

How do I know the current drought response level?

Check www.conservewatergeorgia.net

Changes in drought response levels are usually announced in major newspapers, and on local television and radio stations.

Where can I go to find out more about drought?

Georgia Water Conservation:
<http://www.conservewatergeorgia.net>

US Geological Survey Drought Watch:
<http://ga.water.usgs.gov/news/drought99>

Palmer drought Index for Georgia:
<http://interests.caes.uga.edu/drought/General.htm>

National Drought Mitigation Center:
<http://drought.unl.edu>

Drought Conditions Website:
<http://www.weather.gov/oh/hic/current/drought>

Office of Environmental Management
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
60 Executive Park South, NE
Atlanta, GA 30329-2231



Understanding Drought

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

Georgia Department of Community Affairs
60 Executive Park South, NE
Atlanta, GA 30329-2231
404-679-4940
www.dca.state.ga.us



What is drought?

Drought is any shortage of water that causes related complications.

Who decides we are in a drought?

Georgia has a State Drought Response Committee. The committee is comprised of governmental agencies, agriculture representatives, hydrologists, business representatives, climatologists, environmental organizations, and state water professionals.

How do we know we are in a drought?

Drought indicators are used to help detect, characterize, and monitor changing climatic and soil conditions indicating a drought exists. In Georgia the State Drought Response Committee studies: precipitation, reservoir levels, groundwater levels, and streamflows. If these indicators are below average then a declaration of drought is issued with a mandated response level, including outdoor watering restrictions.

How are the water restrictions enforced?

Watering restrictions are put into place to conserve water and minimize the impact of a drought. Your local water provider is responsible for enforcing watering restrictions. Call them with questions or for specific violation information.

When can I water outdoors?

Non-drought

Even and unnumbered addresses may water on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. Odd numbered addresses may water on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. No outdoor watering on Fridays. No hourly limits.

Drought Response Level I

Even and unnumbered addresses may water on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. Odd numbered addresses may water on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. No outdoor watering on Fridays. No outdoor watering between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Drought Response Level II

Even and unnumbered addresses may water on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. Odd numbered addresses may water on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. No outdoor watering on Fridays. No outdoor watering between 10 a.m. and midnight.

Drought Response Level III

Even and unnumbered addresses may water on Saturdays only. Odd numbered addresses may water on Sundays only. No outdoor watering on Fridays. No outdoor watering between 10 a.m. and midnight.

Drought Response Level IV

No outdoor watering.

Local restrictions may be more stringent than these state restrictions.

Are there exceptions to the watering restrictions?

There are various state and local exemptions for activities such as food gardens and new landscaping, depending on the drought response level. See www.conservewatergeorgia.net for information and also watch for publicized local exemptions.

When are we out of drought?

All drought indicators must be normal for four months and the State Drought Response Committee and EPD Director approve the change.

After the drought be prepared for:

- 💧 Flooding due to litter accumulation in storm drains,
- 💧 Increased erosion due to lack of grass and vegetation,
- 💧 Falling trees due to weakened root structures,
- 💧 Leaking foundations and drainage pipes due to settling, and
- 💧 Continuing your water conservation habits, because all the water we have today is all the water we will ever have!