



# Shade Tree News

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## New Winter Weather Initiatives in the National Weather Service

The National Weather Service (NWS) is dedicated to the protection of life and property, and as such, they are continually reviewing their practices and updating their procedures to make sure that they are producing the most helpful forecasts and products. They have recently simplified their hazards, and consolidated multiple different statement types in an easier-to-understand format. Moving forward, any weather criteria that would have previously prompted a Lake Effect Snow Advisory, Winter Weather Advisory, or Freezing Rain Advisory will now all prompt a Winter Weather Advisory. Additionally, any weather conditions that would have previously prompted (continued on Page 2)



### DID YOU KNOW?

*December 18<sup>th</sup> is National  
Bake Cookies Day!*



## NWS Initiatives (cont'd)

a Winter Storm Watch, Lake Effect Snow Watch, or Blizzard Watch will now trigger a Winter Storm Watch. At this time, NWS Warnings are not being consolidated. The mission is to provide simplified forecasts, with the final products launched by each NWS office including impact-based bullets for the “What, Where, and When.”

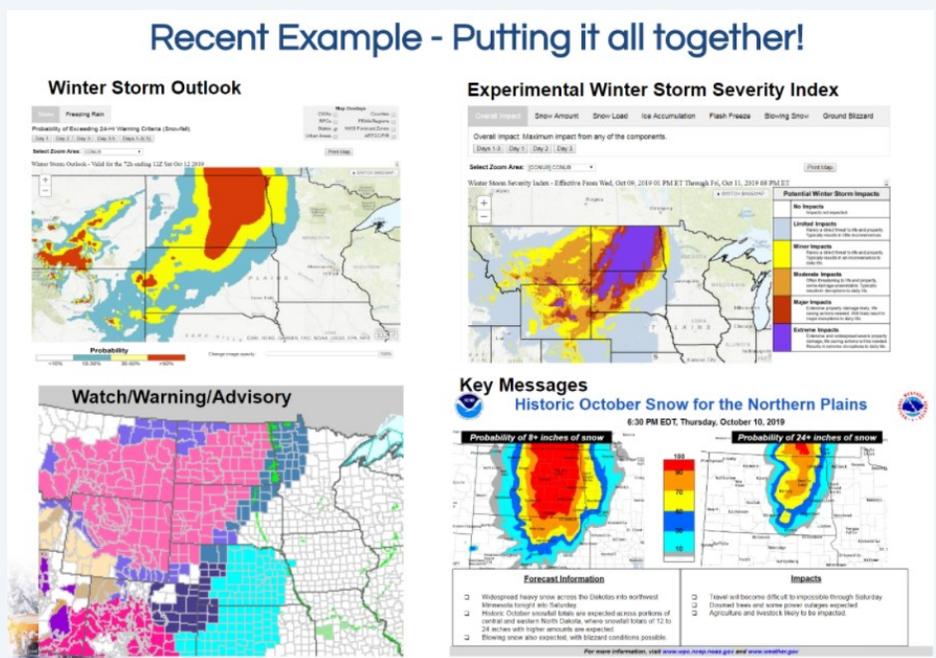
The NWS also rolled out a new experimental [Winter Storm Outlook \(WSO\)](#) December 16, 2019, which will establish a national scale “outlook” product that will promote consistent and collaborative winter storm watch issuances and will also be helpful for external messaging. It will provide the probability of achieving snow and ice accumulations based on watch and warning criteria set by each local NWS office.

The forecasters at NOAA’s Weather Prediction Center (WPC) are also testing out “Key Winter Messages,” which will be similar to the Key Messages issued by the National Hurricane Center. These messages will only be initiated for **high-impact** scenarios that have a significant chance of travel disruptions or posing a hazard to life and property and/or **significantly anomalous** events likely to generate substantial media attention.

So....when you see one of these issued for your area, it’s a good idea to stay tuned to your local NWS office and make sure your emergency supply kits for your home, office, and car are stocked!

Lastly, the forecasters at WPC have been working on a Winter Storm Severity Index (WSSI) that they are extending to all local NWS offices this year. This product assists forecasters in maintaining situational awareness, while also enhancing communication with external partners, media, and the general public. This product is updated every two hours and incorporates snow amount, ice accumulation (which looks at the combined effects of ice and wind), snow load (assessing the weight of snow on power lines), blowing snow (due to the associated impacts on transportation), ground blizzards, flash freezes (i.e. the potential for roads to become ice covered), land use, land type, and urban areas.

