

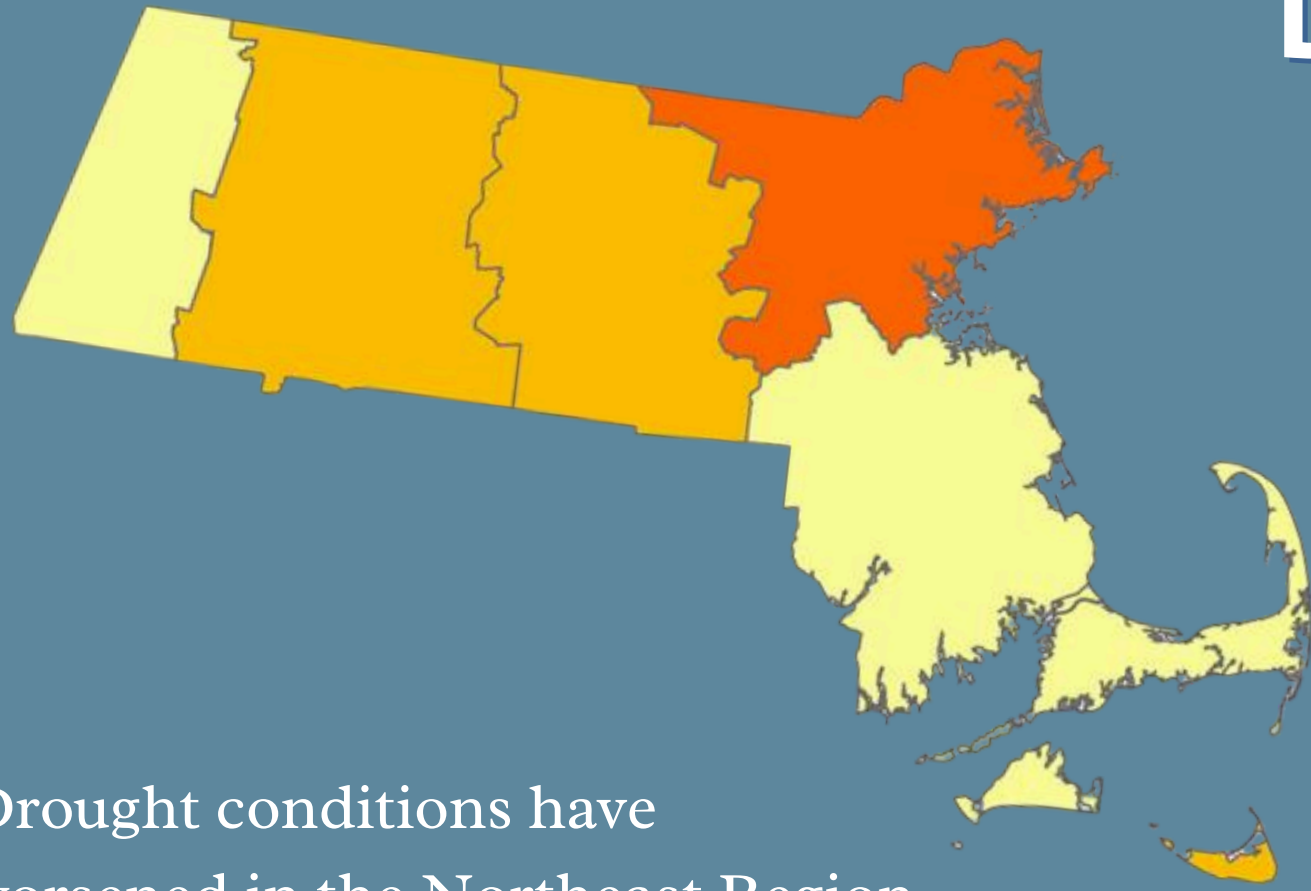
Massachusetts Drought Alert

May 22, 2026

Northeast Region



Drought Conditions Worsen in the Northeast Region



Drought conditions have worsened in the Northeast Region to **Level 3-Critical Drought**.

The Connecticut River Valley, Central Region, and Nantucket County are at **Level 2-Significant Drought**.

