


DROUGHT MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

MassDEP Water Management Program
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5/7/2025

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

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

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

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 RESTRICTIONS

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 applied to permitted golf courses only.

USGS STREAM GAGES AND MONITORING WELLS

WMA monitors stream gages and wells between May 1st and September 30th

40 USGS Stream Gages

- May 7 3 Gages below trigger for 3 days

9 USGS Monitoring Wells

- May 7 4 Wells below trigger for 60 days

7-Day Low Flow

- May 7 0 Gages have hit the 7-day low flow

REPORTED WATER USE RESTRICTION NUMBERS

80 PWS's have reported current restrictions to WMA

- 3 Voluntary
- 46 Mandatory of 2 days or more
- 31 Mandatory of 1 day or less



239

Total PWS's in the
WMA Program

174

PWS's with
Permits

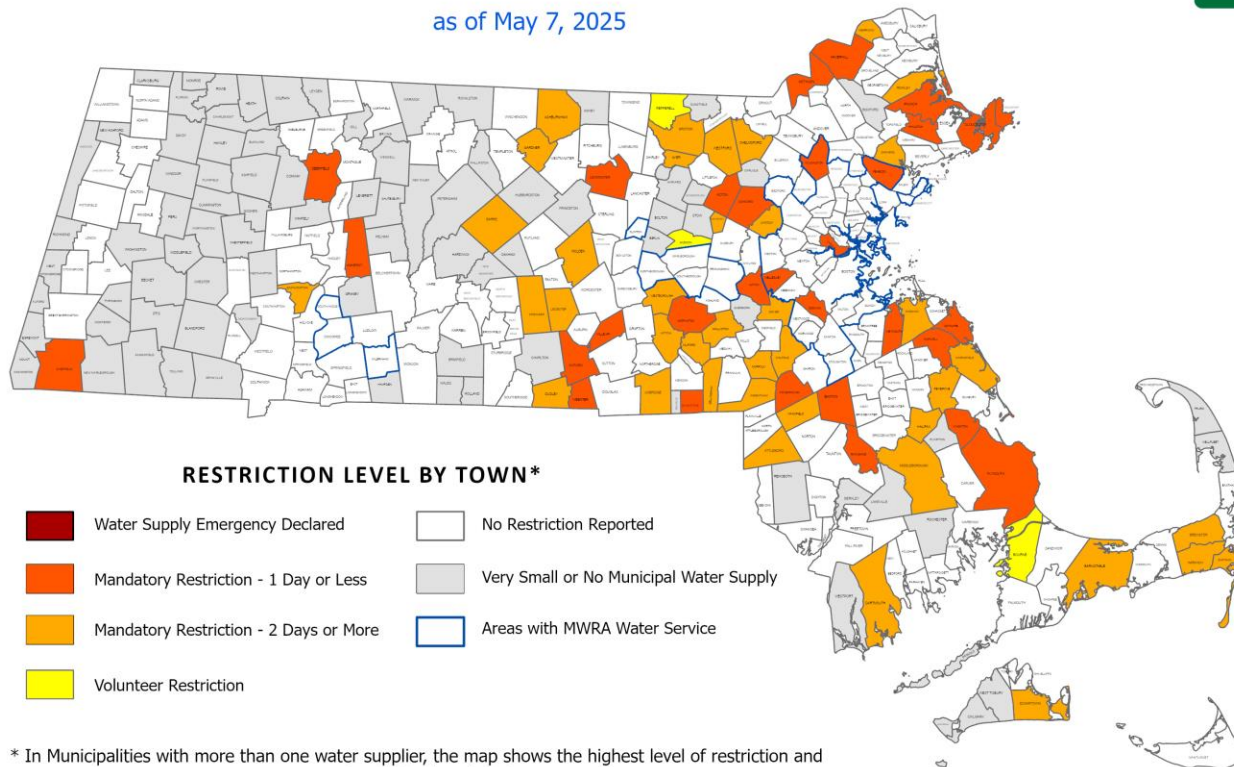
65

PWS's with only
Registrations








CURRENT MUNICIPAL WATER USE RESTRICTIONS

Non-Essential Outdoor Water Use Restrictions

as of May 7, 2025



RESTRICTION LEVEL BY TOWN*

	Water Supply Emergency Declared		No Restriction Reported
	Mandatory Restriction - 1 Day or Less		Very Small or No Municipal Water Supply
	Mandatory Restriction - 2 Days or More		Areas with MWRA Water Service
	Volunteer Restriction		

* In Municipalities with more than one water supplier, the map shows the highest level of restriction and may not apply to the whole town

SOURCES:

MassDEP Bureau of Water Resources, Water Management Program; MassDEP GIS Program; MassGIS.
Restriction Level data provided by municipal Public Water Suppliers (PWS) or by MassDEP internet search.
For more information contact MassDEP Water Management Program at DEP.WMA@MASS.GOV

NOTE: If a PWS has not informed MassDEP of their restrictions, it may not be reflected on this map. Please contact your local Water Dept. for the most accurate information.