

WATERnews

COMPREHENSIVE WATERING BAN IN EFFECT

Here's the problem

NO SNOW PACK By June, Vancouver Island was only **3% of normal**; this appears to be part of a trend.



PROLONGED HEAT WAVE Environment Canada predicts a high probability of higher than normal temperatures for Vancouver Island well into next year.

VERY LITTLE RAIN LIKELY THIS SUMMER Environment Canada predicts lower than normal precipitation into the fall.

EARLY START TO HEAVY DEMAND May saw an increase in demand over last year of 63%. Not normally seen until late July and August. That's over two extra months of high demand.

2014

2015

Issues & Impacts

No recharge of aquifers

Very little precipitation or snow pack recharge this winter and spring leaving aquifers vulnerable. This spring was **75% drier than normal**.

Reduced ground water supply

Almost no recharge is certain to result in reduced groundwater supply for all well users, not just community water systems this summer and fall. That includes homes on their own wells and agriculture needs.

Possible salt water intrusion in coastal areas supplied by groundwater.

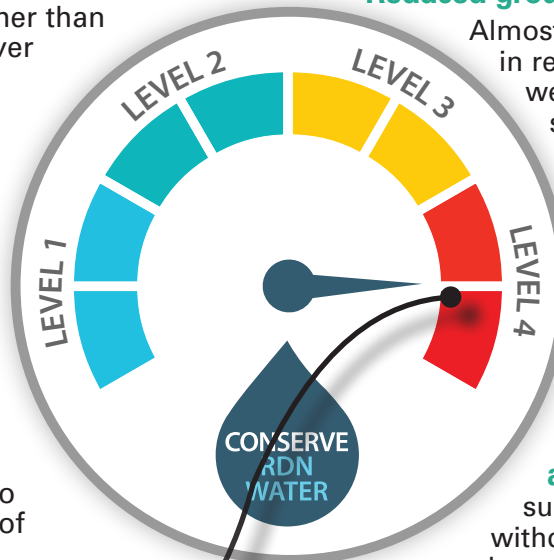
Areas close to the ocean risk salt water intrusion when water use increases.

Rivers, streams and aquifers are all connected.

Stressing surface water supplies through withdrawals leaves less for aquifer recharge and for fish and the aquatic habitat they live in. Reducing aquifer levels reduces the ground water that makes its way into rivers and streams which in turn lowers the surface water levels resulting in low stream flow. As groundwater is cooler than surface water it is an important contributor to fish habitat and aquatic health.

Heavy demand threatens:

- Your drinking water supply
- Fire protection
- Fish habitat



Water Conservation Level 4 means:

SPRINKLER BAN

NO WASHING OF VEHICLES BOATS, SIDEWALKS, DRIVEWAYS AND **NO FILLING OF** POOLS, HOT TUBS OR FOUNTAINS.

ALLOWED: HAND WATERING OR ****DRIP IRRIGATION** OF TREES, SHRUBS AND VEGETABLES **[BETWEEN 6-10 AM/PM ONLY]**

**** Drip irrigation delivers water at the root zone of the plants and uses less than 20 gallons per hour at less than 20 PSI. This does NOT include soaker or weeper hoses, or micro-sprayers. Just DRIP.**



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**KEEP
CALM
AND
SAVE
WATER**

Call to Action

Reducing outdoor water use is the single most important thing you can do to help.

GO GOLDEN, AND YOUR LAWN WILL BE FINE

You may already have a golden lawn and by doing so you have made a significant contribution to the health of our region and the reliability of our water systems.

Thank you!

REDUCE GENERAL WATER USE

Reduced water use will be needed to help ensure water resources are available this summer and fall and to help reduce stress on fish and aquatic habitats.

More ideas to go beyond a golden lawn include:

- fix leaks
- add mulch to your garden
- implement Xeriscaping (a style of gardening that requires little or no irrigation)
- take shorter showers
- only run washing machines and dishwashers when full
- think about rainwater collection as part of your water supply in the future
- encourage your neighbours, spread the word!

NEIGHBOUR TO NEIGHBOUR, LET'S ALL BE WATER SAVERS

Questions?

If you have any questions please contact Water & Utility Services at 1-877-607-4111, rcu@rdn.bc.ca or visit the WaterSmart website at www.teamwatersmart.ca



Vancouver Island is ranked at "**extremely dry**" drought conditions by the Province.

This is unprecedented.