

8/18/25

Massachusetts Drought Alert

August 18, 2025



Drought persists on Cape Cod and Nantucket

Drought Alert Issued by:

Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs: Rebecca L. Tepper

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Multiple Regions

Five of the seven regions in Massachusetts remain at Normal Conditions, but drying trends are emerging across the state, and some indices are showing signs of stress due to below-average precipitation and warmer-than-average temperatures.

More precipitation is needed to improve hydrological systems, especially groundwater and fire danger indices, in areas that are lagging. Drought lowers groundwater levels, which lowers pond/lake levels and impacts fish passage to the ocean.

Cape Cod Region

Has been upgraded to a Level 2 from Level 1 last month, as groundwater levels continue to drop and warm, dry weather persists. The elevated fire risk underscores the need for water conservation. Residents and businesses are urged to follow state and local guidelines to conserve water.

Nantucket County

Remains in a Level 1, with below-normal groundwater levels and ongoing dry summer weather. Nantucket continues to experience stressful conditions. Residents and businesses are encouraged to follow state and local guidance to conserve water.

Share your drought impacts with us!

How you can help

Various regions of the state are facing different levels of drought. Be sure to follow local and state guidelines.

Municipalities:

- Implement or establish drought surcharges or seasonal water rates.
- Provide timely drought and water conservation information to residents and businesses.
- Check emergency inter-connections for water supply and develop a local drought management plan.
- Establish a year-round water conservation program that incorporates public education and communication initiatives.

Residents and Businesses:

- Use caution with smoking materials, power equipment, outdoor cooking, etc. NO OPEN BURNING ALLOWED.
- Limit outdoor watering to 5 pm - 9am using hand-held hoses or watering cans (Level 2), or one day a week (Level 1).
- Conduct water audits to identify leaks.
- Avoid removing outlet boards/stop logs that manage pond/lake levels.
- Plant local/drought-resistant species and harvest rainwater

Additional Resources

www.mass.gov/drought

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Water Conservation information [click here.](#)

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