

Drought News— Numerous reports of crop stress/damage across eastern U.S. July 1, 2016

Have a great Fourth of July weekend!!

Numerous reports of crop stress/damage across eastern U.S.

Numerous reports of crop stress/damage from the Northeast back through Michigan and down to Alabama. Reduced crop growth in the western Dakotas. Please see the Agriculture section for a representative selection of articles.

Michigan Christmas tree farms see drought stress even in established trees

A Christmas tree grower in Mason expressed dismay that even established trees were manifesting signs of damage from the lack of rain. He said he was watering around the clock, trying to salvage as many trees as he could and did not have the capacity to deliver as much water as his trees need.

Dry pastures leading to cattle sales in western Tennessee

Pastures in Hardin County were yellow and brown, rather than green, leading farmers to sell cattle. Some weaned the calves early, and took the cows that failed to conceive to market.

Crop damage in northern Alabama

Crops in northern Alabama were damaged by the dry weather, with dryland corn being severely damaged, said a Madison County commissioner, who also felt that some crops might not be salvageable any longer.

Drought and fireworks, not a good combination

Fire restrictions were commonplace in many dry parts of the country, particularly in the West, some parts of the Northeast, Michigan and a few spots in Georgia. Fire officials in other dry areas offered stern warnings about fire safety.

Fire restrictions in West's national parks

Fire restrictions took effect for Arches and Canyonlands national parks, and Natural Bridges and Hovenweep national monuments in southern Utah, due to heat and continuing drought. Stage 2 fire restrictions were in effect in Sequoia and Kings Canyon in southern California, given the millions of dead and dying trees in the region.

Connecticut drought advisory

Connecticut's Department of Public Health declared a drought advisory on June 27 and urged residents to follow guidelines for conserving water. Much of the state was about six inches behind on rainfall.

