

# Did you know?

If you were asked to list the disasters that can impact your community, most likely you would choose tornadoes, floods, ice storms. You would probably forget droughts. Droughts can be a slow and long-lasting hazard that impacts our community periodically.

Drought is the result of a nature decline in the expected precipitation over an extended period, typically one or more seasons in length.

The Town has been subjected to periods of drought in the past such as the 1998 – 2002 Drought which resulted in the largest precipitation deficits since the beginning of collection of weather data.

## DO YOU KNOW HOW TO TURN OFF YOUR WATER?

Water quickly becomes a precious resource following many disasters. Learn where your shut-off valve is and how to use it.

### **During a Drought, Conserve Water.**

-  Water your lawn less often
-  Identify and fix leaks
-  Take shorter showers
-  Turn off the water while brushing teeth
-  Run the wash less frequently
-  Heed any local water use restrictions



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# DROUGHT

## Are you Ready?



## Drought Impacts



### Agriculture

Farms, ranches, and grazing lands suffer, and increases the cost of their products



### Public Health

A decrease of water can lead to an increase of illness, disease, mortality rates, and adverse mental health



### Ecosystems

Farms, fish, wildlife, and plants, as well as the benefits these ecosystems provide



### Wildfire Management

Dry, hot, and windy weather combined with dried out vegetation can lead to more large scale wildfires



### Manufacturing

Interruptions in the water supply can result in a reduction of productivity or closure of facilities



### Energy

Production of all types of energy requires water, and drought can severely impact energy systems and prices

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## Before

### Know your risks and be informed.

Drought strategies focus mainly on water conservation. Practice a low water use lifestyle.

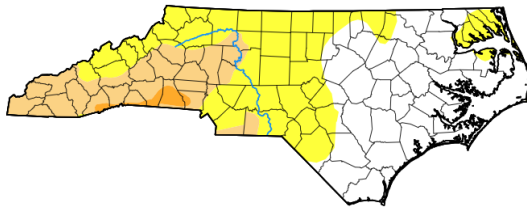
Visit the U.S. Drought Monitor at:

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?NC>

Visit the Town's website to monitor any drought restrictions implemented at:

[www.mtpleasantnc.org](http://www.mtpleasantnc.org)

Always observe state and local restrictions on water use during a drought.



## Prepare your Home

Replace plumbing and fixtures with water-saving items.

Fix household leaks.

Operate dishwashers and clothes washers when they are full or set the water level for the size of your load.

Avoid running water while brushing your teeth, etc..

Never pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it. For example, use it to water your plants.



Repair outdoor irrigation systems.

Use drought-tolerant or low water use plants for your landscaping.

Cover pools and spas to reduce evaporation of water.



## During

## Take Action Indoors

Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects, and other similar waste in the trash rather than the toilet.

Choose Showers instead of baths.

Hand wash dishes. Fill one container with soapy water containing a small amount of bleach.

Avoid wasting water while waiting for it to get hot. Capture it for other uses, such as plant-watering or heat it on the stove or in a microwave.

Avoid using running Water to thaw meat or other frozen foods.

## Take Action Outdoors

Reduce outdoor water use (washing car, refilling pool).

Divert pool back wash to landscaping rather than discharging to the street or storm drain.

Avoid over-watering your lawn. Water only when needed and when temperatures are cooler in the morning or late evening.

Water in short sessions and avoid leaving sprinklers or hoses unattended.