

USE

LEVEL
1

YELLOW
REDUCE USE



CURRENT OUTSIDE WATER USE CONDITIONS REPORT

Updated: September 7, 2022

Conditions report runs from August 31 to September 6

Summary

The Outside Water Use Program (OWUP) is in **Level 1 – Yellow** due to low rainfall, moderate temperatures, and a steady decrease of water usage. Level 1 strongly encourages to reduce use of outdoor water. The outlines of Level 1 water restrictions can be found at [Outdoor water use and restrictions in Guelph](#).

Precipitation Summary

- One-month precipitation is 17 percent below normal.
- Three-month precipitation is 42 percent below normal.
- In the past week, there was only 2.75 mm of rain.
- The last significant rain event was on August 25nd with 25 mm of rain.
- In the upcoming week, there is significant precipitation expected from Monday – Wednesday with approximately 10 mm of rain each day.

Production Summary

- The average daily water production for the past week was 46,567 m³ down slightly from last weeks: 47,225 m³
- In the past week:
 - Lowest production day: Sunday at 39,986 m³
 - Highest production day: Wednesday at 48,954 m³
- The highest production for this year was 58,371 m³ on June 23rd.

Temperature Summary

- In the upcoming week, daytime temperatures will be above normal and nighttime temperatures will be at normal for this time of year. (Normals are 22°C and 10°C).
- The maximum temperature recorded in the past week was 37°C on Saturday.
- In the upcoming week, temperatures are expected to be in the high to mid-20°C.

Level Summary

- We have been at Level 1 – Yellow – Reduce Use for one week now.

- The last 2 weeks precipitation has not increased but nighttime temperatures have lowered, and we are now getting morning dew allowing turfgrass to come out of dormancy.
- The weekly production decreased by approximately 4,600 m³ compared to last week.
- River takings from the Eramosa River are still suspended until further notice. The river flow has slightly increased from last week.

Low Water Response Team

The Grand River Low Water Response Team will meet tomorrow (Thursday). The Grand River watershed is in Level 2 where flows are less than 50 per cent of their normal summer low flow and/or precipitation has been less than 60 per cent of average. Water users are asked to voluntarily reduce consumption by 20 per cent.

Some parts of the watershed have received much more rain in August than others with many of the northern climate stations reporting near normal precipitation over the last 30 days.

The area around Waterloo is still dry with the Laurel Creek rain gauge only recording 42% of normal and the Woolwich rain gauge recording 79% of normal precipitation. The City of Waterloo area is in a Level 2 condition for both 1-month and 3-month precipitation.

Very dry conditions continue in the area around Brantford with the Brantford rain gauge recording only 26mm and the Burford rain gauge recording 32mm of rain over the last 30 days. The Brantford area is in a Level 3 condition based on 1-month precipitation and Level 2 based on 3-month precipitation.

The reservoirs are low given lack of rain, high evaporation, and high augmentation pressures. Luther and Conestogo reservoirs continue to be in good shape. Shand is still within the normal operating level, but very close to dropping below the lower rule curve. Guelph and Woolwich reservoirs remain below normal, but recent rains have helped to reduce the rate of decline and they are staying just below the lower rule curve.

Eramosa River Flows

River levels and flows are monitored regularly as they can change dramatically after heavy rainfalls or snowmelts, or during periods of severe dry weather. The information gathered from observing these conditions is used to inform water management decisions, such as OWUP restrictions. To ensure the Eramosa River remains healthy, the City of Guelph's Outdoor Water Use Bylaw states that water can no longer be collected from the Eramosa River when the flow of the River falls below 0.67 m³/s. For more information about local river flows and water levels visit grandriver.ca. Current river flows are 0.49 m³/s.

About this report

The data reported herein has been obtained from Environment Canada and the Grand River Conservation Authority and summarized by City of Guelph staff. This information is reported on a weekly basis during the summer months in order to keep residents informed of the conditions that affect Guelph's municipal water supply and the Outside Water Use Program.

For more information on Guelph's Outside Water Use Program, visit guelph.ca/water, or call 519-822-1260 extension 2153.