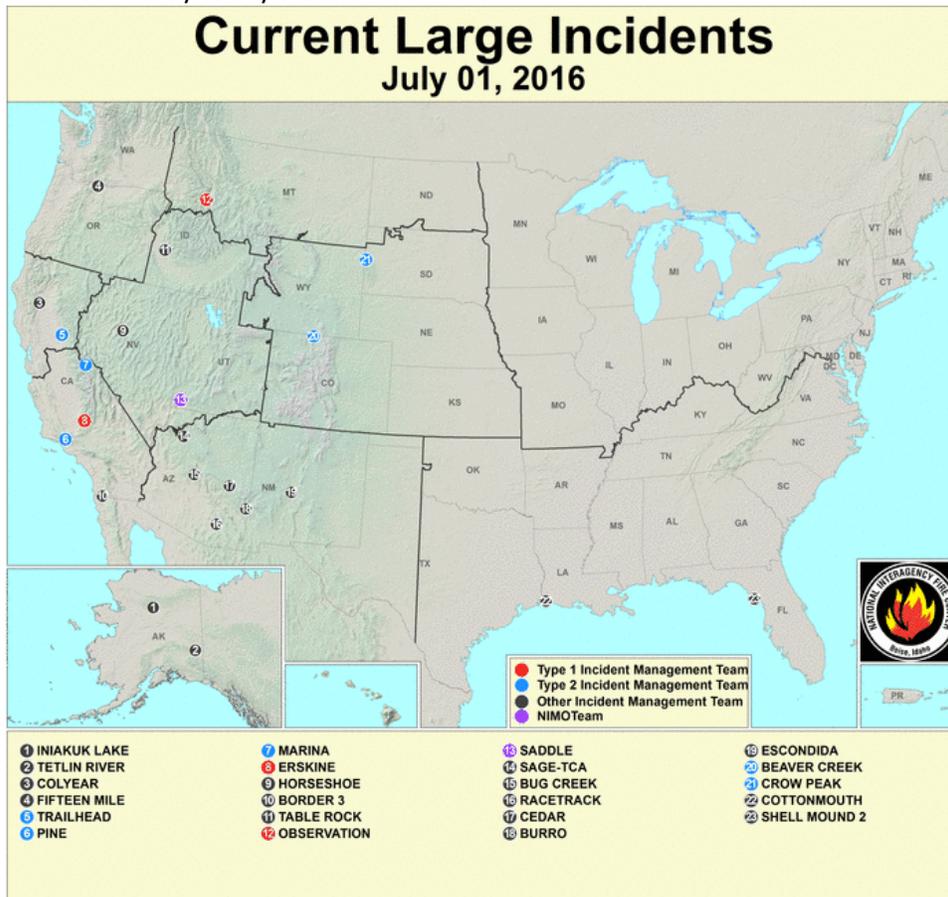
Dead trees in Lake Tahoe Basin

The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimated that in 2015 there were 93,167 dead or dying trees in the Tahoe National Forest, with 35,038 in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The most affected areas were the forests lower down the slopes in Nevada's part of the Sierra. The sheer number of dead trees in the Sierra could lead to a historic fire season.

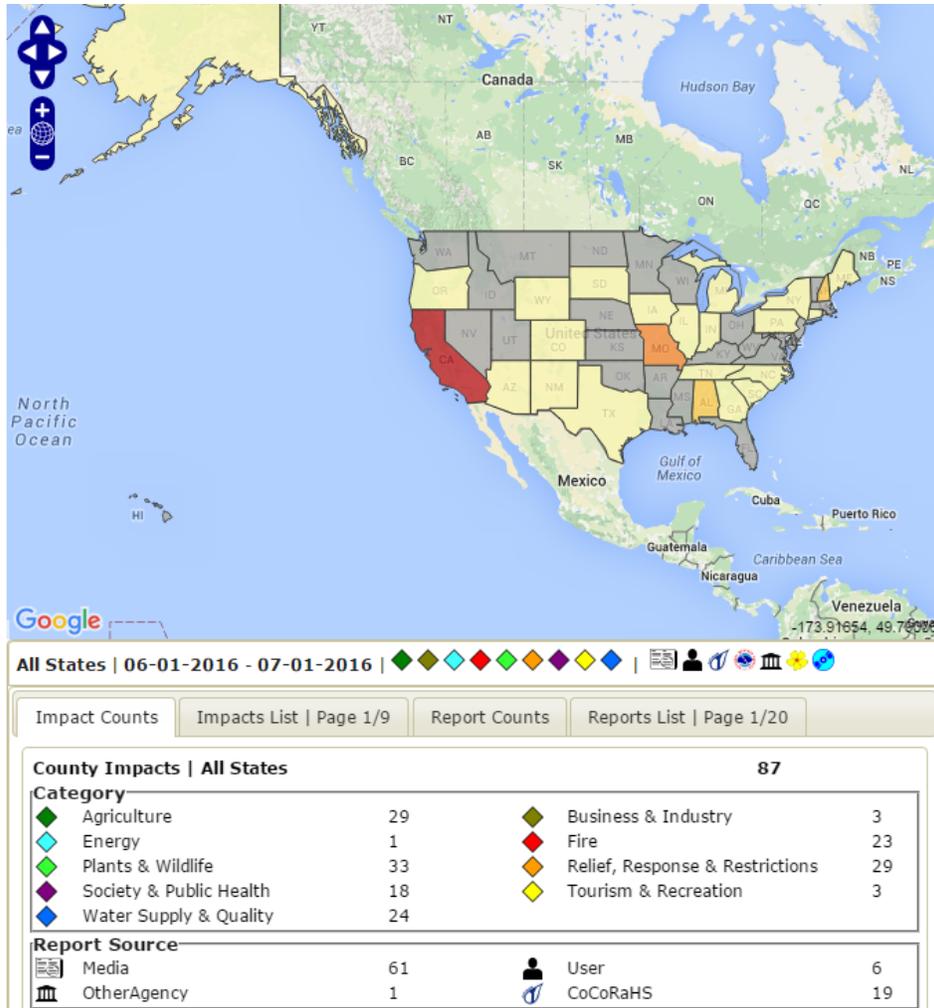
Water restrictions arising in New Hampshire, Connecticut, Massachusetts

- **N.H.:** *Seventy* towns and water systems in New Hampshire have restricted or banned outdoor water use as the region remained dry since the winter. Precipitation has been down about eight inches over the last six months. Some of the towns and water districts with restrictions include Merrimack Village District, the Hampstead Area Water Company, Milford, Salem, and Hooksett.
- **CT:** Greenwich residents asked to conserve as groundwater levels were particularly low.
- **MA:** Some communities, such as Southampton and Northampton in western Massachusetts, have adopted water bans to protect their water supply.

