

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 Jan. 31, 2024
Precipitation Wilmington Arprt/Porter Rsvr 12 month	-6.00" to -8.99"	-9.00" to -11.99"	>-12.00"	+4.10"
Precipitation Wilmington Arprt/Porter Rsvr 6 month	-3.00" to -4.50"	-4.50" to- 6.00"	>-6.00"	+1.52"
Brandywine Creek (30-day moving avg)	85 mgd	70 mgd	48 mgd	835 mgd
White Clay Creek - Newark (30-day moving avg)	19 mgd	16 mgd	13 mgd	142 mgd
White Clay Creek - Stanton (30-day moving avg)	42 mgd	37 mgd	31 mgd	313 mgd
Well Db24-18	14 - 14.99 (fbls)	15 - 15.99 (fbls)	16 (fbls)	12.2 (fbls) (normal is between 11.3 and 14.4)
Water Conditions Index	5.0 – 4.0	3.99 – 3.00	< 3.00	15.9
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	45.9 ppm
Chlorides Delaware River (1/29/24)	Monitor Status	Monitor Status	Monitor Status	Median RM: 69.0 Current RM: 64.4
P-ET (1, 3, 12 month)				
US Drought Monitor (1/30/24)				Intensity None = 100%

Storage Indicators

Indicator	Drought Watch Voluntary Conservation	Drought Warning Voluntary Conservation	Drought Emergency Mandatory Restrictions	Status Jan. 31, 2024
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 1/29/2024)	Monitor Status	Monitor Status	Monitor Status	Storage 270.8 bg or 129.8 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/>