

Master Gardener Update

August 2022

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Drought

Water is life.
 Drought is the
 absence of water.
 Drought brings
 death.

You have probably
 heard this analogy at
 some point in your
 life – a slow motion
 train wreck. Drought
 is much like that. It
 is considered, by the
 experts collecting
 the data, a slow
 motion climactic
 event, potentially as
 impactful in terms of
 the deaths of people, livestock and wildlife, as a flood, a tornado, a hurricane, a tsunami, a heavy blizzard, an earthquake, a mud slide, an avalanche – just much slower.

The Fukushima (Japan) earthquake and tsunami of 2011 occurred in approximately 6 minutes and killed nearly 20 thousand citizens and left about 2,500 unaccounted for. The effects of drought are rarely so



Figure 1" Iowa County (Wisconsin) Drought" by WxMom is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0.

Websites

MGV Hours Reporting:
mastergardener.
extension.wisc.edu/
report-your-hours/

**Canvas UW Online
Classroom:**
<https://canvas.wisc.edu/>

RPMGA Blog:
rpmga.blogspot.com

RPMGA on Facebook:
Hit control/click on this
link:
[RPMGA on Facebook](#)

Rotary Gardens:
rotarybotanicalgardens.
org

**Wisconsin Master
Gardener Program:**
mastergardener.
extension.wisc.edu

**Wisconsin Master
Gardener Association
(WIMGA):** wimga.org

dramatic, but are often much longer lasting – sometimes stretching over a period of years, even decades.

Drought kills plant life which cuts off a vital source of food for all living things in a given area. As streams and rivers dry up vital sources of hydration for all living things dry up as well. Wildlife dies, as well as domestic animals. Drought often accounts for mass migrations of people out of the affected areas in an attempt to find shelter where there is green shade and water. In under-developed nations people leave their homes behind, and walk out of the affected areas with just what they can carry or pull in small carts, leaving the bodies of their loved ones behind as they flee the disaster area. Children, the elderly, the sick and the weak perish first. Body mass shrinks, and concentrated waste products set up a cycle of health concerns that often end in death. There is empirical evidence that living things can survive without food for a finite period of time, but cannot survive without water, except in the short term. (According to the National Library of Medicine, a U.S. Government agency, a person can survive up to two months without food, but only 3 days without water.)

In developed countries like the United States drought is often something we rarely give much thought to.

Figure 2 - "Kenya: drought leaves dead and dying animals in northern Kenya" by Oxfam International is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.



We turn on the tap and water comes out. We have never been faced with serious water shortages because in our society there are numerous avenues by which water can be supplied to us. While we don't often think of drought as something that could affect us personally, water, or the lack thereof, is one of the most critical issues we face as a society.

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RPMGA Notes

A Day in Rockford, Tuesday, August 9

Come join us on Tuesday, August 9, for stops at one, two, or three major gardens in Rockford, IL. Coincidentally, both RPMGA and the Walworth county master gardener association were intending to plan the same trip. So we joined forces and invited our neighbors in Jefferson County as well. Here is the agenda:



First Stop: Anderson Japanese Gardens: We've arranged a guided tour of one of the best Japanese gardens in the continental U.S.



If you've never been to Anderson Gardens, you should come. It's amazing. The tour **counts** for continuing education hours. Transportation is on your own, though if you can find a buddy to carpool with, that would be a good. Please arrive by 9:45 and meet in the visitor center for the 10:00 a.m. walking tour, expected to last about 1½ hours. Cost for entry and tour is \$11. Website with directions: <https://andersongardens.org>

Second Stop: Nicholas Conservatory and Sinnissippi Gardens, on the Rock River. This stop is informal. There's no guided tour here so we **do not** get education hours, but the garden is fun and the signage is excellent. You can wander at will. We'll picnic here: There are some tables, but in case there aren't enough, bring your own chair or blanket. Pack a sack lunch, or pick up a lunch at the restaurant at Anderson Gardens to bring along. No fee for the outdoor gardens, but if you opt to go into the conservatory, the entry fee for a non-resident, senior is \$8. Find directions at <https://nicholasconservatory.com>

