



The 2016 Plant Material Outlook

As we wind down 2015, I thought I should take a moment to let you know the outlook for plant material for 2016. We here at the Plant Center have been working very hard to ensure that we have plenty of plant material for the coming season.



First the easier answers. Perennials are largely covered for the early spring. Because these plants finish quite quickly, by mid-spring the supply should be increasing. It will still be tight for availability, but will continue to get better as the season progresses. Groundcovers will continue to be very short for most of the coming year. The groundcover producers have been unable to keep up with demand, and the past few winters have not helped. Between the winter losses and high demand, groundcover will be short on availability for the spring at the minimum.

The hard answers come with shade and ornamental trees. The recession of 2008/2009 meant that growers were not putting trees into their fields. The growth in housing that we have experienced in the past few years means that what trees were in the fields are gone. Trees between 2" and 3" are very scarce. Be prepared to substitute variety and size. We continue to search for trees in these sizes, but in some cases sufficient quantities to cover our sales simply do not exist.

In short, be prepared to order material as far in advance as possible. The sooner you can order, the better off you will be.



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