

Drought Information Statement  
National Weather Service Albany NY  
1022 AM EDT Tue Aug 16 2022

...SEVERE DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN DUTCHESS AND LITCHFIELD COUNTIES,  
MODERATE DROUGHT ELSEWHERE IN EASTERN NEW YORK AND WESTERN  
NEW  
ENGLAND...

.SYNOPSIS:

.Drought intensity and extent:

The August 11th issuance of the United States Drought Monitor (USDM) indicated a small area of D2 (Severe Drought) across southeast Dutchess County in New York and western Litchfield County in Connecticut. Moderate Drought (D1) conditions were present across portions of Albany, Columbia, Greene, Schoharie, Ulster and Dutchess Counties in New York, Berkshire County in Massachusetts, Litchfield County in Connecticut and Windham County in Vermont. Elsewhere, D0 (Abnormally Dry) conditions were seen across the remainder of the Albany service area, with the exception of the Western Adirondacks and Mohawk Valley.

.Precipitation and temperature:

The last 30 days have seen less than half of normal rainfall in corresponding approximately with the Moderate Drought (D1) depiction in the USDM. Below normal precipitation signals persist at the 60 and 90 day time frame, but the most significant dryness has been since the start of June. Temperatures have been well above normal for the last 30 days, as much as 5 degrees above normal. The below normal rainfall and above normal temperatures have contributed to a rapid deterioration of drought conditions over the last 30 to 45 days.

.Hydrologic conditions:

Across the drought areas depicted in the US Drought Monitor, United States Geological Survey (USGS) shows 7 and 14 day streamflow averages below normal to much below normal. Twenty eight day averages are slightly better, with some near normal readings in addition to the below normal to normal readings in the

D0/D1/D2 areas.

Groundwater levels are generally slower to respond to drought conditions. USGS groundwater wells in the D1 and D2 areas of the USDM are generally showing below to much below normal groundwater levels, with a mix of normal, below normal and much below normal levels elsewhere in the eastern New York and western New England service area.

.SUMMARY OF IMPACTS:

A Stage II Drought Emergency has been declared in the City of Kingston, NY which includes mandatory water use restrictions. Mandatory water use restrictions have been declared in the communities of Williamstown, Adams, Dalton and Hinsdale in Massachusetts.

.DROUGHT MITIGATION ACTIONS:

Across eastern New York and western New England, please heed the advice and recommendations of your local water supplier. In addition, the following state mitigation actions are being requested:

.Connecticut:

The Connecticut Interagency Drought Workgroup (IDW) convened on August 4 to assess the continued dry conditions across the state. A Stage 2 Notice remains in effect statewide, and the CT IDW plans to meet again on August 18 to reassess conditions.

CT Residents and businesses are asked to voluntarily take the following actions to minimize strain on water supply: Reduce outdoor irrigation, postpone new lawn or vegetation plantings, fix any water leaks, and follow water conservation requests of local water suppliers and municipalities.

More details regarding the drought stages in CT and water conservation tips are available at the CT Drought Information Center: <https://portal.ct.gov/Water/Drought/Drought-Home>

.Massachusetts:

On August 8, the Massachusetts Drought Management Task Force (DMTF) convened to discuss conditions across the Commonwealth. Following this meeting, MA Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Bethany Card announced an update to drought declarations in the Commonwealth. In the Albany NWS service area, the MA DMTF Western Region (Berkshire County) is in a Level 1 - Mild Drought. The MA DMTF will re-convene on August 23.

EEA urges residents and businesses to be extremely mindful of their overall water use, and select native and drought resistant plants for new plantings. Level 1 – Mild Drought areas are asked to limit outdoor watering to no more than one day a week (before 9:00 am or after 5:00 pm only).

More details regarding the drought status in MA can be found at the following web site:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/drought-status>.

.New York:

The New York Drought Management Task Force convened on August 11 to assess continued dry conditions across the state. Following this, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation recommended placing Drought Regions II, III and IV into a drought watch, continuing the Drought Watch for Drought Regions I, VII, VIII and the western half of VI. The Drought Watch includes the entire Albany NWS eastern New York service area with the exception of Herkimer, Hamilton and Warren counties.

To protect water resources, homeowners are encouraged to voluntarily reduce outdoor water use and follow these tips: water lawns only when necessary, choose watering methods that avoid waste, and water in the early morning to reduce evaporation and maximize soil hydration; reuse water collected in rain barrels, dehumidifiers, or air conditioners to water plants; raise lawn mower cutting heights; use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks; and fix leaking pipes, hoses, and faucets.

More details regarding the current drought status in NY can be found at the following web site:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5017.html>

**.LOCAL DROUGHT OUTLOOK:**

There is the potential for some beneficial rain in the near term, with precipitation leaning towards above normal in the 6 to 10 day and 8 to 14 day precipitation outlooks for August 21 through 25 and 23 through 29, respectively. However, current indications are not for any drought-ending rainfall amounts. Likely above normal temperatures accompany this precipitation potential.

**.NEXT ISSUANCE DATE:**

This product will be updated Tuesday September 13 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.

**.RELATED WEB SITES:**

Additional information on current drought conditions may be found at the following web addresses:

US Drought Monitor: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

US Drought Information System: <https://www.drought.gov>

NOAA Drought Page: <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/Drought>

Northeast Regional Climate Center...<http://www.nrcc.cornell.edu>

Vermont State Climate Office...<http://www.uvm.edu/~ldupigny/sc>

New York State Climate Office...<http://nysc.eas.cornell.edu>

Additional water and river information:

NWS: <https://water.weather.gov>

OWP: <https://water.noaa.gov>

US Geological Survey (USGS): <https://water.usgs.gov>

US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE): <https://www.usace.army.mil>

**.ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

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Observation sites...State Cooperative Extension Services...The  
USDA...USACE AND USGS.

.CONTACT INFORMATION:

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