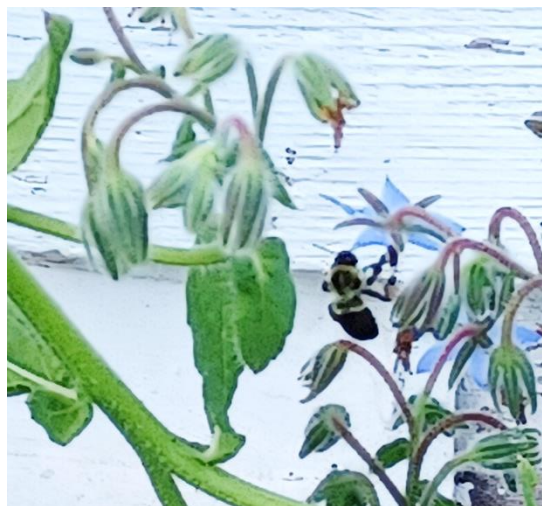


Third Stop: Figuring we'll all be pretty tired by afternoon, at Klehm Arboretum and Botanical Gardens we've arranged for a 45 minute guided tour by tram. We can't fit everyone in the tram, so we'll split into two groups: the first will start at 1:30, the second at 2:30. Because it's docent-led, this tour **does count** for continuing education hours. Admission/tour fee (with 62+ senior discount) is \$13. Find directions at <http://klehm.org/>

You choose if you're up for all three gardens or just one or two. Please don't hesitate to come even if you didn't RSVP. We'd love to have you—the more people we have, the more fun it will be!

To make the accounting as easy as possible, **please bring cash to pay the entry fees.**

No Coffee Chat in August The monthly online get-together returns on Tuesday, September 13, at 1:00 p.m.



Botanical Talk: Bumble Bees of South-Central Wisconsin, Wednesday, August 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

(Rain Date: Thursday, August 4, same time)

Get acquainted with the bumble bees found in south-central Wisconsin. This program explores the biology of bumble bees, their flower preferences, and how to identify our local species. RPMGA member Ann Pedder Reilly has been observing bumble bees for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Bumblebee Brigade community science program for a number of years. In addition to sharing her expertise and bumble bee photos, Ann will lead a walk through the gardens to observe bees and see what species can be found. You may even see one of the endangered rusty patch bumble bees! Learn how you can help sustain bee populations. This program features Ann's bumble bee photos. Note: Between 40 minutes and 1 hour of this program will be spent walking the Gardens. Please dress or bring clothes and footwear suitable for some time outdoors. Fee: \$10 for RBG members/\$17 for the general public. Register online by August 1 at <https://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/event/bumble-bees-of-south-central-wisconsin/>

“What’s in Bloom? Tour” Wednesday, August 17, 6-7:00 p.m.

Enjoy a tour of Rotary Gardens led by Director of Horticulture, Michael Jesiolowski. He provides a behind-the-scenes look at what's blooming each month and answers any questions you may have. What's in Bloom? Tours take place on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (April- August) and the 4th Wednesday of September. The tours are free for RBG members, or \$10 for non-members. To register, go to: <https://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/event/whats-in-bloom-2022-08-17/> These tours never disappoint!



Volunteer Opportunities

Friends of Silverwood Park group is looking for someone willing to take over responsibility for "Grandma's Garden." A previous volunteer has been creating, planting and maintaining the garden at Silverwood County Park using the Hugelkultur technique, but can no longer continue. The new volunteer would be expected to take the lead in designing and maintaining this garden area. You can work on the project according to your own schedule. Its location near the park buildings means most visitors to Silverwood are likely to view it and appreciate the artistic presentation. Anyone interested should contact Sarah White whitesarah@charter.net or Rita Fox rjantigo@yahoo.com for more information. Silverwood County Park celebrates the rich cultural history of agriculture in Dane County as well as demonstrating innovative agricultural (and gardening!) practices and land stewardship that sustains the land for future generations. It's located in the southeast corner of Dane County, just northeast of Edgerton. For more on the park, see their website at www.silverwoodpark.org.



