



# CHRISTENSEN'S PLANT CENTER

## Wholesale Supplier To Landscape Professionals

### WET FEET?

Though May so far has been everything that makes Spring in Michigan worth the wait, this April, finally in the history books, will not soon be forgotten. The cold, the wet, the lost days of work, and the desire to find a job with heat and air conditioning overwhelmed the best of us.



Only the mallard pair wandering around our perennial lot every morning seemed unfazed by April's depressing precipitation. (Don't tell Kim but they seemed to be sampling more than shopping!)

Well, believe it or not, Christensen's sells plants, herbaceous and woody, that agree with our ducks. Hosta, Iris, Ligularia, Lobelia, Myosotis, and more, often not only tolerate wetter conditions but perform better, are hardier, or bloom longer in boggy sites. Siberian and Japanese Iris (but not *I. germanica* types) thrive in moist soils; *I. Versicolor* exists in ephemeral wetlands. Lobeliae emerge strong and lush after wetter seasons and occasionally disappear after long drought. Myosotis

(Forget-Me-Nots) bloom continuously as long as they are wet. Hosta plantaginea 'Grandiflora' (The Old August Lily) and her many progeny, H. 'Honeybells, Guacamole, Fried Green Tomatoes' to name a few, thrive in wet areas – crowns high/roots wet. H. 'Krossa Regal' and 'Regal Splendor' with their 4 to 5' flower spikes have blossoms that barely open in most sites, but open more fully in wetter conditions. Usually considered to be mules, rumors exist of their setting seed in very wet sites.

Web-footed woodies abound as well. Cornus and Viburnum are great source plants for heavy, wet clay soils and also thrive in ephemeral areas. Cornus examples are Red Osier (*C. sericea*), Gray-stemmed (*C. racemosa*), and Silky Indigo Dogwoods (*C. amomum*). Blackhaw (*V. prunifolium*) and Nannyberry (*V. lentago*) are native Viburni perfect for such occasions.

CPC even supplies many more varieties of plants for wetland restoration, from seed, plugs, tubers, woodies, to trees – all duck-approved.



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