



Environmental Protection Division

Level 2 Drought Response

A **Level 2 Drought Response** is currently in place in the following 52 Georgia counties: Banks, Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Athens-Clarke, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Dade, Dawson, DeKalb, Douglas, Fannin, Fayette, Floyd, Forsyth, Fulton, Gilmer, Gordon, Gwinnett, Habersham, Hall, Haralson, Harris, Heard, Henry, Jackson, Lamar, Lumpkin, Meriwether, Monroe, Morgan, Murray, Newton, Oconee, Paulding, Pickens, Pike, Polk, Rockdale, Spalding, Troup, Union, Upson, Walker, Walton, White and Whitfield.

Within 5 days of receipt of notice from the Division of a drought response level declared pursuant to Rule [391-3-30-.05](#), each permittee within an area subject to a drought response level declaration shall implement the applicable drought response strategies listed below.

For Level 2, permittees shall submit monthly reports to the Division by the 10th of each following month detailing the drought response strategies the system has selected, the extent of implementation, and enforcement strategy, if applicable.

A **Level 2 Drought Response** requires permitted public water systems to conduct a public information campaign to explain drought conditions and the need to conserve water. The campaign shall include one or more of the following: newspaper advertisements, bill inserts, website homepage, social media and notices in public libraries. It should target all commercial and residential water use, not just outdoor watering. It should emphasize what customers can do and how to be good stewards of our water resources.

In addition, Drought Response Level 2 limits outdoor landscape watering to two days a week determined by odd and even-numbered addresses. Even-numbered addresses may water on Wednesday and Saturday between 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. Odd-numbered addresses may water Thursday and Sunday between 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Under a Level 2 Drought Response, the following outdoor water uses are prohibited:

- Washing hard surfaces such as streets and sidewalks,
- Water for ornamental purposes such as fountains,
- The use of fire hydrants except for firefighting, public safety and flushing,
- Non-commercial vehicle washing including fundraising car washes, and non-commercial pressure washing.

Under a Level 2 Drought Response, the following outdoor water uses are allowed daily at any time of the day by anyone:

- Commercial agricultural operations as defined in Code Section 1-3-3;
- Capture and reuse of cooling system condensate or storm water in compliance with applicable local ordinances and state guidelines;
- Reuse of gray water in compliance with Code Section 31-3-5.2 and applicable local board of health regulations adopted pursuant thereto;
- Use of reclaimed waste water by a designated user from a system permitted by the Environmental Protection Division of the department to provide reclaimed waste water;
- Irrigation of personal food gardens;
- Irrigation of new and replanted plant, seed, or turf in landscapes, golf courses, or sports turf fields during installation and for a period of 30 days immediately following the date of installation;
- Drip irrigation or irrigation using soaker hoses;
- Hand watering with a hose with automatic cutoff or handheld container;
- Use of water withdrawn from private water wells or surface water by an owner or operator of property if such well or surface water is on said property;
- Irrigation of horticultural crops held for sale, resale, or installation;
- Irrigation of athletic fields, golf courses, or public turf grass recreational areas;
- Installation, maintenance, or calibration of irrigation systems; or
- Hydroseeding

WEBSITE RESOURCE LINKS FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

Georgia Environmental Protection Division Water Conservation: This site includes detailed information about the drought, climatological conditions, current declarations, drought response requirements and water conservation.

<http://epd.georgia.gov/water-conservation>

100 Ways to Save Water

<http://wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-conserve/>

Alliance for Water Efficiency Home Water Works

<http://www.home-water-works.org/water-conservation-tips>

Georgia Water Smart

<http://www.georgiawatersmart.com/>

United States Environmental Protection Agency WaterSense

<https://www3.epa.gov/watersense>

University of Georgia Extension Service Water Wise Landscape Guide

http://epd.georgia.gov/sites/epd.georgia.gov/files/MDC_WaterWise_Landscape_Final-7MB.pdf