Wildfire activity, as shown by the [USDA Forest Service Remote Sensing Applications Center](#), was confined mostly to dry areas of the West



The [Drought Impact Reporter](#) has 127 impacts for the past 30 days.



Agriculture

[Drought-Like Conditions Threaten Livestock Water Quality](#)

Wisconsin Ag (Marshfield, Wis.)

June 27, **North Dakota**. Areas in southwestern and parts of central North Dakota were experiencing water quality problems in stock ponds and watering holes that cattle rely on for water. Dry parts of the state were also seeing reduced hay crops and pasture regrowth.

[Dry spell has Maine growers going with the flow](#)

CentralMaine.com (Augusta)

June 26, **Cape Elizabeth, Newport, Maine**. The dry conditions have crops three weeks behind schedule in Cape Elizabeth (just south of Portland) and have prompted at least one Newport (south central Maine) farmer to take on the onerous work of moving irrigation systems around his fields.

[Dry weather hurting Christmas tree farms](#)

WILX-TV Lansing NBC 10 (Mich.)

June 29, **Ingham County in south central Michigan.** A Christmas tree grower in Ingham County reported the deaths of roughly half of the 4,000 new trees planted this year and was hand-watering the remaining seedlings with the hope of keeping them alive.

A Christmas tree grower in Mason expressed dismay that even established trees were manifesting signs of damage from the lack of rain. He said he was watering around the clock, trying to salvage as many trees as he could and did not have the capacity to deliver as much water as his trees need.

[Erratic weather leaves Iowa crop conditions very uneven](#)

Iowa Farm Bureau

June 27, **Iowa.** Parts of Iowa have received abundant rainfall, while other parts of the state have wide cracks in the ground, brown lawns and rolling corn leaves.

[Local dry weather is hitting area farmers](#)

13abc (Toledo, Ohio)

June 30, **Northwestern Ohio/southern Michigan.** The lack of rain has slowed crop growth in northwestern Ohio near Perrysburg. A farmer near Ida, Mich. has relied heavily upon a pond to water his crops, but the pond level was dropping rapidly.

[PARCHED! Farmers dealing with near drought](#)

Finger Lakes Times (N.Y.)

June 29, **Finger Lakes area, New York.** Seeds planted in recent weeks were not germinating well due to inadequate moisture, with some fields being essentially lost. Cabbage yield will likely be down somewhat.

[Rain brings little relief for drought in Hardin County](#)

WBBJ (Jackson, Tenn.)

June 27, **Hardin County, western Tennessee.** Pastures in Hardin County were yellow and brown, rather than green, leading farmers to sell cattle. Some weaned the calves early and took the cows that failed to conceive to market.

[Some Alfalfa Damage in Western SD; Irrigated Crop Holding Up Well in Other Areas](#)

KRVN

June 28, **Western South Dakota.** Alfalfa was not growing much in western South Dakota and some farmers have not yet gotten a first cutting, said Karla Hernandez, Extension forages field specialist at the South Dakota State University Extension, Watertown Regional Center. Some growers may have to wait until late July or early August for a first cutting.

[The drought continues to affect crops](#)

WZDX-TV Huntsville (Ala.)

June 28, **Northern Alabama.** Crops in northern Alabama were damaged by the dry weather, with dryland corn being severely damaged, said a Madison County commissioner, who also felt that some crops might not be salvageable any longer.

[Wet and Dry Extremes Causing Crop Problems](#)

Hoosier Ag Today

June 21, **Indiana.** Late planted corn in northern and central Indiana were stressed by the lack of rain.

