



CHRISTENSEN'S PLANT CENTER

Wholesale Supplier To Landscape Professionals

Container Grown vs B&B Trees

As the summer months have fallen upon us, tree supplies are becoming less and less available as compared to spring. Does this mean that once B&B are gone, we have to go to the local craft store, buy an 8' fake fig tree, wrap white flowers all around it, and call it a Dogwood? You could try this, but it probably wouldn't help your reputation very much as a landscape professional.

DID YOU KNOW: We receive both ornamental and shade trees in larger container sizes in the summer? Listed below are just a few advantages.



With containerized trees, you will have direct contact with the soil immediately upon planting. When you have all of your soil mixed in the landscape beds, just drop in the tree (take it out of the container first), add your fertilizer, and cover it up. The tree's roots won't have to work through the burlap to get to the soil and fertilizer nutrients.

Container trees will have less digging stress as compared to a B&B tree. Born and raised in a can! Potted material begin in smaller sized pots and are then upsized to larger and larger sizes until reaching its final saleable grade. It's a slightly longer process as compared to tree digging, but it's worth the investment in the long run for growers and installers alike.

Less weight! In the early years, planting a 2 1/2" Red Maple was probably relatively easy to plant by yourself. 15 to 20+ years later, the mere sight of that root ball may produce a throbbing pain in one's lower back. I guess maybe you could compare it to pushing a Smart Car vs. pushing a 5 yard dump truck. On average, or at least during my tenure here at CPC, containerized trees are normally a few hundred pounds less in weight as compared to their B&B counterparts. Who "really" wants to lug around a 600 pound tree in July anyway, right?

Here's a couple other tips to be aware of. With potted trees, keep in mind that they do tend to require a bit more water to establish, so be sure to have irrigation nearby or have a Treegator handy. Also, with the weight of the root ball being significantly less, it is highly recommended that you use tree stakes to keep the tree in place. Think of it as a weightlifter that only works on their upper body but has never done anything to their legs. They're going to be pretty top heavy! Another note that I highly recommend is: Don't forget your Fertilome! Strong roots make for strong trees!

So now that the spring months are gone and the hot days of summer are here, we still receive decent sized tree material; it's just in different packaging. So give us a call, check our online inventory, or stop by and have a look. While you're here (you know what I'm going to say), have a cup of coffee. Or if you're REALLY lucky, Steve Shy may have a batch of lemonade or iced tea too!



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