



GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION DECLARES DROUGHT RESPONSE LEVEL 1

We are kindly asking that you reduce your water usage as much as possible:

WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR USAGE

Check for, and repair, leaks inside and outside your home.

Don't leave the tap running

Only water your landscape when necessary.

When shaving, brushing your teeth, washing your face, or food, turn off the tap.

As a reminder, under a Drought Response Level 1, general landscape watering may be done between 4pm and 10 am each day.

Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk or street.

In the last 7 days Bartow County's overall water usage is up 7%

@bartowcountygov

@bartowcountywaterdepartment

April 27, 2026

RE: Level 1 Drought Response Declaration

Dear EPD Permit Holder:

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has been monitoring climatic indicators and water supply conditions to assess drought and severity, as directed by the Drought Management Rule adopted in June 2015. The entire state is under various classifications of drought conditions, including D4 (Exceptional Drought) and D3 (Extreme Drought) conditions affecting the majority of the state's territory ([US Drought Monitor Map for Georgia](#)).

As EPD Director, because of these drought conditions, I am declaring a State-wide Level 1 Drought Response for public water systems that use surface water and/or groundwater.

A Level 1 Drought Response requires that public water systems implement a public information campaign that shall include, at a minimum, public notice regarding drought conditions and drought-specific public service messages in one or more of the following ways: newspaper advertisements, bill inserts, website homepage, social media, and notices in public libraries.

A Level 1 Drought Response public information campaign should target all commercial and residential water use, not just outdoor watering; and emphasize what customers should be good stewards of our water resources. It should not focus on what they cannot do. Examples of things to emphasize include:

- Regularly check for, and repair, leaks inside and outside your home.
- Don't leave the tap running. When shaving, brushing your teeth, washing your face, or food, turn off the tap.
- Only water your landscape when necessary and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk or street.

As a reminder, under a Drought Response Level 1, general landscape watering may be done between 4pm and 10 am each day, and the following activities may be done at any time of day:

- Irrigation of personal food gardens may be done at any time of day;
- Irrigation of new and replanted plant, seed, or turf may be done at any time of day for 30 days after installation;
- Drip irrigation or irrigation using soaker hoses may be done at any time of day; and
- Handwatering with a hose with automatic cutoff or handheld container may be done at any time of day.

More water conservation information is available at <https://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch/water-conservation>.