



Trees for 2017: What should you expect?

The staff here at Christensen's has spent the last few years telling everyone about the shortage in trees. This shortage was many years in the making, and unfortunately it will be many years in the un-making.

As of the date of this article, we are still pushing through a landscape market with good demand for our product, but soft supply. Shade trees by nature take years to come to market, and the ramping up of tree production also takes years.



After the "Great Recession" in 2008 / 2009, growers in the Midwest and liner producers all over the country cut production in an effort to stay alive. Now that the economy has strengthened again, we have to look backwards to see why there are fewer trees and what trees will be available. A 2.5" shade tree grown in the Midwest has spent 3 to 5 years in a grower's field. And the liner grower spent at least 2 years before that, meaning that somewhere between 5 and 7 years ago that tree started its life. So next year's 2.5" trees started life between 2010 and 2012. Simply there hasn't been enough time for the nursery industry to "ramp up" production.

Growers are also a little shy about ramping up production too quickly. Having survived the "Great Recession", none of them are willing to gamble as heavily on inventory for fear of another dip in the economy that they cannot afford.

In short, tree supply will continue to be tight, and prices will not soften anytime soon. Be sure to contact your Christensen's sales rep as soon as you secure a project to start securing trees. The earlier you act, the better.



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