


DROUGHT MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

MassDEP Water Management Program
Duane LeVangie
7/10/2024

PWS PERMITS

Since 2014 (post-SWMI) WMA Permits require reductions in nonessential water uses when one or more of the following are triggered between May 1st and September 30th

- Specific streamflow triggers generally include
 - June ABF is the May - June trigger
 - August ABF is the July – September trigger
 - 7-Day Low Flow
- Groundwater elevations on Cape, Islands, and parts of Southeastern MA
 - Triggers are the period of record monthly 25th percentile depth to water level values, as determined and published by the USGS
and
 - Drought Declaration

PWS Permits

Nonessential Outdoor Water Use Restrictions

Non-Essential: Uses not required for health or safety reasons, by regulation, for production of food or fiber, for maintenance of livestock, or to meet the core function of a business

	Calendar	
RGPCD for prior year	May 1 to Sept 30	7-Day Low Flow
< 65	7 days*	1 day*
>65 or Minim. subbasin	2 days*	1 day*

STREAMFLOW		
Flow > ABF	Flow < ABF	7-Day Low-Flow
7 days	7 days*	1 day*
7 days	2 days*	1 day*

* No watering 9 am to 5 pm on any day

Note: Cape and Island requirements are based on GW and Drought Triggers

PWS REGISTRATIONS

PWS WMA Registrations require reductions in nonessential water uses during a drought declaration.

- **Level 1 (Mild Drought)**
No more than one day per week, before 9 a.m. and after 5 p.m.*
- **Level 2 (Significant Drought)**
All nonessential uses banned*
- **Level 3 (Critical Drought) or Level 4 (Drought Emergency)**
All nonessential uses are banned

**watering of ornamentals and flower gardens with drip irrigation, hand-held hose or watering cans may be permitted.*

GOLF REGISTRATIONS

Require reductions during a drought declaration.

Irrigation is prohibited from 9am – 5pm except that hand-watering of hot spots may occur at any time

- **Level 1 (Mild Drought) / 7-Day Low Flow**
 - Fairways: Irrigation at 80%
 - Roughs: Irrigation at 50%
 - Landscaping: No irrigation*
- **Level 2 (Significant Drought)**
 - Fairways: Irrigation at 60%
 - Roughs: No irrigation
 - Landscaping: No irrigation*
- **Level 3 (Critical Drought)**
 - Fairways: Irrigation at 40%
 - Roughs: No irrigation
 - Landscaping: No irrigation*
- **Level 4 (Drought Emergency)**
Action To Be Determined by the Governor's Emergency Proclamation

**Special event venues may continue to irrigate gardens, flowers and ornamental plants by hand-held hose or drip irrigation during Mild, Significant, or Critical Drought.*

7-Day Low Flow trigger is applied to permitted golf courses only.

USGS STREAM GAGES AND MONITORING WELLS

50 USGS Stream Gages are tracked

- May 8 2 gages below trigger for 3 days
- June 8 21 gages below trigger for 3 days
- June 22 45 gages below trigger for 3 days
- July 8 16 gages below trigger for 3 days*

9 USGS Monitoring Wells

- May 8 0 gage below the trigger for 60 days
- July 8 1 gage below the trigger for 60 days