"hugelkultur year 2" by eggrole is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Rotary Gardens is always looking for assistance. There is still a signup for general gardening and Sunday watering volunteers. Go to <https://signup.com/go/kJZRkCp> to choose your shifts! Rotary recently ordered an engraver so they can make **plant tags** and will be needing volunteers to help with this project. If you are good with data entry into a computer and would be interested in helping out, please let Carla Edgar know. She will keep your information and let you know when the machine arrives: volunteer@rotarygardens.org

Rotary is also having a **New Volunteer Orientation on Wednesday, August 17th at 9:00 a.m.** If you know of anyone interested in becoming a volunteer at RBG, please have them contact Carla Edgar (608-314-8409, volunteer@rotarygardens.org) or complete an online application on the RBG website before 8/12. <https://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/volunteer/>

Kettle Moraine Land Trust 4th Saturday Stewardship KMLT has a workday on the fourth Saturday of each month, usually from 1-3:30 p.m. Locations and tasks for each workday vary. This month's event is at the Beulah Bluff Preserve. To find out more, go to their calendar <https://kmlandtrust.org/events/>

Events for Fun

Commercial Growers of Wisconsin Field Day, Thursday, August 4th, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., UW West Ag Research Station, Madison

The theme species include the newest genetics on display of over 40 cultivars of each species of salvia, petunia, and calibrachoa with the petunia and calibrachoa species split with and without mycorrhizae treatment. Free, no registration required. The West Ag Research Station address is 8502 Mineral Point Rd, Verona (Just a little west of Madison's West Beltline).



Regenerative Agriculture Growers Field Day, Saturday, August 20th. 1:00-4:30 pm., Silverwood Park, Edgerton

Led by the Silverwood grower-partners actively farming on site. Learn about what they are doing to grow healthy food and improve the soil on their small ½- and 1-acre plots, visit the agroforestry demonstration site, and walk the site's forest and prairie/savannah. Suggested donation: \$5. For more information see this [Event Listing](#).

Online Horticulture Training for New Master Gardener Volunteers begins September 11

Growing and Caring for Plants in Wisconsin: Foundations in Gardening is the online introductory course where individuals learn key concepts for selecting, growing, and maintaining plants – from trees to houseplants to vegetables (and everything in between!) The course aims to teach about gardening, also known as horticulture, in a way that helps people make decisions to plan for gardening success, prevent plant problems before they start, and manage issues when they happen.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Link gardening practices and biology to preventing plant problems

- Explain how to select, grow, and maintain the health of different kinds of plants
- Identify strategies to manage plant problems
- Explain what Integrated Pest Management is and how it benefits you and the environment

Individuals will leave the course with a combination of practical gardening skills to try plus the knowledge of why they work. The course is open to the public and is not required to become an MGVI, but it does provide the information needed to successfully complete the horticultural knowledge test new MGVI's must pass to be accepted into the program. Fee: \$299 includes an entire year of access to the course and a .pdf version of the manual. (Some scholarships are available.) To join the Master Gardener Program, individuals must also take the Onboarding course, which will be offered in the winter. **Registration deadline for Foundations in Gardening is August 15.** For more info or to register, go to <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/foundations-in-gardening/>

More Training Coming Up in August and Beyond

Looking for Level 2 MGVI training--The Plants Plus modules? You can find them in the online classroom, Canvas, which you access with your UW NetID at <https://canvas.wisc.edu/> As of now, Plants Plus modules are ONLY available in Canvas. Check regularly for new modules!

UW Division of Horticulture, Any Time, Online

Separate from the Plants Plus modules in Canvas, the Wisconsin Horticulture website has a list of online workshops and education sessions on a variety of topics. These video presentations feature research – based gardening and horticulture information. Increase your knowledge by joining UW-Madison experts. Some topics feature a single video, some include a series of videos on the topic. Times vary, but all are free. Check out what's available by clicking here: <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/videos/>

Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, WI

Classes are in person at the Gardens unless otherwise noted. Fees listed are for Olbrich Members/General Public. For more info, copy and paste this address: <http://www.olbrich.org/education/classes.cfm>

Registration for this class has closed, but try calling to see if they'll let you in at the last minute: 608-246-4550.

