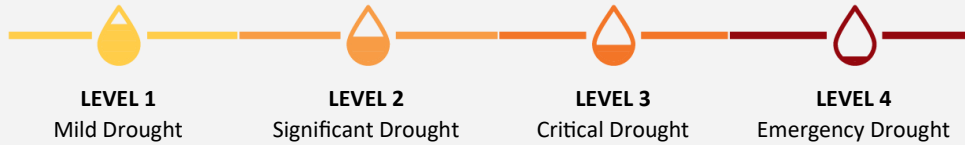


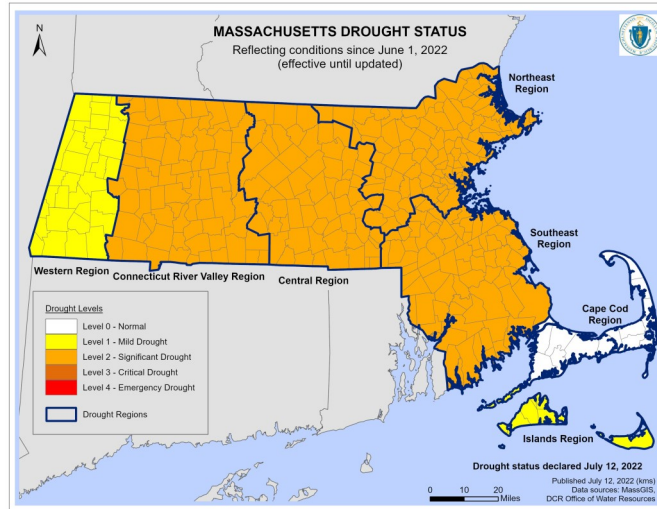
MASSACHUSETTS DROUGHT ALERT

July, 2022



DROUGHT STATUS

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs has declared a **Level 2—Significant Drought** in the Connecticut River Valley, Central, Northeast and Southeast Regions, and a **Level 1 – Mild Drought** in the Western and Islands Regions. Cape Cod is Normal.



Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs:
Bethany A. Card
Acting Director of MEMA:
Dawn Brantley



For Information on **Water Conservation** click [here!](#)
Private Well owners click [here!](#)

CURRENT CONDITIONS

With over four months of below normal rainfall, drought has spread to 90% of the state, and intensified in many regions. Streamflow is severely impacted with dry stream beds and ponding visible in many locations. Fire danger especially in the northern half of the state is steadily on the rise, with noticeable drought stress on foliage in shrubs and grasses. Also, drought conditions are starting to impact our farms, with losses in soil moisture, more heavy irrigation needed in some areas due to lack of precipitation, and some initial signs of crop loss.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

Be mindful of your water use to ensure essential needs, such as drinking water and fire protection, are being met, and habitats have enough water to support their natural functions. Exercise caution when using charcoal grills, backyard fire pits, & other open flame outdoor activities to prevent outdoor fires.

In Level 2-Significant Drought Areas

Residents & Businesses:

- Minimize water use
- Limit outdoor watering to hand-held 5:00 pm - 9:00 am
- Conserve water indoors
- Fix Leaks
- Be careful w outdoor flames

Cities & Towns:

- Limit outdoor watering to at least hand-held only 5:00 pm - 9:00 am
- Limit new landscapes and outdoor washing
- Implement drought or seasonal water rates
- Establish water use reduction targets
- Establish a leak detection program

In Level 1-Mild Drought Areas

Residents & Businesses:

- Focus water conservation indoors; fix Leaks
- Reduce any outdoor watering to one-day/week 5:00 pm - 9:00 am

Cities & Towns:

- Limit any outdoor watering to no more than once a week and from 5:00 pm - 9:00 am
- Limit new landscapes and outdoor washing
- Implement drought or seasonal water rates
- Check emergency connections
- Develop local drought plan for water supply

Learn more at www.mass.gov/ma-drought-management

LEVEL 2 - SIGNIFICANT DROUGHT



LEVEL 1
Mild Drought



LEVEL 2
Significant Drought



LEVEL 3
Critical Drought



LEVEL 4
Emergency Drought

What does this mean?



Rain well below normal
for over 2 months



Streams low, nearing
extreme low flows
in some areas



Fire Danger
steadily increasing



Strain on some
water supplies

What you can do!



Minimize overall water use



Limit outdoor watering to hand-held
hoses or watering cans, to be used
only after 5pm
or before 9am



Temporarily Limit Installation of
new landscapes and plants

Learn more at www.mass.gov/ma-drought-management