Drought Declarations and 7-Day Low Flow

- July 8 0 gages have hit the 7-day low flow

**Stream Gage trigger values adjusted to August ABF trigger on July 1st*

REPORTED WATER USE RESTRICTION NUMBERS

May 6th

- 1 Voluntary
- 35 Mandatory of 2 days or more
- 5 Mandatory of 1 day or less

June 11th

- 4 Voluntary
- 45 Mandatory of 2 days or more
- 5 Mandatory of 1 day or less

July 8th

- 6 Voluntary
- 72 Mandatory of 2 days or more
- 11 Mandatory of 1 day or less



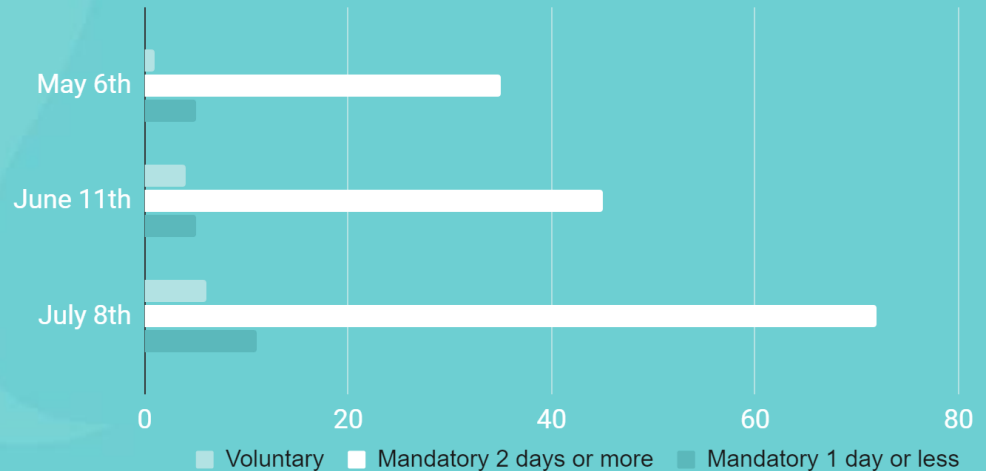
PWS
With WMA
Permits



PWS Permits with
Restriction
Requirement



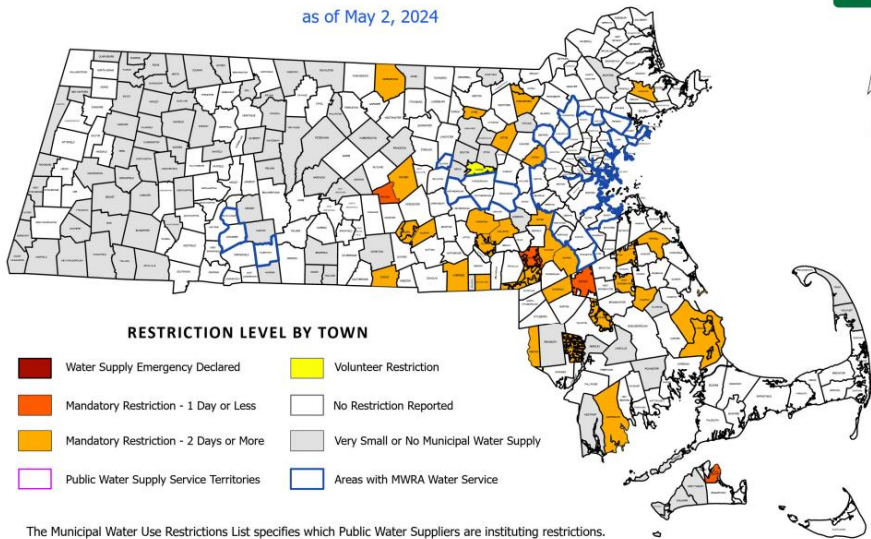
PWS have
active
restrictions



CURRENT MUNICIPAL WATER USE RESTRICTIONS

Non-Essential Outdoor Water Use Restrictions

as of May 2, 2024



The Municipal Water Use Restrictions List specifies which Public Water Suppliers are instituting restrictions.
The List can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/media/>.

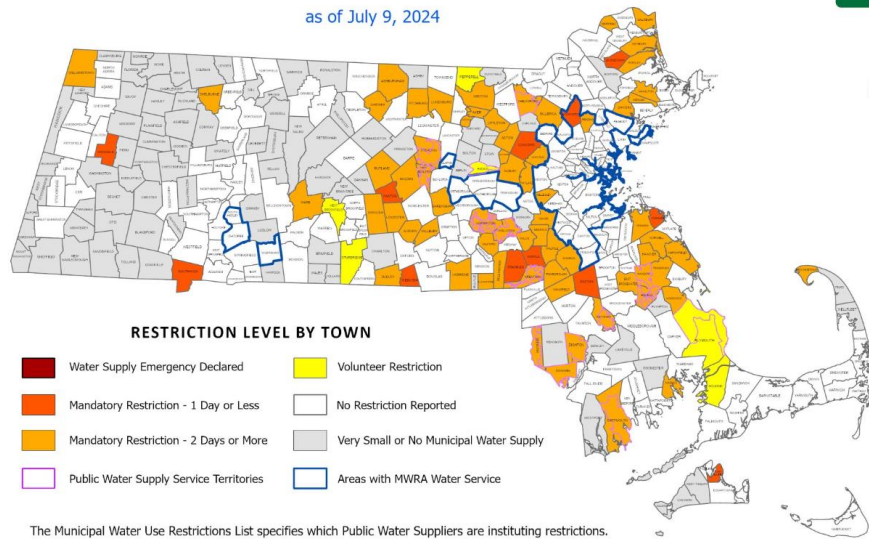
SOURCES:
MassDEP Bureau of Water Resources, Water Management Program; MassDEP GIS Program; MassGIS.
Restriction Level data provided by municipal Public Water Suppliers or by MassDEP internet search.
For more information contact MassDEP Water Management Program at 617-292-5706.
NOTE: Sub-town water supply service areas are approximate.

MassDEP GIS Program: 5/2/2024

CURRENT MUNICIPAL WATER USE RESTRICTIONS

Non-Essential Outdoor Water Use Restrictions

as of July 9, 2024



The Municipal Water Use Restrictions List specifies which Public Water Suppliers are instituting restrictions.
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MassDEP GIS Program: 7/9/2024