August 3 (rain date: August 4), Discovering Olbrich's Insects Walk, 6-7:30 p.m., \$25/person. Register by July 27.

Registration is open for these classes. If a class is shown as "filled," see if you can get on a waiting list. Cancellations do occur.

August 10, An Inside Look at Olbrich's Bug Scouts, 6-7:30 p.m., \$28/person. Register by August 3.



*New Plants Plus Module:
Gardening and Climate Change:
Growing Fruit Trees in a Changing
Environment*

August 16, Create a Tropical Effect in Your Garden, 5:30-7:00 p.m., \$16/\$20. Register by August 9.

August 19, A Natural History of Oaks, 1-4:00 p.m. **online**, \$24/\$30. Register by August 11.

September 6, Wisconsin's Native Orchids: Ecology, Conservation & Propagation, 6-8:00 p.m., \$12/\$15. Register by August 30.

September 9, 13 Sedges, 5-6:30 p.m., \$16/\$20. Register by September 1.

Wisconsin Horticulture Update, Fridays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., online

The Wisconsin Horticulture Update is a 1-hour weekly review of statewide growing conditions, degree days, insect and disease activity and more, plus special topics. Recordings of past sessions are posted in the Canvas Classroom (<https://canvas.wisc.edu>) as is a link to the schedule. August specialist reports are on the 12th (Turf Diseases and Insects) and on the 26th (Fruit Diseases). No registration required.

This link goes directly to the Zoom meeting on Friday mornings:

Log into the WHU on Friday at 9:30am

Native Grasses Garden Tour, Wednesday, August 3, 7:00 p.m. UW-Arboretum, Madison

Susan Carpenter, Wisconsin Native Plant Garden curator, will focus on color, size, and features of native Wisconsin grasses, from tiny mustache grass to big bluestem. Free, no registration required. Meet at the Visitor Center: 1207 Seminole Highway Madison.



Demonstration Gardens Open House, Thursday, August 4, 10:00 a.m. to noon, Klehm Arboretum, Rockford, IL

If you can't make RPMGA's guided tour on Tuesday, August 9, this is the next best thing. The Demonstration Gardens at Klehm Arboretum are a great place to gather inspiration for your own home garden. Several of the demo gardens at Klehm are cared for throughout the year by wonderful and knowledgeable volunteers. Stop out at Klehm on Thursday, August 4th between 10:00 am and noon to meet some of these volunteers, learn more about the gardens and plants they tend to, and ask any questions you may have wondered while walking through the demo gardens on previous visits! And if you've never visited Klehm's demonstration gardens before, this is the perfect opportunity to stop out and see them! Fee: \$5/seniors. No registration required.

Inside out: Architecture in Gardens / Gardens in Architecture, Thursday, August 4, 7-8:00 p.m.,

Anderson Japanese Gardens, Rockford, IL

Dr. Kendall Brown is a Professor of Asian Art History at California State University Long Beach. He publishes actively in several areas of Japanese art as well as on Japanese-style gardens in North America. He has curated exhibitions for several American museums, exploring topics from modern woodblock prints and Art Deco to lacquer makers' tools. He was also a co-founder and past president of North American Japanese Garden Association (NAJGA), and served on the NAJGA Board from 2012-2017. Fee: \$5 (free for Anderson members). Register at <https://52957.blackbaudhosting.com/52957/2022-Lecture-Series-04Aug2022>



Nuisance Animal Trapping and Removal, Sunday, August 7, 3-4:30 p.m., Silverwood Park, Edgerton

Presenter Ryan Ellifson, President Friends of Silverwood Park and a Licensed Wisconsin Trapper and Trapper Education Instructor, will share strategies for growers and home gardeners on how to control pesky predators in this workshop. Topics to be covered include Wisconsin trapping regulations, how to identify the animal(s) causing the damage, what type of traps can you use, how to deal with the trapped animal, and how to build a trapping box for small mammals (gophers, ground squirrels). Ryan will share links to helpful resources. Bring your questions and concerns and get expert 1:1 help. This is a free event. No pre-registration required. Address: 771 Silver Lane, (off Hwy 106) Edgerton, WI.

