

What Now?

We are all thinking about the warmer temperatures that will eventually come. This winter has been long and hard, and it doesn't seem to want to quit. The first half of the winter brought above average temperatures with below average snowfall. I don't think I have to tell you what the second half brought.

What can we expect of our landscaping when the snow finally melts? I am sorry to say it may not be pretty. Most of us had to shovel off our roofs and move large snow drifts due to blizzards. We have shoveled, snow blown, and stacked the snow higher than we ever have – unfortunately it's still on our trees, shrubs and grass. The smaller, weaker shrubs have snapped, and the larger ones have bent over. I think that most people will find themselves replacing some of their shrubbery when all this snow eventually melts; the bad news is that we may have to wait a while to do so. Local nurseries seem to be running 2-3 weeks behind with flowers and stock, so this means it will most likely be in the month of May that many of us can get outside to replant. At this point, everyone wants to get outside and start doing yard work, but I think the snow will win out, taking weeks and weeks to melt. I also think that there will be an abundance of “winter kill” on certain shrubs. Most plants have not seen daylight in over 6 weeks. Some species will take a while to display their true winter damage.

As far as the grass goes, (it's a bit early to tell, but) usually the more snow that we get at the end the winter tends to bring more fungus and lawn disease to most grasses. I would suggest trying to add extra fertilizer to your already four seasonal applications. This should limit some of the damage to come.

I am no weather expert, but what I see for the rest of the month will be temperatures mainly in the mid to upper 40's (I do not see another significant storm). April looks to be a slow warm up, with upper 40's to lower 50's. We usually see a few 60-degree days in there, to wake us all up. Let's all hope they come sooner than later!

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