

TOWN OF UXBRIDGE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
WATER DIVISION

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## DROUGHT TASK FORCE UPDATE OCTOBER 7, 2022

### History

In April 2022, the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) declared the Central Region, including Uxbridge, as Level 0 – Normal. Conditions began to steadily change and by May 2022 the drought status was increased to Level 1 – Mild Drought. Again, conditions continued to decline and by June 2022 the drought status was increased to Level 2 – Significant Drought. With the majority of the state currently experiencing elevated temperatures and forecasts predicting little to no meaningful precipitation, on July 21, 2022 (EEA) declared a Level 3-Critical Drought for our region.

DPW Water Division produces drinking water from a system of 7 gravel packed wells across 3 separate wellfields. Total rainfall for the year remains is at record lows and the seasonal ground water table is lower than normal. Extreme temperatures and lack of rainfall have impacted our ability to keep pace with the water use demand. Due to these conditions, we are feeling the full effects of the drought here in Uxbridge.

On the August 2, 2022, the Board of Selectmen/Water and Sewer Commissioners (BOS/WSC) held an emergency meeting to discuss the status of the drought and impacts to our water system. During this meeting the BOS/WSC voted to increase the water use restrictions to a full ban on nonessential outdoor watering. These restrictions are necessary to maintain water storage for drinking, firefighting, and sanitary use.

### October 7, 2022 Drought Management Task Force Update

With several recent precipitation events in September that directly benefited Massachusetts' hydrological systems, Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Beth Card announced that drought conditions have improved in all regions of the state, and made the following drought declarations: the Western Region has been upgraded to Level 0-Normal Conditions; the Connecticut River Valley, Central Region, and Southeast Regions have been upgraded to Level 1-Mild Drought; and, the Northeast and Cape Cod Regions have been upgraded and will join the Islands Region as a Level 2-Significant Drought. **This declaration will remain in effect till the next declaration in November.**

### What does this mean for Uxbridge?

The reduction from the Level 3 to Level 1 changes the non-essential outdoor water use restrictions to the following level.

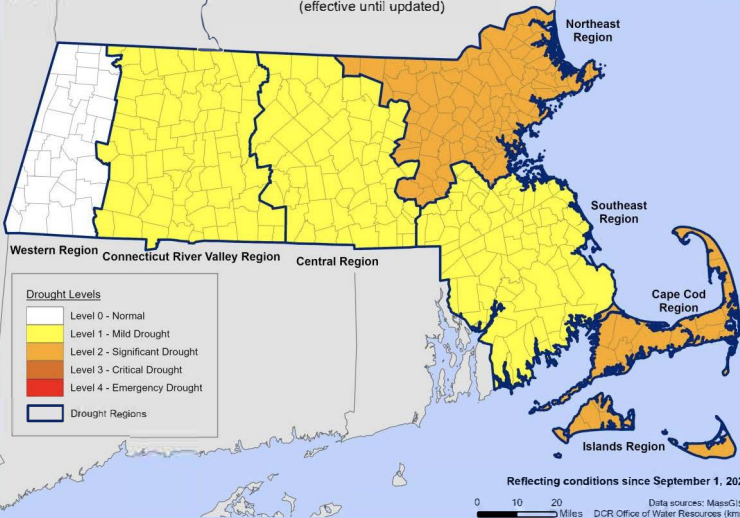
<b>Level 1 (Mild Drought)</b>	<b>1 day per week watering, after 5 p.m. or before 9 a.m.</b>
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These restrictions will remain in place until the drought level drops to Level 0.

For questions, please call the DPW Administration office at 508-278-8616. For updates, please see our website at <https://www.uxbridge-ma.gov/home/news/drought-management-update>. To receive updates, you can subscribe for E-Alerts at <https://www.uxbridge-ma.gov/subscribe>.

# MASSACHUSETTS DROUGHT STATUS

Drought status declared October 7, 2022  
(effective until updated)



# Nonessential\* Outdoor Water-Use Restrictions at Various Drought Levels

State Drought Condition (by Region)	Nonessential Outdoor Water-Use Restrictions
Level 1 (Mild Drought)	1 day per week watering, after 5 p.m. or before 9 a.m. (to minimize evaporative losses)
Level 2 (Significant Drought)	Limit outdoor watering to hand-held hoses or watering cans, to be used only after 5 p.m. or before 9 a.m.
Level 3 (Critical Drought)	Ban on all nonessential outdoor water use
Level 4 (Emergency Drought)	Ban on all nonessential outdoor water use

*\*Essential uses are defined by MassDEP as uses required: a) for health or safety reasons; b) by regulation; c) for the production of food and fiber; d) for the maintenance of livestock; or e) to meet the core functions of a business. Nonessential uses are those other than essential uses.*