



CHRISTENSEN'S PLANT CENTER

Wholesale Supplier To Landscape Professionals

NO LONGER EXPENSIVE...

(I bet I have your attention already) ...is a phrase that doesn't usually apply to much lately. The prices on most everything have gone up; the nursery industry is far from immune from this as you know – high demand and production levels that are still playing catchup from the Great Recession years. But if look closely the biggest increases affected the most common everyday nursery



stock. Red Maples and Cleveland Pears have been the cheap go-to's as long as I have worked at Christensen's. Now there are shortages in some sizes and I usually ask my contractor to sit down before I start quoting prices.

So now one of my favorite trees, the American Yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentuckea* or *lutea*), is price-competetive with the everyday. This member of the Pea family has beautiful,

smooth bark and bears long, white panicles in mid-spring. M. Dirr says "in full flower it appears to be dripping with white rain." Granted, for this tree, one will have to wait for the tree to settle in for a few years before it starts blooming. But just like its cousin, the Wisteria, it is worth the wait.

Often have I shown contractors Yellowwood and convinced them of the worth and appropriateness of this tree – only to be told it doesn't fit their budget. Well, this is the year for the American yellowwood as it was voted Municipal Arborist Tree of 2015. And better yet, Christensen's has its best supply of *Cladrastis* ever.

And, it's affordable!



Jeff Good

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[***Return to Archive***](#)

