

Northern Delaware Drought Advisory Guidelines

Reported by the Drought Advisory Guidelines Subcommittee (DAGS), which is composed of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Delaware Geological Survey, and University of Delaware Water Resources Agency with input from the water purveyors and representatives from the landscaping industry. These drought operating guidelines are designed to provide guidance to the Delaware Water Supply Coordinating Council (WSCC) and the Governor's Drought Advisory Committee (GDAC). Responsibility for providing technical guidance for a move up to or down from Drought Watch is with the WSCC. Responsibility for providing technical guidance for a move up to or down from Drought Warning or Emergency is with the GDAC. Final declaration of drought advisories rests with the Governor.

Climatic Indicators

Indicator	Drought Watch Voluntary Conservation	Drought Warning Voluntary Conservation	Drought Emergency Mandatory Restrictions	Status Dec. 31, 2023
Precipitation Wilmington Arprt/Porter Rsvr 12 month	-6.00" to -8.99"	-9.00" to -11.99"	>-12.00"	+0.95"
Precipitation Wilmington Arprt/Porter Rsvr 6 month	-3.00" to -4.50"	-4.50" to -6.00"	>-6.00"	+0.62"
Brandywine Creek (30-day moving avg)	85 mgd	70 mgd	48 mgd	678 mgd
White Clay Creek - Newark (30-day moving avg)	19 mgd	16 mgd	13 mgd	131 mgd
White Clay Creek - Stanton (30-day moving avg)	42 mgd	37 mgd	31 mgd	292 mgd
Well Db24-18	14 - 14.99 (fbls)	15 - 15.99 (fbls)	16 (fbls)	13.9 (fbls) (normal is between 12.3 and 15.0)
Water Conditions Index	5.0 – 4.0	3.99 – 3.00	< 3.00	14.0
Chlorides Christina River at Newport	WCC ≤ 37 mgd for 5 consecutive days at UWD Stanton Intake	Cl > 250 ppm for 3 days at Christina River at Newport	Cl > 250 ppm for 3 days at UWD Stanton Intake	-20.7 ppm
Chlorides Delaware River 11/27/23)	Monitor Status	Monitor Status	Monitor Status	Median RM: 69.0 Current RM: NA
P-ET (1, 3, 12 month)				
US Drought Monitor (12/26/23)				Intensity None = 100%

Storage Indicators

Indicator	Drought Watch Voluntary Conservation	Drought Warning Voluntary Conservation	Drought Emergency Mandatory Restrictions	Status Dec. 31, 2023
Hoopes Reservoir (City of Wilmington)	-10 ft (68% capacity)	-12 ft (64% capacity)	-15 ft (57% capacity)	-2.6 ft (8/31/23)
Newark Reservoir	- 10 ft (70% capacity)	-17 ft (52% capacity)	-27 ft (28% capacity)	-8.5 ft (11/09/23)
Artesian Aquifer Storage & Recovery	mg (% capacity)	mg (% capacity)	mg (% capacity)	48.0 mg (11/09/23)
Veolia Aquifer Storage & Recovery	mg (% capacity)	mg (% capacity)	mg (% capacity)	0.0 mg (11/9/23)
NYC DRB Reservoirs (DRBC 1/1/2024)	Monitor Status	Monitor Status	Monitor Status	Storage 267.3bg or 141.0 bg above drought watch

fbls = feet below land surface

mg = million gallons

mgd = million gallons per day

RM = River Mile

bg = billion gallons

Delaware Geological Survey:

<http://dgs.udel.edu>

Delaware Environmental Observing System (DEOS)

<http://deos.udel.edu>

U.S. Geological Survey Streamflows:

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/de/nwis/current/?type=flow>

Delaware River Basin Commission

<https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/>