

Drought Watch

A Drought Watch has been declared by the Drought Preparedness Committee because indicators point to conditions that are abnormally dry. A drought watch will increase communication to County residents and visitors to alert them that water supplies are below average, conditions are dry, conservation is encouraged, and continued dry weather could lead to mandatory watering restrictions.

Indicators and Triggers

- The [US Drought Monitor Index](#) has Grand County in abnormally dry drought (D0) conditions.
- [Snow-water equivalent](#) is greater than 90% of median on April 30th and precipitation accumulation is greater than 90% of median.
- [Standardized Precipitation and Evapotranspiration Index](#) is less than -0.7.
- [QuickDRI](#) is white - near average conditions.
- [VegDRI](#) is pre-drought stress.

Recommended Actions

The following recommendations are voluntary and not regulatory in nature. Suggested actions go above and beyond the ‘*Routine Water Conservation Practices*’ recommended for everyday indoor and outdoor water use.

Well Users: In all cases, please review the well permit and/or water court decree for the legal uses of the well. For more information, see the Division of Water Resources website <https://dwr.colorado.gov/services/well-permitting>. To search for a well permit visit <https://dwr.state.co.us/Tools/WellPermits>.

Element	Drought Watch Recommendations
<i>Outdoor watering and irrigation</i>	
Lawn grass (residential, HOA, commercial, industrial, institutional)	Warn of and prepare for the possibility of mandatory watering restrictions. Voluntary 2 days per week lawn grass watering from 6:00 pm to 10:00 am. <i>Follow best management practices for Watering a Home Landscape During Drought as recommended in Appendix C of Final Drought Preparedness Plan: https://www.co.grand.co.us/1341/Drought-Preparedness-Program</i>
Agricultural water, golf courses, and vegetable gardens	Increased education and outreach re: efficiency and funding sources.
Water wise landscapes, native/adaptive, Trees, shrubs, and perennials (private)	Handheld watering or drip irrigation only
New landscape establishment	Warn of potential for watering restriction under drought stages
Municipal streetscape	Handheld watering or drip irrigation only.
Flowers gardens (private)	Water efficiently no more than 2 days per week using handheld and drip irrigation only between 6:00 pm and 10:00 am.
Sport fields and arks	Use only what you need
<i>Water Features</i>	
Swimming pools, hot tubs & water features	Outreach and education to discourage frequent filling.
<i>Washing / Events</i>	
Cars - washing at home and charity events	With bucket or handheld hose with a nozzle that shuts off when not in use. If possible, ensure water runs off into landscape features.
Fleet vehicle washing	No waste of water.
Street cleaning	Increased education and outreach with municipalities.
Driveway and sidewalk washing	Discourage under all circumstances: use dry clean methods.
<i>Commercial-Institutional Processes</i>	
Restaurants	Water served only on request.
Lodging	No restrictions. Education and outreach to customers.
Mag chloride application / grading	Grade only after rain events.
Bulk water / Construction water	No waste of water.
Hydrants	Minimize water main flushing.