

NHDES Drought Update 16 - Extreme Drought (D3) Expansion October 8, 2020

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the southeast section of the state experiencing “extreme drought” (D3) conditions has doubled in size from 11% to 22% since last week. The majority of the state (73%) remains in “severe drought” (D2). This weekend will be dry, except there is potential for occasional showers up north. On Friday, temperatures will be in the 40s and 50s across most of the state and in the low 60s in the south. On Saturday, temperatures will be in the 70s and will then again drop by 10 to 15 degrees on Sunday. There is a possibility the state will receive the remnants of Hurricane Delta early next week, but the track of the storm cannot yet be predicted; therefore, temperature and precipitation forecasts for early next week are uncertain.

The state Drought Management Team met last week. See the [follow up press release](#) for a summary of drought conditions and impacts.

Water Use Restrictions

DES continues to urge municipalities to exercise their authority to restrict lawn watering within political boundaries and community water systems (which may also include municipal owned systems) to impose outdoor water restrictions on customers. See [Drought Guidance for Municipalities](#) and [Drought Guidance for Community Water Systems](#) for further information.

Please report all outdoor water use restrictions and changes to those restrictions using the [NHDES Reporting Form](#) for posting on the NHDES website.

To date, 166 community water systems serving 331,000 people and seven municipalities with a total population of 60,700 have water use restrictions in place. See the [Restriction List and Map](#) for names of systems and municipalities implementing restrictions and a map of drought conditions by municipality.

Drought Update:

According to the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) released this morning, 22% of the state is categorized as “extreme drought” (D3), 73% of the state is categorized as “severe drought”(D2), and 5% of the state is categorized as “moderate drought” (D1).

Tip* The [restriction map](#) includes town boundaries and drought categories, making it easy to identify if your municipality is experiencing drought.

All counties are experiencing a 30-day, 90-day, 180-day, and 360-day precipitation departures from normal. Departures from the spring range from -4.98” in Coos County to -10.15” in Rockingham
(<https://w1.weather.gov/data/TAR/ESPTAR>).

The groundwater levels in each of the monitoring wells in the New Hampshire Geological Survey’s monitoring network are lower compared to last month and all but one well are below their monthly average. For more information, see the [New Hampshire Groundwater Level Monitoring Report](#) for September 2020. Reports are released monthly.

Forecast and Outlooks:

The short term forecast calls for occasional showers in the north on Saturday, but otherwise a dry weekend. On Friday, temperatures will be in the 40s and 50s across most of the state and in the low 60s in the south. On Saturday, temperatures will be in the 70s and will then again drop by 10 to 15 degrees on Sunday. Due to uncertainty in forecast models related to the track of the remnants of Hurricane Delta, the weather for early next week is unpredictable. ([NOAA National Weather Service](#)).

The 6-10 day outlook and 8-14 day outlook favor above normal temperatures and lean slightly toward above normal precipitation. ([National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center](#)).

According to the [US Monthly and Seasonal Drought Outlook](#), over the next three months, drought conditions are likely to improve, but persist across the majority of the state.