The month of May 2021 could be characterized as seasonably mild, though quite dry across the NWS Burlington HSA. Precipitation was for the most part scattered and light, with the most notable event ending on the 1st when minor flooding was observed along the Barton River in Coventry, VT. Most of the rainfall occurred on the 30th of April with this event, but it did help raise overall baseline streamflows back toward normal levels for the first week of May. Thereafter, events were more scattered and intermittent in nature with light to sporadic moderate rainfall occurring on the 5th and 6th, 11th and 12th, and again by the 30th-31st. These systems fell well short of providing normal expected precipitation for the area and by month’s end 31-day totals only averaged from around 0.50 to 2.5 inches, the driest areas lying in the St. Lawrence Valley (Figure 1). This led to monthly departures of -1.5 to -3.5 inches (Figures 2) which led to a continuation of abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions across most of the HSA (Figure 3).

Figure 1: NWS BTV HSA total precipitation for the month of May 2021.
Figure 2: NWS BTV HSA precipitation departures for the month of May 2021.

Figure 3: U.S. Drought Monitor on June 1, 2021 showing a continuation of D0/D1 across most of the NWS BTV HSA.