Trees of the UW-Whitewater Campus, Wednesday, August 10, 6 - 7:00 p.m., Whitewater

The UW-Whitewater features two historic arboretums with a range of trees focused on a diversity of native species. Salisbury Arboretum extends along Whitewater's Main Street. Chopp Arboretum extends the length of College Hill to Hyland Hall. We'll include both in the evening's tour. Free, but limited to 15, so registration is required. Go to https://uw-whitewater.ungerboeck.com/prod/emc00/Public-SignIn.aspx?&SessionID=fb2fd0fgnei3fa0fdn&Lang=*

Beyond Birdfeeders: How to be a bird-friendly gardener all year long

Thursday, August 11, 2022, 2 – 3:00 p.m., Lake Geneva Public Library

Join Julie Hill, Horticulture Outreach Specialist from UW-Madison Division of Extension to learn how you can create a bird-friendly yard. There are many benefits to both wildlife and people when you prioritize the needs of birds in your garden landscape. Learn what gardening practices you can do throughout the year to encourage bird visitors, especially some strategies for late summer and early fall. Free, no registration required. The library's address is 918 West Main Street, Lake Geneva.

Late Summer and Fall Blooming Plants, Tuesday, August 16, 1:30-2:30 p.m., online

As the summer flowers fade away to cooling temperatures and shorter days, the growing season still has one last flower spectacle. In this session, Illinois Extension horticulture educator Chris Enroth, will go beyond mums to give us a few more options for our late summer and fall landscapes. Free, but registration required. Go to <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=25787>

Soils 101 Workshop, Saturday, August 20, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Silverwood Park, Edgerton

The UW Soils program will share what makes good living soils and how to improve and care for it. We will look at the soil food web, the components of soil, how it has been degraded, and how to regenerate a healthy soil profile. Bring your own lunch. At 11:30, we'll break for lunch and have discussions with the teachers as they demonstrate the morning concepts with hands-on activities such as soil perc tests, run-off displays, and soil profiles around the farm. Stay on after 1:00 p.m. for the Growers Field Day if you wish. Address: 771 Silver Lane, (off Hwy 106) Edgerton, WI. Workshop Fee: \$35. Suggested Donation for Grower Field Day: \$5. To register for the workshop, go to <https://www.silverwoodpark.org/product/soils-101-workshop-august-20-2022/>

August Blooms in the UW-Whitewater Nature Preserve, Saturday, August 20, 9 - 10:00 a.m., Whitewater

Over 100 acres on the Whitewater campus's northeastern border are being restored and actively managed as a native prairie and woodland. You will learn more about native plant species found in prairie and savanna ecosystems as well as the history and future development dreams for the UW-Whitewater Nature Preserve. Free, but limited to 15 people.

Register before August 18 at noon: https://uw-whitewater.ungerboeck.com/prod/emc00/PublicSignIn.aspx?&SessionID=fb6fd5fg1ei8fa5fc2&Lang=*



Yard and Garden Cleanup with Diseases and Insects in Mind, Wednesday, August 24, Noon-12:30 p.m., online

Be prepared to approach your garden and yard cleanup with a better understanding of strategies you can use to benefit your yard, keeping in mind plant diseases, insects, winter interest and wildlife food. Presented by: Andrea Ackerman, Horticulture Outreach Specialist, UW-Madison Division of Extension Brown County. Free but registration required. [Click here to register](#)

Earth Stewardship Begins at Home, Thursday, August 25, 7:00 p.m., online

Americans generate a carbon footprint of about 19 tons; the average European only 10. This startling statistic has spurred many gardeners to start practicing sustainable methods of land stewardship. Join horticulturalist, landscape design consultant, and floral designer Claire Jones for her virtual talk. Claire will be sharing ideas on making eco-conscious decisions. Making small changes in one's gardening habits will soon add up to big differences for the environment she says. You will learn environmental tips that you can practice in your own backyard to lessen the impact on the planet, including planting 'keystone' plants, capturing and storing rainwater, planting milkweed and other pollinator friendly plants, and attracting wildlife using diversity to your garden. Hosted by Ozaukee Master Gardeners. Free, but registration required. Zoom link provided on registration. Go to [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcofurT8tEtCQ9NgCO5gtB2s917TP7vXr](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84451234567)