The Western, Southeast, and Cape Cod Regions, and Dukes County are at **Level 1-Mild Drought**.

Drought Alert Issued by:

Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs: **Rebecca L. Tepper**

Director of MEMA: **Dawn Brantley**

Drought Impacts

- Drought is a **Look Back** on conditions over time.
- Precipitation in the Northeast Region is well below normal for the past 12 months, causing extremely low streamflow, groundwater & impacts to fish and habitat.
- Forecasts indicate **dry conditions could persist**.
- Despite difficult conditions, **Public Water Suppliers are working hard** to maintain reliable water supplies for communities.
- **Outdoor watering restrictions** help to ensure that enough water will be available for essential uses such as drinking, washing, fire protection, and businesses, even if drought conditions persist.

Drought Video Series:

[Video 1: What does drought mean in MA?](#)

[Video 2: Why outdoor watering restrictions?](#)

[Water Conservation Tips & Tools](#)

[Private Well owners information](#)

[Drought FAQ](#)

What YOU can do

- STOP all non-essential outdoor use (e.g., lawn/landscape watering, washing cars/driveways/decks, filling pools); follow all other local water use restrictions
- Fix any toilet or faucet leaks immediately by checking water meters for constant dial movement, using dye tabs for toilet leaks & inspecting pipes/fixtures regularly
- Continue to minimize overall water use by:
 - Taking shorter showers (5 minutes or less)
 - Running dishwashers and washing machines only on a full load
 - Evaluating household water use & identify leaks with the [MA Home Water Use Calculator tool](#)

[Share your local drought impacts with us!](#)

Additional Resources

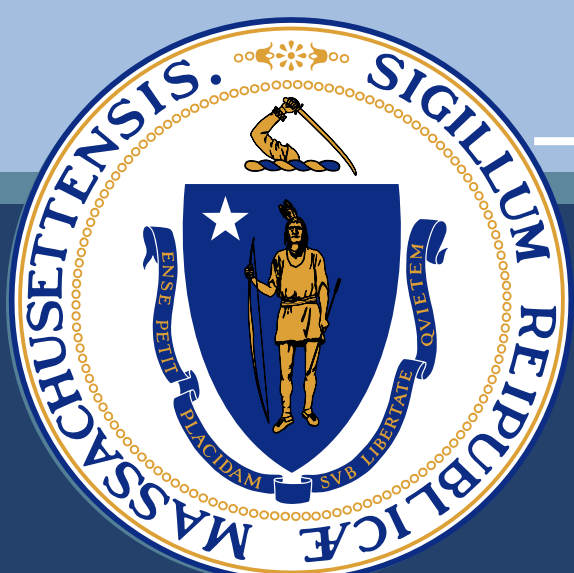
www.mass.gov/drought

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[Boards of Health - report here on conditions of local private wells](#)



LEVEL 3 - CRITICAL DROUGHT



LEVEL 1
Mild Drought



LEVEL 2
Significant Drought



LEVEL 3
Critical Drought



LEVEL 4
Emergency Drought

What does this mean?



Rain much below normal for several months



Streams and groundwater very low, record low flows in some areas



Drought-induced Fire potential steadily increasing



Potential water supply constraints, risk to fire protection



Fish and wildlife impacts

Act Now!

RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES:



Minimize overall water use.



Stop all non-essential outdoor watering.

GET A
DROUGHT
UPDATE AT



[MASS.GOV/MA-DROUGHT-MANAGEMENT](https://mass.gov/ma-drought-management)

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IMMEDIATE STEPS FOR COMMUNITIES:

Ban all nonessential outdoor water use.

Provide information and tips on the drought and water conservation.

Enforce water use restrictions with penalties.

Prohibit installation of new sod, seeding, and/or landscaping.

Establish or enhance water-use reduction targets, identify top water users, and conduct targeted outreach.

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SHORT- AND MEDIUM-TERM STEPS FOR COMMUNITIES:

Establish a year-round water conservation program.

Use drought surcharges or seasonal water rates.

Prepare to activate emergency inter-connections for water supply.

Develop or refine your local drought management plan.

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