



# CHRISTENSEN'S PLANT CENTER

## Wholesale Supplier To Landscape Professionals

### Why use concrete?

I won't lie, I am biased. I think we all have products, vendors and styles that we prefer over others. Sometimes, it's based on a personal choice while other times it's based on information we know about a product. We can even be judgmental over products we do not stock or carry. My opinion is on natural stone. Customers like to know the differences between natural stone and concrete. I like the looks of both, but they are very different in many aspects. Many believe you can't make anything better than what Mother Nature can create; however, I disagree. Nature is only consistent at being inconsistent.



Natural stone is created by a culmination of what materials are present, circumstances and environmental conditions that are mostly random followed by a long, long waiting period. This can produce some absolutely beautiful colors and formations, and a variety of imperfections and inconsistencies. The imperfections will add character, and make each piece unique. In the landscape business everyone wants something unique and different whether it be trees and shrubs or a patio and walkway. Now having said that, why do we choose shrubs that are all the same height or trees all the same caliper? When have you seen a hedge of boxwood with 18", 24" and 36" sizes in the same row? Never. You want a natural look, but also a consistent and purposeful appearance. That's why we go to a nursery or a grower, to get the same consistent height, color and shape product and not out to a random field and hope to find the perfect conditions to have made those perfect specimens you are looking for.

Many concrete products replicate what Mother Nature can make on her best days. They are created in a perfect environment, under specific conditions to produce a consistent product. We add imperfections and character, design specific shapes, sizes, colors and patterns, and we can reproduce this consistently. Natural stone may sometimes look nicer, but can you find the exact piece to fit your needs? Will you be able to match color and texture throughout the entire project? How sure are you of the structural integrity of what you are laying, and how much labor does it cost to make it fit or match perfectly when it doesn't? Concrete can be used to create a specific, repeatable and designable natural look without all the drama and headaches.



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