Fire

[Amid drought advisory, towns issue fire danger warnings](#)

The Bulletin (Norwich, Conn.)

June 28, **Connecticut**. The dry weather and Fourth of July weekend have fire officials concerned about the fire danger in Montville and Ledyard.

[Burning bans could impact area fireworks](#)

Lansing State Journal (Mich.)

June 28, **Michigan**. Dozens of burning bans were in effect around Lansing, Michigan as dry weather increased the fire danger at a time of year when the public often lights fireworks. Burning bans were in effect in Lansing, East Lansing, Mason, Leslie and Dansville, in addition to many other townships in Ingham County.

The Delta Township Fire Department issued a burning ban for all of Delta Township in Eaton County and Eagle and Watertown Townships in Clinton County. DeWitt Township fire officials also banned fireworks use, according to the township's Facebook page. Burning bans were also in place in the Grand Ledge and Portland areas.

[Cal Fire suspends burning](#)

Mountain Democrat (Placerville, Calif.)

June 27, **Sacramento, Amador, El Dorado and Alpine counties, California**. Cal Fire suspended all burn permits for outdoor residential burning within the State Responsibility Area of Sacramento, Amador, El Dorado and Alpine counties, due to drought conditions and elevated fire danger.

[Fire restrictions begin in Nevada Thursday](#)

KOLO-TV (Reno, Nev.)

June 29, **Western Nevada**. Abundant fuel, drought conditions and other factors prompted the Bureau of Land Management; Carson City District Office; USDA Forest Service, Bridgeport and Carson ranger districts; the Nevada Division of Forestry; the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to announce fire restrictions on all lands under their jurisdiction in western Nevada beginning June 30.

[Fire Restrictions Spreading Across The National Park System In The West](#)

National Parks Traveler (Park City, Utah)

June 28, **Western U.S.** Fire restrictions took effect for Arches and Canyonlands national parks, and Natural Bridges and Hovenweep national monuments in southern Utah, due to heat and continuing drought.

Stage 2 fire restrictions were in effect in Sequoia and Kings Canyon in southern California, given the millions of dead and dying trees in the region.

General Awareness

[Bone dry: Moderate drought sets in as rivers drop, lawns yellow](#)

Lehigh Valley Live (Easton, Penn.)

June 27, **Eastern Pennsylvania**. Eastern Pennsylvania looks more like late August, rather than late June, with brown lawns and little hope of rainfall, apart from pop-up showers.

[RI is Dry and Likely to Get Drier, but Not Yet a Drought](#)

Middletown Patch (R.I.)

June 26, **Rhode Island**. Rhode Island's precipitation has been about 75 percent of normal since the start of the year, pushing up the fire danger and forcing farmers to irrigate their crops.

Plants & Wildlife

[Drought impact on Sierra forests starting to show in Nevada](#)

Tahoe Daily Tribune

June 28, **Western Nevada**. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimated that in 2015 there were 93,167 dead or dying trees in the Tahoe National Forest, with 35,038 in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The most affected areas were the forests lower down the slopes in Nevada's part of the Sierra. The sheer number of dead trees in the Sierra could lead to a historic fire season.

[Lack of rain makes Michigan among driest in Midwest](#)

The Detroit News

June 27, **Detroit, Michigan**. Jeffrey Andresen, state climatologist and co-director of Enviro-weather at Michigan State University, stated that precipitation in some parts of Michigan have been 25 percent of normal or less, making southeastern Michigan one of the driest areas in the Midwest.

Relief, Response, & Restrictions

[State Issues 'Drought Advisory,' Farmers Worried Lack of Rainfall Damaging Crops](#)

Hartford Courant (Conn.)

June 27, **Connecticut**. Connecticut's Department of Public Health declared a drought advisory on June 27 and urged residents to follow guidelines for conserving water. Much of the state was about six inches behind on rainfall.

Water Supply & Quality

[As dry weather continues, water restrictions spring up](#)

Manchester Union Leader (N.H.)

