



CHRISTENSEN'S PLANT CENTER

Wholesale Supplier To Landscape Professionals

Death by water

One of the most essential and destructive elements in the landscaping business is water. It helps our trees and shrubs grow, flowers bloom, and our vegetable gardens to give us edible rewards. It can also erode your driveway, give you a swimming pool (one you did not want), drown your plants and destroy a patio or wall. And as we have seen this year, rain has been plentiful! As rumor has it, this will continue into the fall and winter, followed by another snow-filled plowing season.

Here at Christensen's, we have seen more concrete products moving now than ever. This could be due to a "reinvestment" into the home, the desire to spend more time in the backyard or even the "holiday/graduation/wedding/baby shower/ I'm gonna have how many guests over here?!" party. Our goal is to ensure you have all the right supplies and knowledge to make sure your project will last for decades, not months.



So here are a few tips to help ensure your project's success. It is essential to have at least 6" of sub base, more if you have a clay-based soil. Make sure you are only compacting 2" at a time with your walk-behind plate compactor. And use a geo-textile fabric on EVERY job. You should have at least a 4" perforated, socked drain tile behind any retaining wall to ensure proper drainage. Using a plastic paver edge restraint instead of trowled concrete will help make sure you don't have any edge failures due to cracking concrete. If you have a retaining wall, make sure you are using geo grid between the wall base and native soil and using para webbing or tieback straps on every other course to keep your wall from shifting or failing.

Another great resource we have is our vendor representatives. They have an extensive knowledge of their products, and can assist you in your project's design and answer some of the technical questions you may have. Also look into the product web sites. There are a lot of useful tips and ideas you could learn from, as well as something you can also show your customers.

So have a great winter knowing you won't have any call backs for repairs in the spring. As always, please feel free to call us with your questions or concerns.



Bryan Pajak

Christensen's Plant Center
6282 Gotfredson Road
Plymouth, Michigan 48170

(734) 454-1400 voice

(734) 454-1414 fax

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