Fall "Lawndry" List, Wednesday, August 31, Noon-12:30 p.m. online

Fall is a good time of year to give your lawn some TLC. Join us to learn more about lawn fertilizer requirements and recommendations for this time of year, aeration and overseeding, and the basics of weed control. Presented by: Paul Koch, Associate Professor, Department of Plant Pathology, UW-Madison. Free but registration required. [Click here to register](#)

Left: "[grass - to be mowed](#)" by [natala007](#) is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#).

Green Thumb Gardening – Fall Series, online, mostly Mondays, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

The Green Thumb Gardening class series gives you the practical knowledge to keep your home garden thriving! Dane County Extension educators and local horticulture experts will provide in-depth and accessible information for everyone from the novice to the experienced gardener. Register for individual classes at \$12 each. Attend virtually from home or in person at the Extension office in Madison. For Online classes: [Click Here to Register](#) or to see the full schedule. Zoom links will be provided after registration.

September 12 (Monday): Soils, Soil Testing, and Fertilizers

September 19 (Monday): Plant Propagation

September 28 (Wednesday): Houseplants

Drought, continued

Water has become a commodity – something that can be bought and sold. Streams have been purchased by large corporations to be used as raw materials for their products – most often bottled water – in some instances cutting off public access to what was once a free and readily accessible natural resource.

Natural disasters like drought could change our perspective on water conservation. Lake Mead is a reservoir formed by the Hoover Dam on the Colorado River in the Southwestern United States. It is located in the states of Nevada and Arizona, 24 miles east of Las Vegas. It is the largest reservoir in the country in terms of water capacity, and it is disappearing.

California is currently experiencing water shortages. People are no longer watering their lawns. No Slip-N-Slide® toys for the kids. No backyard pools being filled. Drought is an everyday concern.

Iowa County, Wisconsin this year experienced the 31st driest year, and the 32nd driest June on record over the last 128 years, down 2.2 inches in precipitation. The picture at the top of this article shows the effects of the drought on Iowa County.

What should we know about drought, and where can we find the most up to date information about drought conditions in the U.S. right now?

The home page for the U.S. Drought Monitor - an educational resource - <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

The U.S. Drought Monitor is a map which is released every Thursday, showing those parts of the U.S. that are in drought. It is not used to predict drought. It is used to show areas of the country that are currently experiencing drought, and to what extent.

