



Division of Water Resources
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Facility Name: DELTA VILLAGE PWS

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Dear Water Withdrawer:

During drought or extended periods of dry weather, the Division of Water Resources' Water Inventory and Planning Program often receives calls from concerned citizens related to irrigation practices or observing water users, such as water tanker trucks, withdrawing water from surface waters. Surface water, groundwater and climate data from the USGS, NOAA, USDA, and ODNR describes abnormally dry conditions most of the state. Central, southern, and eastern counties are currently in severe to exceptional drought conditions according to the U.S. Drought Monitor (<https://www.drought.gov/states/ohio>). In the September Drought Information Statements from NWS Wilmington and NWS Pittsburgh, drought conditions are described as covering nearly all the mid-Ohio Valley, with exceptional drought conditions in eastern and southern Ohio and exceptional and extreme conditions expanding.

Factors such as changes in land use, deforestation, land degradation, and the construction of dams can all affect the hydrological characteristics of a basin. Water is often used for multiple and competing purposes, which further complicates the sequence and quantification of impacts. Competition for water can intensify during drought and conflicts between water users may increase significantly. In Ohio, landowners have the right to make reasonable use of groundwater underlying their land or of the water in a lake or watercourse located on or flowing through or along their riparian land (Article 1 Section 19b of the Ohio Constitution). Withdrawals that unreasonably interfere with the withdrawals of other landowners using the same stream or aquifer may be subject to liability. Guidance documents on this topic can be found in OSU Extension's Water Law Library: <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/our-library/water-law>.

During times of drought and extended dry weather, it is imperative that all Ohioans use water wisely, efficiently, and in consideration of downstream water users, water quality, drinking water, and wildlife. Consumptive water users should consider water recycling, finding an alternative water source, or adjusting operations to reduce water withdrawals until water levels and precipitation have returned to normal.

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Additional water conservation measures that should be considered include:

- Review ODNR's Water Conservation webpages for water users and industries: <https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/safety-conservation/water-conservation>
- Make a corporate or leadership level commitment to water efficiency and educate and involve employees in efficiency efforts.
- Perform water audits to determine where and how you use water at your facility.
- Detect and repair all leaks.
- Install high efficiency fixtures or retrofit water-saving devices on existing ones.
- Irrigate as landscaping and turf need and only during the coolest part of the day.

Additional resources on Ohio's climate, water resources, and assistance with drought impacts:

- The US Drought Monitor depicts the location and intensity of drought across the country: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?OH>
- OSU Extension's Water Law Library: <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/our-library/water-law>
- National Weather Service Wilmington: <https://www.weather.gov/iln/>
- National Weather Service Pittsburgh: <https://www.weather.gov/pbz/>
- ODNR's Monthly Water Inventory Report for Ohio: <https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/safety-conservation/about-ODNR/geologic-survey/groundwater-resources/water-inventory-report>
- ODA's 2024 Ohio Drought Resources for Farmers webpage: <https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/administration/resources/2024-ohio-drought>
- USDA's September 5, 2024 news release on disaster assistance to agricultural producers in Ohio: <https://fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Ohio/news-releases/2024/usda-offers-disaster-assistance-to-agricultural-producers-in-ohio-impacted-by-drought>

We encourage and welcome input from the public, water use managers, and water withdrawal facility owners on their water conservation efforts. Best management practices and water conservation and efficiency research can be shared with ODNR staff at WIPP@dnr.ohio.gov.

Your cooperation in water conservation and being mindful of water use is appreciated. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Sarah Macy at (614) 265-6736 or by email at sarah.macy@dnr.ohio.gov.

Sincerely,



Bradley Lodge
Water Inventory and Planning Program Manager
Division Water Resource