

What Will This Winter Bring?

Here in the Northeast, it seems no two winters are the same. Sure, we like to use an easy comparison system: If there are a lot of acorns, there will be a lot of snow; or, if the summer is cool, then it will be a cold winter.

I have learned in all my years of plowing snow that there's no crystal ball when it comes to forecasting winter weather. Last year, it was 59 degrees on Christmas Day, and we all know what happened after January 23rd. We actually did not have many storms last year, but the ones we did have were huge. This year, we are expecting possible record breaking temperatures the week of Christmas.

Most landscaping companies are involved in snow removal, so they look forward to the snow. Snow is usually the only thing that we landscapers can do to generate revenue in the winter, but I know my clients would rather a mild and relatively snow free winter.

I will say that I remember always ice skating on my local pond every Christmas. There didn't have to be snow on the ground, but it always seemed cold enough for the ponds to freeze. I know most parents don't allow their kids to skate on ponds anymore, for safety reasons, but Mother Nature is making that easier this year.

December is almost over with every day being warmer than average; much warmer, almost eight degrees. It's anyone's guess as to what will happen between January and March this year. I prefer to think of myself as an expert, after 30 years in this business, but I am afraid that I am at a loss, just like everyone else. Your guess is as good as mine.

From all of us at D&D, have a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season, and a happy new year!

Paul Doherty

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