



Save Water. Nothing can replace it.

Talking Points

North Texas Drought Response 2013
May 21, 2013

Key points:

Current TRWD reservoir storage capacity: 75.5%

Average rate of decline in reservoir storage: about 1% every 12 – 14 days

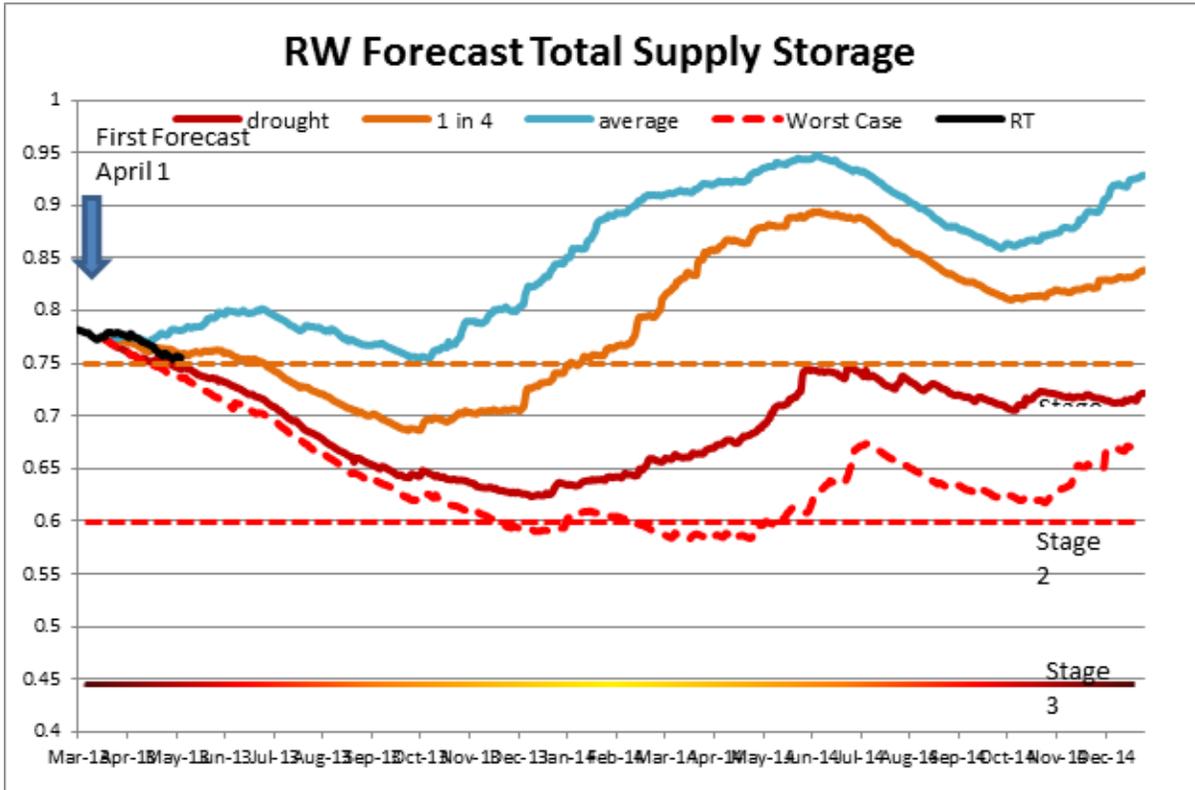
TRWD will initiate Stage 1 drought measures Monday, June 3

Climate Conditions

- Drought conditions are firmly established in North Texas. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, conditions range from moderate to severe drought.
- Although we have received almost 10 inches of rain this year at DFW Intl. Airport, we have lagged an inch or more below normal February through April.
- The rainfall deficit recorded at DFW Intl. Airport since September 2012 is about 9.5 inches. January is the only month during that timeframe, in which above average rainfall amounts were recorded.
- Soil moisture is showing improvement, but is still lacking enough moisture to generate runoff in the amounts necessary to begin refilling our reservoirs.
- Average rainfall in North Texas for the month of May is about 4.9.” So far we have received 2.48” at DFW Intl. Airport.