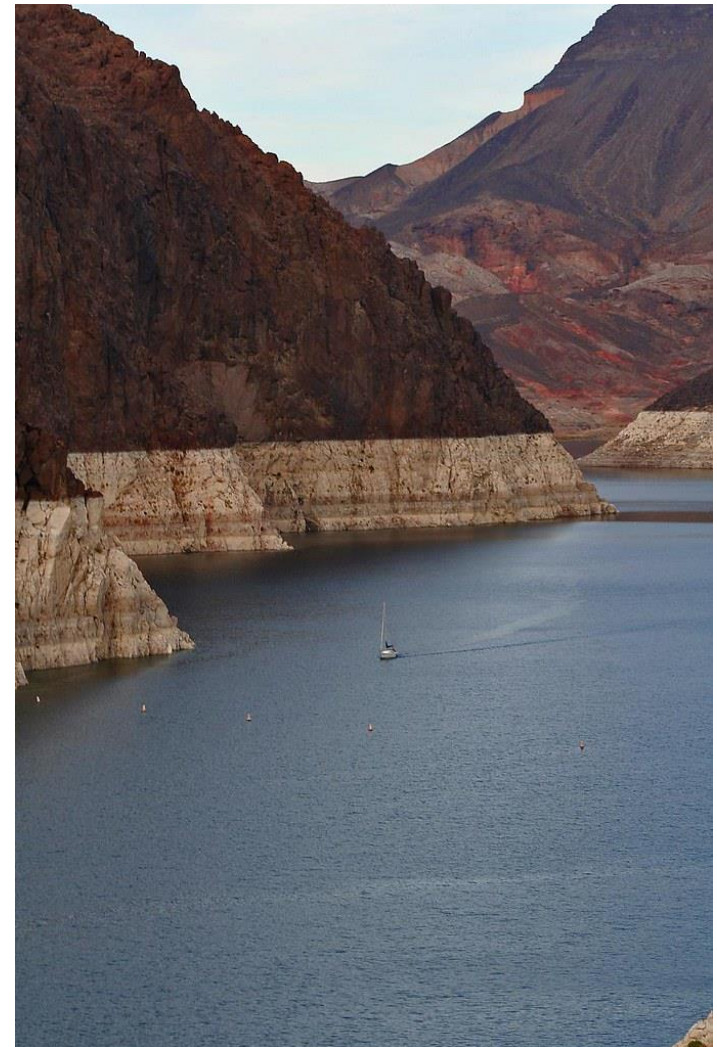
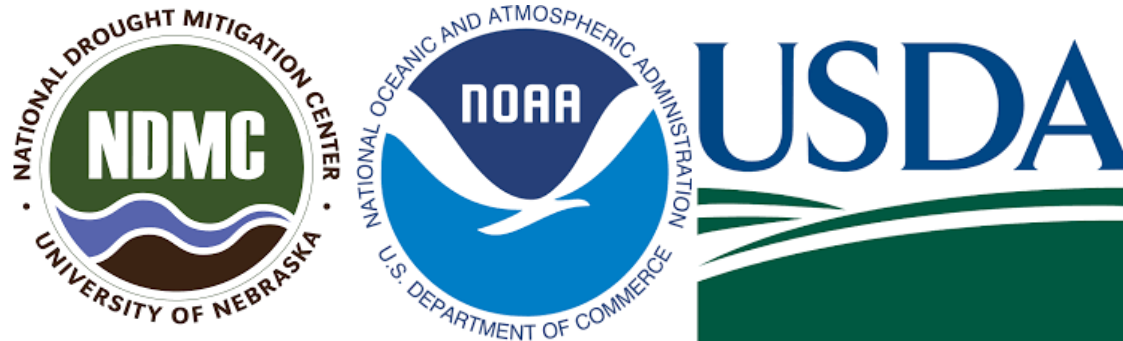


Figure 3 - "100 Feet Down" by 1sock is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.- Lake mead has been experiencing drought conditions for two decades. The water line shown as white rock has not been under water since 1993.

The Drought Monitor has been a joint venture since it was first created in 1999 by the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The NDMC hosts the web site of the drought monitor and the associated data, and provides the map and data to NOAA, USDA and other agencies. It is freely available at droughtmonitor.unl.edu.



The map uses five classifications:

- Abnormally dry (D0), showing areas that may be going into or are coming out of drought, and four (4) levels of drought:
 - Moderate (D1),
 - Severe (D2),
 - Extreme (D3), and
 - Exceptional (D4).

The team working on these statistics can indicate whether primary physical effects are for short- or long-term drought:

Description	Possible Impacts
Abnormally Dry	Going into drought: short-term dryness slows growth of crops/pastures. Coming out of drought: some lingering water deficits; crops/pastures not fully recovered.
Moderate Drought	Some damage to crops/pastures; streams, reservoirs, or wells are low with some water shortages developing or imminent; voluntary water-use restrictions requested.
Severe Drought	Crop/pasture losses are likely; water shortages are common and water restrictions are imposed.
Extreme Drought	Major crop/pasture losses; widespread water shortages or restrictions.
Exceptional Drought	Exceptional and widespread crop/pasture losses; shortages of water in reservoirs, streams, and wells creating water emergencies.

- **S** = Short-term, typically less than 6 months (agriculture, grasslands)
- **L** = Long-term, typically more than 6 months (hydrology, ecology)
- **SL** = Area contains both short- and long-term impacts.

