

Grimm's Goodies



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Reflection on 2009

As we make our way into December and the season comes to an end, I look back and see all of the work we accomplished this year. Despite negative media reports of how bad things were, we persevered. The result was a stronger, leaner company that learned what it is like to face tough times. Yet through all of that we were busy, and I am pleased to say that this accomplishment must be credited to our hard working crews. Thanks to all who have been patient and to those who have let us know when the crews

are providing the service you expect.

Even with an uncertain economy and our country at war, I am pleased to announce that The Brothers Grimm Landscape and Design has achieved a record year. With continued hard work and quality clients, we are excited about our future. We are already planning for



the 2010 season to accommodate our continued upward climb and are looking forward to the new challenges ahead.

However, as the holidays approach, I am also excited for a little break and time to rest and recuperate. I hope you all are in good health and are able to enjoy this celebrated time of year. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you in the Spring.

Let it snow, Let it snow, Let it snow!

After all, it is December and that pesky white stuff can come at any time. We just wanted to remind you all that we offer snow services for both our residential and commercial customers. Most folks aren't thinking too much about it this year due to the lack of

snow so far this season. But don't make the mistake of waiting until it is too late and the snow is piling up. If you



would like to be on our regular plow lists, all you have to do is call and we will make sure you can get out and on your way on those cold January mornings. Until then, stay warm and enjoy some hot cocoa.

Plant Profile—MISTLETOE

Mistletoe is the common name for a group of parasitic plants that grow attached to and within the branches of a tree or shrub. The word 'mistletoe' is of uncertain etymology; it may be related to German Mist, for dung and Tang for branch, since mistletoe can be spread in the feces of birds moving from tree to tree. However, Old English mistel was also used for basil.

European mistletoe is a poisonous plant that causes acute gastrointestinal problems including stomach pain, and diarrhea along with low pulse.

The name was originally applied to European Mistletoe, the only species native in Great Britain and much of Europe. Later the name was further extended to other related species, the Eastern Mistletoe of eastern North America. European Mistletoe is readily recognized by its smooth-edged oval



evergreen leaves borne in pairs along the woody stem, and waxy white berries in dense clusters of 2 to 6. In America, the Eastern Mistletoe is similar, but has shorter, broader leaves and longer clusters of 10 or more berries. In the United States, mistletoe is commercially harvested for Christmas decorations.

Mistletoe was often considered a pest that kills trees and devalues natural habitats, but was recently recognized as an ecological keystone species, an organism that has a disproportionately pervasive influence over its community. A broad array of animals depend on mistletoe for food, consuming the leaves and young shoots, transferring pollen between plants, and dispersing the sticky seeds. The dense evergreen witches' brooms formed by the dwarf mistletoes of western North America also make excellent locations for roosting and nesting of the Northern Spotted Owls

and the Marbled Murrelets. In Australia, the Diamond Firetails and Painted Honeyeaters are recorded as nesting in different mistletoes.

A study of mistletoe in junipers concluded that more juniper berries sprout in stands where mistletoe is present, as the mistletoe attracts berry-eating birds which also eat juniper berries. Such interactions lead to dramatic influences on diversity, as areas with greater mistletoe densities support higher diversities of animals. Thus, rather than being a pest, mistletoe can have a positive effect on biodiversity, providing high quality food and habitat for a broad range of animals in forests and woodlands worldwide. Source: Wikipedia.com

