

ChescoWx.com 2020-21 Winter Forecast for Western Chester County PA

As some of you may remember my winter forecast for last winter was just as bad as many of the professional meteorologist who also forecast a cold and snowy winter. This year I have taken a different approach. I have focused on 10 analog seasons. These were identified by looking for similar fall months in relation to normal along with an eye to the anticipated La Niña pattern that many find a strong predictor of future weather. I do think it will be a somewhat weaker La Niña pattern than many are forecasting. So, my 10 analog seasons are in reverse time order **2016/17 – 2005/06 – 2001/02 – 1985/86 – 1975/76 – 1935/36 – 1931/32 – 1927/28 – 1913/14 and 1902/03.**

With all that in mind below is my winter forecast for Western Chester County PA and specifically for East Nantmeal Township with departures vs. average:

- **November 2020 – Avg. Temp 49.7 (+5.8) w/ no snow (-1.3")**
- **December 2020 – Avg, Temp at 35.0 (+0.4) w/ Snow of 4.3" (-0.4")**
- **January 2021 – Avg. Temp at 32.5 (+2.5) w/ Snow of 6.7" (-4.0")**
- **February 2021 – Avg. Temp at 34.0 (+1.5) w/ Snow of 9.5" (-2.3")**
- **March 2021 – Avg. Temp at 41.4 (+0.9) w/ Snow of 6.1" (normal avg.)**
- **April 2021 – Avg. Temp 51.4 (+0.1) w/ Snow of 0.3" (-0.7")**

To summarize - every month of the winter season is forecast to average warmer than normal temperatures, with all but March averaging below normal snowfall. Total **2020/21 snowfall forecast is 26.9" or 9" below our normal Chester County PA seasonal snow average of 35.9"**

Now, regarding potential major snowstorms based on the analog years I have identified we have a:

- 70% chance of at least one storm at over 6" of snow
- 40% chance of . 1 storm exceeding 10" of snow
- 20% chance of a storm over 15"
- 10% chance of a storm over 20"

More info on my winter forecast - In the identified analog years below only 2 of the 10 winter seasons resulted in above average snow seasons...hence why my winter forecast has an 80% likelihood of below normal snow.

Below are the analog seasons and the snowfall:

1902/03 - 25.8" / 1913/14 - 54.1" / 1927/28 - 38.5" / 1931/32 - 9.0" / 1935/36 - 34.0" / 1975/76 - 19.0" / 1985/86 - 26.3" / 2001/02 - 11.1" / 2005/06 - 31.4" and 2016/17 - 24.0"

Only snowstorms in these analog years >10" were:

January 29, 1928 - 20.0" / February 12, 2006 - 18.0" / March 2, 1914 - 12.0" / February 14, 1914 - 10.4" / February 24, 1914 - 10.4" and February 17, 1903 - 10.0"