

WATER EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

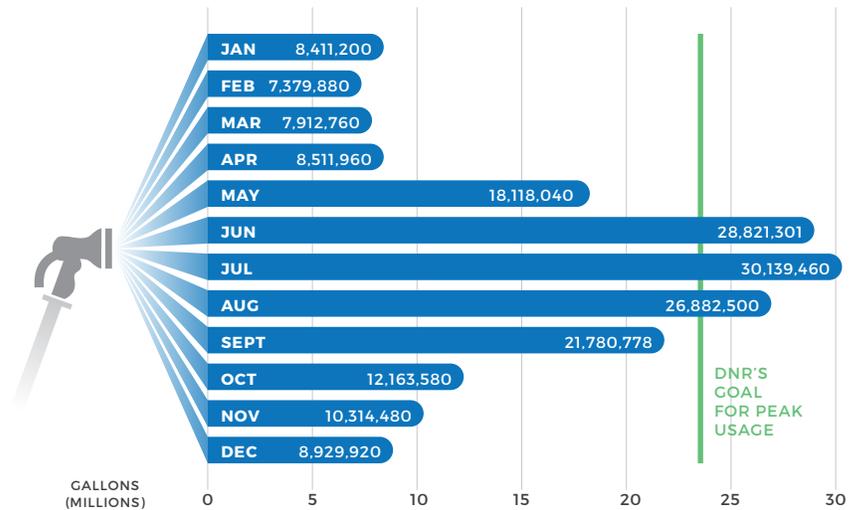
MINNETRISTA'S WATER CONSUMPTION, DROUGHT CONDITIONS, AND CONSERVATION



MARCH 2022



The City's water supply plan projects the City's growth and identifies the necessary system improvements. The process also includes planning for peak demands that are typically due to irrigation use from May to September. The DNR's objective is to keep this peak demand to a maximum of 2.6 times a household's normal usage. This means a household that uses an average of 10,000 gallons of water per month from October through April would use no more than an average of 26,000 gallons per month from May to September. In Minnetrista the average peak demand for May and June of 2021 was 3.3 times a household's normal usage, which was significantly higher than surrounding communities' usage. The average monthly water usage from 2017 to 2021 is shown in the graph, with the 2.6 peak demand noted.

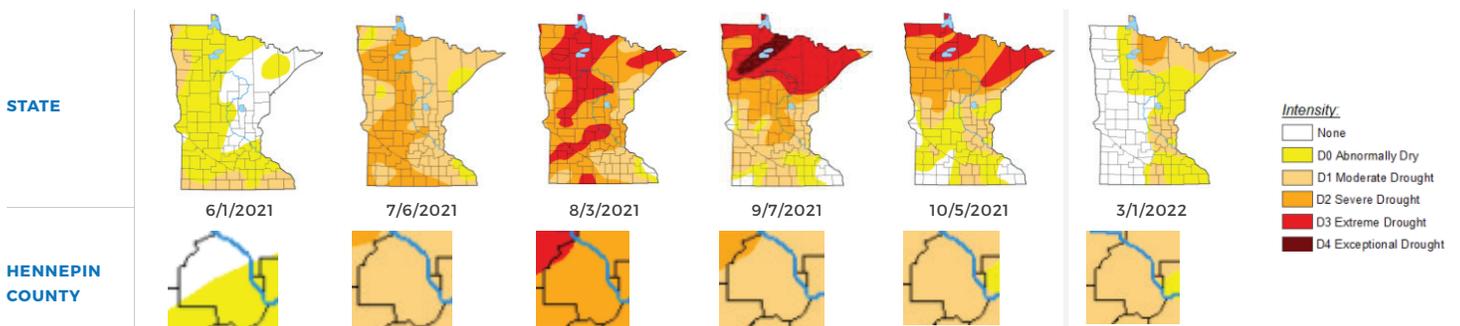


! DID YOU KNOW — The peak demand for nearly 550 properties exceed 23,600,000 gallons, which is the DNR's goal of 2.6 times a household's normal usage.

HOW DID THE DROUGHT IMPACT WATER DEMAND?

With the unusually hot temperatures in June and drought conditions (which continues as of when this is written) irrigation demand increased beyond what the system is designed for.

The progression of the drought conditions courtesy of <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Maps/MapArchive.aspx> is shown below.



LAWN CARE DURING THE SUMMER HEAT– HOW MUCH WATER DOES MY LAWN NEED?

Water is an essential and limited resource, and homeowners bear the responsibility for using water resources efficiently and effectively. Generally speaking, established lawns need 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week. According to the DNR, homeowners should be watering one time or less per week assuming no rainfall has occurred. To determine when 1" of water has been placed your lawn, set an empty tuna can in your yard- when it's full, your lawn has received 1" of water.

Many residents in Minnetrista are over watering, wasting money and water. Some outdoor water conservation tips include:

- Follow the City's odd-even watering restrictions.
- Water during the coolest part of the day (before 8 am) to avoid evaporation.
- Adjust automatic irrigation schedules at least monthly to ensure water is used efficiency
- Water your lawn when it needs it, rather than on a fixed schedule
- Adjust sprinklers to avoid watering sidewalks and driveways
- Keep your grass around 2" high to help shade the soil and prevent evaporation.
- Direct downspouts toward shrubs, lawn, trees, or gardens
- Install a rain barrel and use the collected water on flowerbeds, pots and in gardens.

The DNR is a great resource for water conservation tips and information: www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/appropriations/water-conservation-residents.html

DEAD VERSUS DORMANT GRASS

When grass doesn't receive the recommended 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week it will enter a state of dormancy, turning brown and straw-like. This protective mechanism allows grasses to conserve nutrients and energy to survive the heat of the summer, only needing about a half an inch every two weeks and can live for several weeks. Grass that is in a state of dormancy can survive several weeks before it is no longer viable and begins to die.

A **Town Hall Meeting** hosted by the City Council has been scheduled for **May 3, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.** in an effort to inform the public on the city's efforts and discuss various topics related to water issues. Residents are encouraged to attend and ask any questions they may have related to city water.

For additional water conservation tips and resources, please visit the City's webpage: www.cityofminnetrista.com/WaterInfrastructure

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