The image below shows a recent example of incorporating all of the historical and new products into one cohesive suite of products that will promote enhanced communication and understanding of NWS products and weather hazards.





## Meteorology in the Kitchen

Written by Kelly Neugent



### Last Winter's\* Snowiest US Cities

10. Nome, AK—62 inches

9. Rochester, NY—63.5 inches

8. Erie, PA—65.7 inches

7. Duluth, MN—66.6 inches

6. Burlington, VT—67.7 inches

5. Syracuse, NY—74.9 inches

4. Buffalo, NY—94.3 inches

3. Flagstaff, AZ—95.7 inches

2. Sault Ste. Marie, MI—101.8 inches

1. Caribou, ME—114.2 inches

\* Based off snowfall totals from December 2018—February 2019

'Tis the season for baking *\*all\** the things. Sugar cookies (with icing of course!), [gingerbread men](#), [Yule logs](#), [Christmas fudge](#), [divinity](#), [peppermint bark](#), Noels...I could go on and on. This is one of my favorite topics, after all! Seasoned (see what I did there...) bakers are well aware that the weather can quite an impact on how those sweet treats turn out. Sweltering summer kitchens can really throw off a recipe, but did you know that chilly winter kitchens can cause just as much trouble? In fact, when the temperature in your kitchen falls below 70 degrees, your well-loved pie and cookie doughs tend to end up crumbly and dry, your beautiful breads might refuse to rise, and buttercream can curdle! Fortunately, we have some tips to save your holiday baking (just in case you happen to prefer keeping your home at a brisk 66!)

- \* When recipes call for “room-temperature” eggs, they usually mean 70°F. Place your eggs in a bowl and fill with hot tap water. If your recipe calls for 3 eggs, budget around three minutes for them to warm to 70°F .
- \* When preparing pie crusts or pastries, cool temperatures can lead to dry or crumbly dough..but never fear! These recipes tend to call for cold water, so just adjust the water temperature to 70°F to account for the cool temperatures in the kitchen. You can even toss the flour into the oven if it's *really* chilly in the kitchen, just make sure to let it cool to the right temperature before mixing.
- \* Countless recipes call for creaming the butter and sugar until it's “fluffy and light,” but this process can take much longer when your ingredients and equipment are chilly. Simply pop your dish of sugar into a microwave or low oven for a minute or so to adjust (and let it cool if you happen to overshoot your target temperature )

We hope these tips help you with your baking this season! Send us pictures (or even better—recipes!) of your favorite goodies!





## *A letter from the President's Desk*

Dear valued clients,

What a busy and exciting year it has been here at STM! We have taken in cases at a record pace. Kelly and I are so grateful to have the opportunity to work with each of you, conducting case studies of weather events and reporting our findings back to you. We are so thrilled to be able to work in an interesting and dynamic field and really be able to apply our scientific knowledge to a specific application.

This year we have met up with many of you at Bar Association and other meetings, and for those of you whom we saw in person, we were glad to meet you. It is always fun and exciting to talk in person and learn how weather information can play a key role in some of your work. We look forward to seeing many of you again next year, so be sure to look for our table if you are at a meeting in New York or New England!

One of the primary passions of both Kelly and I is to educate people on how to make use of the wide variety of weather information available in order to make the best decisions for you, your business, and your loved ones. The old adage, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" is true when it comes to weather preparedness. We have had numerous opportunities this year to speak at landlord and property management groups and schools, and whenever we do, we always make sure to leave time to discuss weather safety and preparedness, no matter what the topic of the seminar. If you would like us to come and give a free seminar on weather preparedness at your place of business, place of worship, school or other facility, please give us a call and we would be happy to schedule one! We also offer seminars on a wide variety of other topics, and we would love to come and talk to you. If you would like to know more about a particular weather event, climate change and how it impacts you, weather safety, or any other topic related to the weather, please let us know!

We wish all of you a joyous holiday season, and a blessed and prosperous 2020!

*Alicia*

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**“The only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven’t found it yet, keep looking. Don’t settle.” – Steve Jobs**