



October 1, 2021

Dear Water Suppliers in the Mississippi Headwaters watershed,

For a month now, the Mississippi Headwaters watershed has been in the Warning Phase of the State Drought Plan. After assessing recent rainfall totals, reviewing the new Drought Monitor map and recent streamflow levels, the Mississippi Headwaters watershed **will remain in the Drought Warning Phase**. This means the goal is reducing water use to 50% above January use. Continued water conservation efforts are still needed.

According to our state climatologist, little rainfall over the past week, combined with little change in streamflow conditions and other drought indicators has led to no change in the weekly drought map. The Mississippi River flows continue to be low and are trending down.

Water Supplier Actions Needed

1. **All Water Suppliers** - Public water suppliers will implement water use reduction actions with a goal of reducing water use to *50% above January levels*.
2. **Flexibility with Warning Phase:** All summer, your goal has been to reduce non-essential outdoor water use. If you have storage capacity concerns, well limitations or other issues, you may continue to keep strong local ordinances to protect your water supply. To assist you with addressing customer concerns, below are several University of Minnesota turf best practices links:
 - a. <https://patch.com/minnesota/woodbury/university-minnesota-extension-success-fall-lawn-seeding-depends-rain>
 - b. <https://www.mrwa.com/PDF/UMN%20Extension%20Lawn%20Water%20Saving%20Strategies.pdf>
 - c. <https://extension.umn.edu/lawn-care/seeding-and-sodding-home-lawns>

Other Suggestions:

- Please alert your local [DNR hydrologists](#) to any water supply concerns or issues during the fall.
- [Sign up](#) to receive GovDelivery updates about drought in Minnesota, drought preparations and response, and important ways to conserve water.

Best regards,

Randall Doneen

Conservation Assistance and Regulation Section Manager | Ecological and Water Resources Division

Phone: 651-259-5156

Email: randall.doneen@state.mn.us