Massachusetts Drought Alert

August 12, 2025



Drought persists on Cape Cod and Nantucket



Multiple Regions

July brought warmer-than-average temperatures and many areas experienced below-average precipitation. 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 low precipitation. More precipitation is needed to improve hydrological systems, especially groundwater and fire danger indices, in areas that are lagging.

Mater Use

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.

Drought Alert Issued by:

Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs: Rebecca L. Tepper Director of MEMA: Dawn Brantley

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.

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.



Check out the new MA Native Plant Palette!

A free tool to explore native plants and create custom plant lists to support water conservation and drought resilience.

Residents and Businesses:

- Minimize overall water use and fix indoor leaks.
- Limit outdoor watering to 5 pm 9am using handheld hoses or watering cans (Level 2), or one day a week (Level 1).
- Follow local water use restrictions and minimize lawn sizes.
- Larger buildings/businesses conduct water audits to identify leaks and water conservation opportunities.
- Plant local/drought-resistant species and harvest rainwater for outdoor watering.



Additional Resources

www.mass.gov/drought @masseea





