

## **Where has all the water gone?**

We start off usually with April rains that give our lawns, shrubs, and trees the moisture they need to start the growing season off. We should have known by the lack of snow this winter that there was better than average chance that it would be a dry spring, but 7.5" dry? The stress that this has put on our landscape is enormous. Most of these effects will not be noticed until summer.

With all the water bans that are currently enforced by the Towns, it will be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to make this amount up. But think again... We live in New England. Things always seem to have a way of averaging out. While slow, cool, rainy days are the best for our landscape, I think all of us would admit that we will take what we can get at this point. Those people who have irrigation wells certainly have a step up on those who don't.

We are asked every week to quote on irrigation wells and the simple fact is that no one really knows where the water is. You can drill down 50 feet and hit water, other times it might take 800 feet to hit water. Three to six gallons a minute will do just fine. However this cost can be in the range of \$1,900 to \$10,000. So the question is.. "Is my landscape worth it?" The answer is yes. Every year homeowners are spending more and more on keeping their grass green. Towns are issuing fines to people who water when they are not supposed to but I hear a lot of people say that they will pay any fine as long as there grass looks like Fenway Park. So if you are one of these people you might want to consider installing irrigation well.

Will this be a hot, dry summer? It's anyone's guess. I have looked at all the forecasts and charts and history and I don't think I am any more knowledgeable than you in answering this question. So my advice to everyone is this.... It is better to have a little landscaping that looks great, than a lot of landscaping that looks bad.

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