Water Supply Status

- Current combined storage capacity of TRWD reservoirs is hovering just above 75% and has been for the past seven or more days.
- Due to the the likelihood of reaching 75% storage capacity at the end of May or early June, the persistence of drought conditions, and the anticipation of increased demands heading into the summer, TRWD will initiate Stage 1 drought conditions Monday, June 3.
- Gains from rains on May 21 amounted to approximately 5,000 AF. TRWD has about 535,000 AF of capacity remaining to be filled.
- Average rate of decline in storage capacity is about 1% every 12-14 days, which means without any rainfall TRWD will reach the Stage 1 trigger of its Drought Contingency Plan before the end of May.
- Demands of our primary customers are currently averaging 93-95% of normal water use for this time of year, approximately 290-310 million gallons per day.
- For the year, water demands have averaged 88% of anticipated water use.



The chart above represents different tracking scenarios of our water supplies starting April 1. The black line represents real-time water levels through Tuesday, May 21. The blue line represents average water supplies expected at least half the time. The orange line is a 1 in 4 year drought scenario. The red line is a 1 in 20 year drought scenario. The dashed line represents a worst case scenario – 1 in 100 year drought. The path TRWD reservoirs are tracking is somewhere between the orange and red lines, which puts us on a course to intercept the 75% storage level and Stage 1 trigger somewhere between late May and early June.



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Background

- TRWD requires all customers to initiate Stage 1 of its Drought Contingency Plan when combined storage capacity in its water supply reservoirs declines to 75%.
- Combined storage capacity is based on water levels in four reservoirs: Lake Bridgeport, Eagle Mountain Lake, Cedar Creek and Richland-Chambers Reservoirs.
- Those reservoirs are used to supply approximately 98% of all Tarrant County residents and businesses – about 1.8 million people in all.
- TRWD’s primary customers include the cities of Fort Worth, Arlington, Mansfield and the Trinity River Authority, which serves the mid-cities area.
- In Stage 1, our goal is to reduce water use by at least 5% over what we would normally use.

Key Stage 1 Drought Measures

- Limit outdoor watering with hose-end sprinklers and automatic irrigation systems to no more than twice per week at each service address.
- No outdoor watering with hose-end sprinklers and outdoor irrigation systems between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- Prohibits using water in a wasteful manner, such as allowing runoff to flow from property a distance of more than 50 feet, or other types of waste, including failing to repair broken sprinkler heads or fix outdoor leaks.
- Watering by hand or using soaker hoses or drip irrigation is allowed anytime, any day of the week.

Other Key Points:

- Watering on a twice per week schedule right now is probably overdoing it.
- We offer weekly watering advice on the Lawn Whisperer’s Facebook page. The updates, provided every Monday, are based on the previous week’s climate conditions.
- Current recommended watering schedule involves watering about once a week - adding no more than 0.5” total – if it hasn’t rained. That represents about half of our watering needs during the hottest months of the summer.



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- Here's the schedule TRWD will be promoting (based on the schedules established by a majority of Tarrant county cities):

KNOW YOUR WATERING SCHEDULE

MONDAY

No watering allowed

TUESDAY & FRIDAY

Non-residential sites (apartments, businesses, parks, common areas)

WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY

Residential addresses ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, 8

THURSDAY & SUNDAY

Residential addresses ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, 9





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Links and other resources:

Practical water advice and landscape tips by the Lawn Whisperer on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/TxLawnWhisperer>)

[Fort Worth Implements Stage 1 Water Restrictions](#) (NBC 5, 05-21-2013)

[Watering restrictions likely on the way for North Texans](#) (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 05-15-2013)

[2012 is shaping up to be warmest year on record](#) (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 12-17-2012)

[Texas 'drought rearing its ugly head again'](#) (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 11-29-2012)

See [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for latest updates on drought progress

There are more ways to be water efficient to help us get through this drought. See trwd.com and SaveTarrantWater.com for updated lake level information and tips on conserving water outdoors.