



CHRISTENSEN'S PLANT CENTER

Wholesale Supplier To Landscape Professionals

...forest for the trees?

Last weekend was a humbling experience for me on two levels of plant awareness. A busy week of sales was topped off by our first Inventory of the year followed by a quick trip up north for some much-needed maintenance. While I was “relaxing” on my lawnmower I realized a few things. First, we are truly lucky to have such a nice piece of mid-Michigan property to enjoy, and I hope my improvements are appreciated by both wildlife and any future owners. The native plants that we are caretakers of are quite diverse



and I really have to walk the ground to appreciate what is there. While counting the nursery I was also struck by how many different plants we offer that I just drive by and don't really see.

Through our up-north land management efforts we have come to realize just how many species of plants we have and how they work together to make a healthy forestscape that can endure disease, pests, and over-zealous brush-hogging. We've had our successes and mistakes, but the diversity of our forest is key to quick recovery from calamity.

The Plant Center supports a different type of reforestation and land management. People come in with their “basics” bread-and butter lists that consistently repeat planting schemes. But we have more to offer! It is my job as a salesman to search out the more unusual items and help contractors choose a more varied plant palette. A broader spectrum may help protect our urban landscapes from disease and pest outbreaks. The bland repetition that exists could instead entrance with unique designs that include plants like Tricolor beech, treeform Amelanchier, Parrotia, Stewartia, Fullmoon Japanese maples, or Eskimo Sunset maple. How about Bur oak, White oak, Cedrus, Ginkgo, Hamamelis, or Koelreuteria? Trees and shrubs that lend themselves to a more native side should also be used more than they are already. Let me help you switch your plantings up!



Steve Krogulecki

Christensen's Plant Center
6282 Gotfredson Road
Plymouth, Michigan 48170

(734) 454-1400 voice

(734) 454-1414 fax

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