OK, OK, let's not get excited. Calm down. Hold your horses.

We're not saying that to you or to some other reader out there. We are passing the message along to all the trees, plans and bushes around the area. Slow down!

Of course, it's about the ridiculous warmth Iron County and other parts of the Upper Midwest experienced recently.

For eight straight days, we had highs in the 60s and 70s. For five consecutive days, highs ranged from 76 to 78, During this spell, lows were between 44 and 50. Those were the lows! For five consecutive days, temperatures never got lower than 44.

For the record: Those highs were 40 degrees warmer than average for March, which has an average high of 37 and an average low of 11.

Forty degrees warmer than average! If the weather was 40 degrees below average, the highs would be right around zero, and the lows would be -30. That's how extreme it was.

Once April starts, the average high is 51, and the low is 25. That's close to the temperatures forecast for later this week—but now it's going to seem a bit chilly.

Remember our Leap Year Day blizzard? The one that dumped 19 inches on the area a few weeks ago? It's gone. All gone. Long gone. Even the big piles of snow that were piled and plowed up. Just a memory.

Instead, last week the high school kids were practicing for spring sports in T-shirts and shorts, moms were walking babies around in the warm air, kids were at the playgrounds … and golfers were longing, just longing to swing their clubs and lose a few more balls. Spring fever builds pretty quickly among certain demographic groups, but none quicker than golfers.

Normal weather could return, you know. Last year, we had a normal March. We had 14 inches of snow during the month, and it got below zero as late as March 28—that's this Wednesday!.Warmest temperature all month: 55.

Last April, it didn't get warmer than 66, and we had snow as late as April 22. We didn't see our first 70 until May 11.

Usually, Old Man Winter holds on for dear life, but the recent hot spell gave him the bum's rush. Now we wonder whether it stirred up the old goat's wrath. Is he going to storm back all ornery as hell, waving his cane defiantly and determined to chill us all out?

It was nice to have the summer preview. We all enjoyed it. But let's hope the plants didn't take it too seriously. What we need now, more than anything else, is rain. Even snow. Because besides being very warm, these last few weeks have also been very dry. We don't need an extended period of warm weather with all the dry plants around.

--Peter Nocerini