



Cap'n Obvious: Quotes, Idioms, and Assorted Mumbo Jumbo. A Look at 2016.

Alright, here's some quick references in regards to how these Cap'n Obvious reports work. I, your favorite glow-in-the-dark, six and a half foot chrome-domed beacon of Bic shaver madness gone wrong, am the Cap'n. You, the reader, are what I refer to as a "Minion", which is by no means an insult. My followers on some website called Facebook are HONORED to be hailed as one of the Minions to the Cap'n. Last year, the Chronicles took us to topics referring to the amount of various stimulants consumed throughout the season, how many miles



of tagging ribbon was used, other assorted ridiculous statistics that most people don't think about, and a little story about a jelly donut. On another note, I need to keep this rated PG-13 (I had to fight for the "-13") because it has references to the nursery and not my encounters in a snow plow in the wee hours in the morning throughout winter, which tends to make my reports land the MA-17 rating. So, without further ado, let's see where my twisted views, opinions, analogies, and comparisons take us, shall we?

"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it." - Ferris Bueller from the classic 80's movie 'Ferris Bueller's Day Off'.

I don't know about you, Minions, but it seemed like only 2 months ago that this year was just getting started... in March. And now, it's hard to believe that we're about to fall into November. I recall seeing the endless caravans of trucks engulfing the nursery with fresh material while my fellow sales brethren (and Lynn, but 'sisthren' isn't an actual word) were in a mad scramble blowing the blocks open to create a temporary home for our new yard guests. I say guests due to the fact that the majority of the plant material that arrived *maybe* hung around here a week, then got scooped up by all you Minions, and finally relocated to their new homes, meaning in your customer's yards. Somewhere along the way, there was a summer thrown in the mix, but I didn't realize that until October.



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“Here today, gone tomorrow” – Multiple references.

This idiom took on a whole new meaning this year, ESPECIALLY with boxwood. For example: If 300 12" boxwood landed on Tuesday, chances are that the group was $\frac{3}{4}$ wiped out by Friday. So now, just for giggles, **DID YOU KNOW:** Over 14,000 ‘Green Mountain’ Boxwood left the nursery this season so far on your trucks. If they were placed on 12" centers, the hedge row would extend from our nursery all the way to the intersection of North Territorial and Beck Roads here in Plymouth Township, which is roughly 3 miles. Yeah, my jaw dropped too when I started adding those numbers up. And that’s just ONE variety of boxwood, Minions. We stock four... How would you like to trim THAT monstrosity? Fortunately, we stock Okatsune hedge shears if should you ever encounter such a titan of a hedgerow!



A well-used Okatsune hedge shear. Don't worry, Chris, I put it back.

Yes, Minions, that’s a shameless plug to suggest the purchase of the samurai sword of hedge shears. Did it work? You KNOW you want a pair. Anyway, moving on!

“The bitterness of poor quality remains long after the sweetness of low price is forgotten” – Benjamin Franklin.

There is another movie quote that is comparable to this from the classic movie “Tommy Boy” which involves a cow, a cut of meat, and a butcher, but the quote does contain a 3 letter questionable word, therefore I can’t repeat it. I stumbled upon these words of wisdom from Mr. Franklin about a month ago, and it truly applies to CPC. We have always done our best to stock high quality material at competitive pricing instead of just stocking an item to say that we have it, then cross our fingers, toes, and eyeballs to see if it hopefully moves out of the yard and not wind up in the outdoor filing cabinet (that would be the dumpster).



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Basically, we try to avoid bringing in material that we have to rehab for 2+ years before it becomes salable, and save you the mental pain and suffering of repeated phone calls from your customer saying "My plant isn't doing any better", "It looks like it's dying", or one of my absolute favorites:

