



CHRISTENSEN'S PLANT CENTER

Wholesale Supplier To Landscape Professionals

With the resurgence of new home construction, often large footprint homes with soaring roof lines, the demand for columnar trees that will fit into smaller planting areas is increasing. We are all well familiar with the old tried and true varieties, such as *Carpinus betulus* 'Fastigata'. But hey it's 2015! Let's get out there and put something on your project that sets it apart from the one next door, with that vertical accent piece that stops people in their tracks. Here is the "skinny" on a couple of my new favorites.



Regal Prince® Oak

Regal Prince® Oak is the result of a cross between *Quercus robur* and *Quercus bicolor* (that is often budded on *Q. bicolor* rootstock). The foliage is a bright green with a white underside. It has proven to be both mildew and borer resistant, unlike the old Columnar English Oak. This tree digs like a champ, often leafing out with full sized leaves and even producing a little new growth the first season.

When the first 'Slender Silhouette' Sweetgum landed here over 10 years ago, I loved the very narrow shape of the tree (8' max) but I was wondering if it was reliably zone hardy. The sample plant performed well sitting out in our storage field, so it warranted a limited stocking inventory. The winter of 2013 really proved this tree's mettle. Other sweetgums planted in the landscape were very slow to leaf out due to the extended sub-zero cold, but not this one - the plants in the landscape leafed out in full vigor. I was sold, this tree has everything going for it, clean green foliage all summer turning to a beautiful hues of orange, red and even a little purple in the fall. Again this plant seems to look like it has never been dug, often leafing out with full dark green leaves right off the bat.

So whether you are looking for a single, specimen vertical accent piece, or to create a non-evergreen barrier so your client can enjoy their new back yard patio in privacy, consider using these one of these new varieties in your designs, they have earned it by their performance.



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'Slender Silhouette' Sweetgum

