



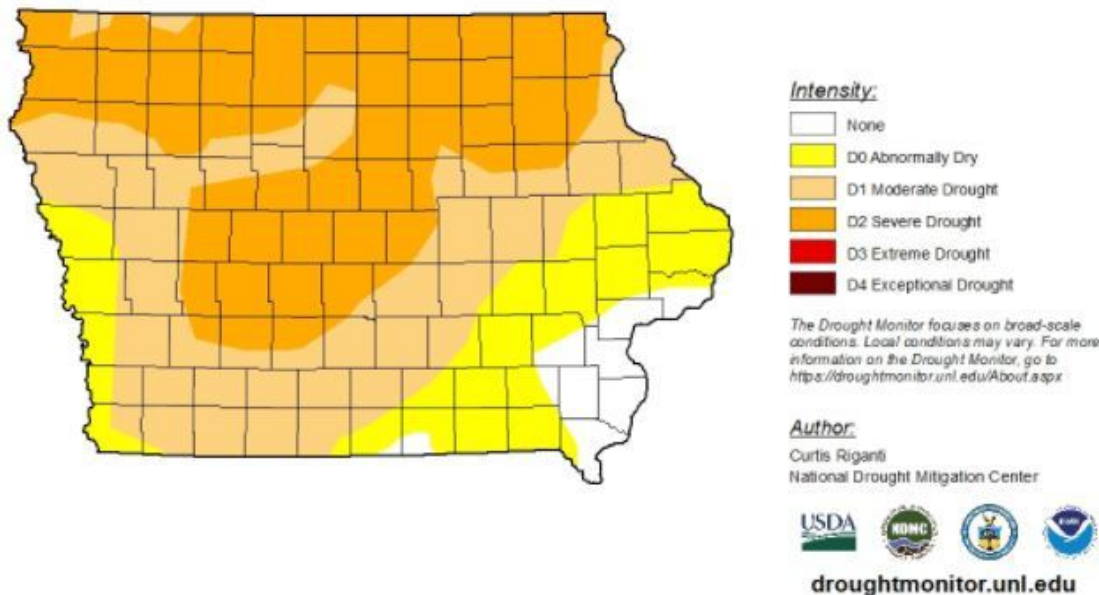
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Water Conservation Plans and Drought Preparations

The US Drought Monitor Map, released yesterday shows intensifying drought conditions across much of Iowa. D2 (Severe Drought) increased to 40 percent of the state, while only about five percent of Iowa is now shown as free from drought and abnormal dryness. Rainfall during what is normally the wettest month of the year has been nearly non-existent. Streamflows continue to decrease, and soil moisture across nearly all of the state is rated as 70 to 80 percent short or very short. Near-term National Weather Service forecast conditions indicate the potential for up to 1.5 inches of rain across much of Iowa, which will certainly help to improve conditions. However, rainfall of more than an inch each week for an extended period of time will be needed to significantly improve drought conditions.

U.S. Drought Monitor
Iowa

June 15, 2021
(Released Thursday, Jun. 17, 2021)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



As a result of these conditions, and the potential for worsening of drought impacts affecting the state of Iowa and water sources utilized by community water systems, the DNR is encouraging water systems to review their water conservation plans and ordinances to ensure they are ready to be implemented if necessary in order to conserve their drinking water for essential purposes.

There are some proactive measures that can be taken by all public water supply systems. As the dry pattern continues, planning and water conservation become imperative. Effective water conservation measures can delay or eliminate the need to add conventional water supply source expansion projects. Conservation can also significantly alleviate the effects that customers experience in a drought.

[Water Wise](#) (.pdf) is a 64-page handbook on water conservation and efficiency measures to promote water efficiency planning and capacity development by Iowa's water utilities. This handbook is a great resource for water utilities to refer to while examining their water conservation plans.

One of the roles of the DNR in a drought is to provide technical assistance and factual information to public water supplies and other agencies and entities. It is up to the local municipalities and public water supplies to implement conservation efforts based on their data and local needs. The DNR works closely with the National Weather Service, the State Climatologist and many other state resources to monitor the drought situation and provide necessary information to stakeholders.

The DNR encourages the public to adhere to their local public water supply's water conservation measures. Local drinking water operators are working diligently to ensure customers have safe and reliable drinking water.

The DNR will issue water summary reports to the public through the EcoNewsWire weekly publication when applicable; however, all conservation effort decisions should be made at a local level and communicated to the affected customers by the local water supplies.

U.S. Drought Monitor

The [U.S. Drought Monitor webpage](#) is updated weekly with the dry and drought conditions around the country. It is updated on Tuesday and published on Thursday each week. On the first page is the map of the country with the most recent conditions, a narrative of the conditions during the past week by region, and upcoming predictions. To look at the regional status, click once on the state that's desired to see the region. Click again to see the individual state map in a larger size, and scroll down to see the current and historical comparisons. Iowa is currently in abnormal dryness or drought conditions in 95% of the state.

Lead and Copper Rule Revisions: Effective and Compliance Dates Extended

A final rule for the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR), which is currently under a regulatory freeze pending review, was published in the [6/16/2021 Federal Register](#) (.pdf, 10 pages). The effective date is extended to December 16, 2021, and the compliance date is extended to October 16, 2024. The notice also includes the comments received on various aspects of the rule, that are indicating further review and possible revision is on the horizon.

“EPA will engage with stakeholders during this time period to evaluate the rule and determine whether to initiate a process to revise components of the rule. If EPA decides to withdraw the LCRR, the agency will propose, take comment on, and issue a withdrawal prior to December 16, 2021. If EPA decides it is appropriate to modify the LCRR, it will consider whether those modifications warrant further extensions to compliance dates for the requirements that will be modified to provide time to promulgate those revisions before water systems and states must take actions to comply. If EPA decides to revise the LCRR, the agency will follow the requirements of the SDWA and other applicable statutes and EOs [Executive Orders] to propose and promulgate those revisions.”

EPC Approves FY 2022 Intended Use Plans

The Iowa Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) approved the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Intended Use Plans (IUP) for fiscal year 2022 (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022). The EPC took the action on June 15, 2021, during their teleconference meeting.

- [Clean Water State Revolving Fund](#)
- [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund](#)

For more information, please contact Theresa Enright, SRF Coordinator, Iowa DNR, 515-725-0498 or theresa.enright@dnr.iowa.gov.

Operator Certification: Continuing Education Opportunities

To find continuing education opportunities, please view the "Training Calendar" at programs.iowadnr.gov/opcertweb/. Training events where Iowa DNR staff will make presentations are listed below with the presentation name in the description. Also included are training events provided by EPA or a federal agency where Iowa CEU are granted, or events sponsored by Iowa DNR. See the listing on the appropriate date on the Training Calendar for registration instructions. Look at the calendar often, as there are new opportunities posted throughout the week.

- July 19-20, 2021, Ankeny Annual Water Conference, Ankeny. "Iowa DNR Update". To register, contact Kim Peterson at 515-669-1528 or Kim@KeyElementsConsulting.com.