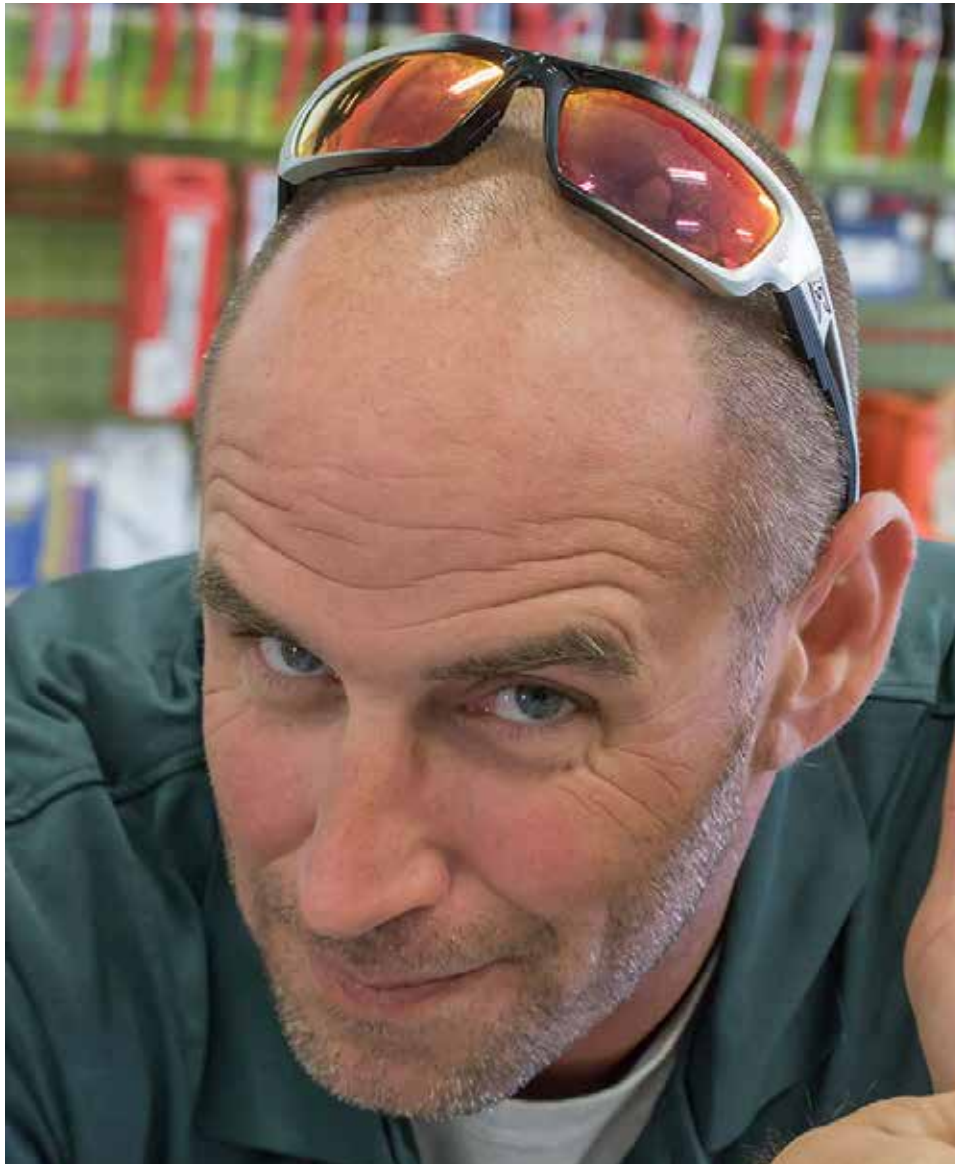
Contractor's customer: "There's no leaves on my maple! It's dead!"

Me, after raising one eyebrow: "Miss...it's mid-November. There's no foliage on anything".

Contractor's customer response, after a delayed pause followed with a touch of frustration and sarcasm: "WELL, I guess I don't know ANYTHING about trees!"

Meanwhile, the contractor was clutching his face to not burst out laughing during the entire process. I think it was the eyebrow that got him...

The conversation above, believe it or not, is a true story.



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Christensen's Plant Center – Bonus Behind-The-Scenes Footage.

Some people wonder what it's like amongst employees when the yard isn't packed with trucks wrapped around the corner and we're not barking over the walkie talkies. Well, there is usually a constant verbal badgering of Cinco (he's the fifth Dave that works here), repeating what seems to be an infinite amount of quotes from the movie "Tombstone", waiting for a completely random Reno Expression-of-the-Day that normally begins with "Excuse me while I...<insert improvisation here>" that will nearly cripple us with laughter, then there's dodging the occasional flying pen across the shop into someone's noggin on the receiving staff, snickering at some short-fused bald guy hollering over the radio in regards to people parking next to brick displays, recalling various salesmen "salutes" (that's an inside joke, Minions. Apply for a job and we'll fill ya in), comparing photo galleries of trucks leaving without tarps, and reminiscing of days, years, and even decades of times gone by that seem like yesterday. There's more to list, but there's only so much time and space before it becomes repetitive.

That, and I have to keep the PG-13 rating in mind...

Oooooohhhhhhhh... SEE YA!! – University of Michigan Student Section when an opposing player fouls out of a basketball game.

So now that we're in the home stretch and we prepare ourselves for the combined antics of Mother Nature, Father Winter, and that little freak Jack Frost (not the perennial Brunnera; that's actually pretty sweet), we here at CPC have a lot to get done, such as preparing for our last inventory day of the year, cutting back perennials, getting poly houses constructed, Minions preparing to let loose their trigger-finger fury on November 15th (which is equivalent to the holiday season and the Super Bowl rolled into one another), so on and so forth. As this is ongoing, be aware that we will still be able to load up your trucks with material, so long as the big 3 noted above cooperate with us. We "normally" go into the first week of December, so you still have time to get orders in. The more notice we can get, the better.

In conclusion, after all the cuts, scrapes, bruises, mosquito bites, wasp stings (the bees were nice this year), ibuprofen, Tylenol, coffee, energy drinks, hydrogen peroxide, band-aids, bandages, beer (after hours, of course), and half jelly donuts, we made it through another season. From all of us here at Christensen's, it has been a privilege to serve you through another 12 month wild ride. If all goes well, let's do it again in 2017!

- Cap'n



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