June 29, **New Hampshire**. Seventy towns and water systems in New Hampshire have restricted or banned outdoor water use as the region remained dry since the winter. Precipitation has been down about eight inches over the last six months. Some of the towns and water districts with restrictions include Merrimack Village District, which enacted a partial water restriction beginning on June 27; the Hampstead Area Water Company, which prohibited outdoor watering in Hampstead and Atkinson the previous week; Milford, whose residents were asked to voluntarily stop watering lawns; Salem, where the water utility manager wants restrictions on water use; and Hooksett, where outdoor watering is limited from July 1 through Sept. 15. Pennichuck Corporation also has partial or complete water bans in 28 communities it serves.

The Department of Environmental Services has a website with a map and list of public water systems with restrictions (<http://goo.gl/LrtB9c>).

[Concerns raised about Greenwich water levels](#)

Greenwich Time (Conn.)

June 29, **Greenwich, Conn.** Greenwich residents asked to conserve as groundwater levels were particularly low.

[Emergency Pumping Barge At Lake Cachuma To Be Moved Because Of Record Low Level](#)

KEYT-TV (Santa Barbara, Calif.)

June 27, **Near Santa Barbara, California.** An emergency pumping barge in Lake Cachuma, which was at 14 percent of capacity, needs to be moved to a deeper part of the lake. The Goleta Water District, the City of Santa Barbara, the Montecito Water District, the Carpinteria Valley Water District and the Santa Ynez Improvement District all rely on the lake for water.

[Jones County puts voluntary water restrictions in place to counter drought conditions](#)

WGXA

June 29, **Jones Co., Georgia.** Water users in Jones County were asked to voluntarily conserve water because the dry conditions have increased water demand.

[Lake Lanier levels concerning for drought](#)

Forsyth News (Ga.)

June 29, **Georgia.** Lake Lanier in northern Georgia was at 1,067.62 feet above sea level on June 28, while summer full pool is 1,071 feet.

[Scientists find 'water windfall' beneath California's Central Valley](#)

Phys.org

June 27, **California.** Stanford scientists discovered a huge pool of water beneath California's Central Valley, containing three times more water than previously thought. A few caveats are that the water is located 1,000 to 3,000 feet below the surface, and subsidence has already been a problem in the valley for decades.

[Southampton enacting voluntary water bans](#)

WWLP.com

June 27, **Southampton and Northampton, Massachusetts.** Some communities, such as Southampton and Northampton in western Massachusetts, have adopted water bans to protect their water supply. Meager rainfall and heat had encouraged the development of moderate drought.

International

[AP PHOTOS: In Paraguay, drought-stricken caimans agonize](#)

Fox News

June 29, **Paraguay.** Caimans in the desert zone of Paraguay, known as Chaco Boreal, were dying from the lack of water. Eighteen wells were drilled to supply water for the crocodilian creatures, but it does not seem to have provided much relief.

[El Niño may cause more intense fire season in Amazon this year](#)

UPI

June 29, **Amazon, South America.** The fire season in the Amazon is expected to be more intense because the recent El Niño kept rainfall at a minimum in the region, meaning the landscape is much drier than it would typically be at the start of the fire season.

[Island drought brings calls for water conservation](#)

Comox Valley Echo (Courtenay B.C.)

June 28, **Vancouver Island**. Most streams and rivers on southern and eastern Vancouver Island were closed to angling, due to low rainfall and record heat that has parched the region. Water users were asked to conserve as much water as possible.

[Mekong drought losses total \\$215m](#)

ReliefWeb

June 25, **Vietnam**. Severe, prolonged drought caused at least \$215 million in damage in the Mekong Delta to the more than 221,000ha of rice, 6,500ha of vegetables, and 26,500ha of fruits and industrial trees growing there.

[UN agencies to meet on El Niño's 'devastating impact' in Central America's Dry Corridor](#)

Bloomberg

June 28, **Central America**. United Nations agencies were meeting to devise better ways to assist people in Central American countries suffering from food insecurity and poor nutrition, due to the recent El Niño.