem was Diplodia. Those affected pines and any others that may have dormant Diplodia need to be sprayed with a fungicide this coming spring as they are beginning new shoot growth.

TLC UPDATE

We welcome a new member to the TLC family this quarter. Kevin Pickens and his wife had a baby boy in November. We also welcome back Kevin Perry. Kevin left for the army 3 years ago and recently came back, married and with a new baby girl. Congratulations to both families.

For clients that are busy with life or just ones that want the very best for their landscape, TLC Care is the answer. TLC Care begins with an Arborist coming to visit your landscape and inspect every plant. We then map and inventory the entire landscape, including measuring the trees, assessing and noting the condition of every plant and prescribing solutions to every problem. This initial site and landscape analysis, diagnosis and mapping is done on an hourly basis. We will use Google Earth and other mapping programs, on site measurements, photographs and other inventory programs.

TLC Care includes management of the sprinkler system. In many cases, TLC may encourage the client to change the sprinkler controller to a cloud bases controller that can be managed from a smart phone and with sensors that prevent over and inappropriate watering such as when it's raining or freezing. If you have questions about this service, please call one of our Certified Arborists come by to explain it for you. Click on this link for a brochure from the International Society of Arboriculture on Plant Health Care

Visit our website at
www.treelovingcare.com