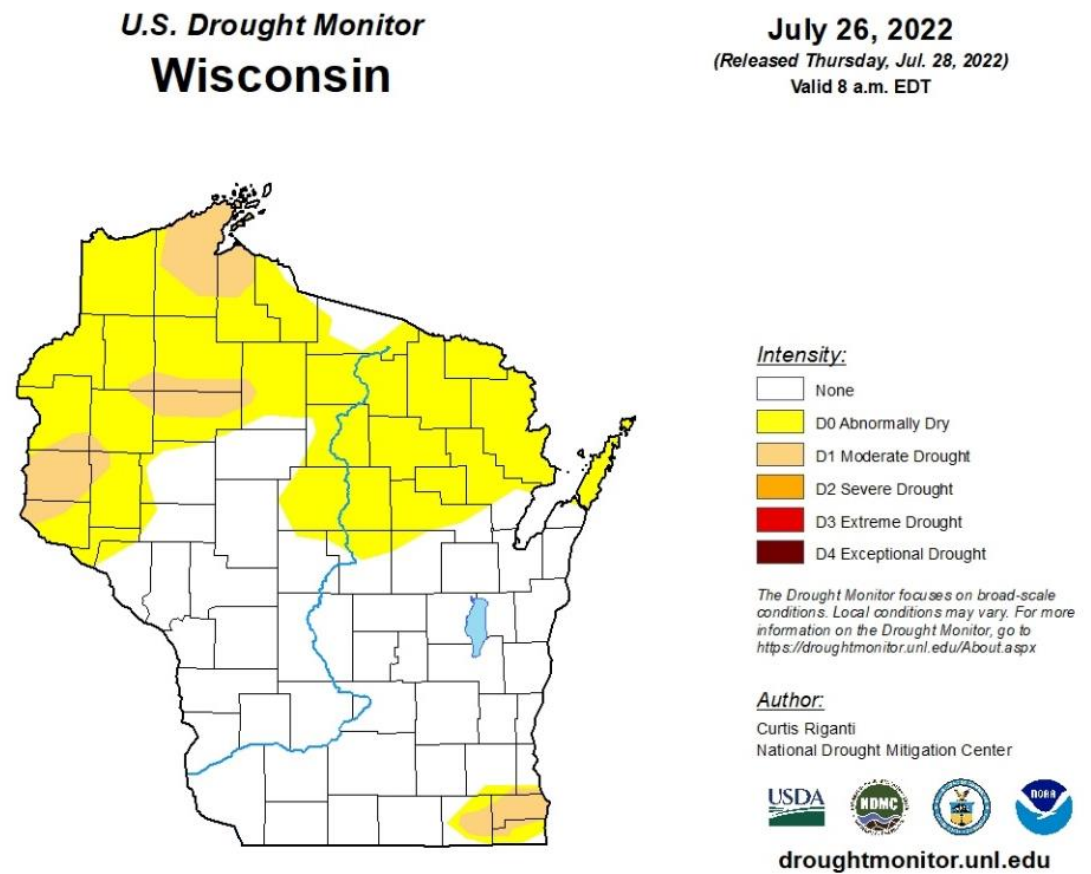
Drought intensity categories are based on:

- the original five key indicators along with several dozen other objective indicators
- local condition reports and impact reports from more than 450 expert observers around the country
- drought impacts which subjectively support and validate the indicators used

As you can see on the Wisconsin map to the right, as of July 26, Rock County was not even experiencing abnormally dry conditions thanks to recent rains. But just to the east of us—the eastern two-thirds of Walworth County, and virtually all of Racine and Kenosha counties—remained either abnormally dry or were in moderate drought.

The most recent drought map can be found here:
<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap.aspx>

Five Facts about the U.S. Drought Monitor:
https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/data/docs/USDM_5_facts_sheet.pdf



Caveats on use of the U.S. Drought Monitor taken from the website

*The U.S. Drought Monitor provides a consistent big-picture look at drought **CONDITIONS** in the United States. Although it is based on many types of data, including observations from local experts across the country, we don't recommend using it to infer specifics about local conditions. It can certainly be used to identify likely areas of drought impacts, including water shortage, but decision-makers in many circumstances have successfully taken measures to reduce vulnerability to drought. Large urban water systems generally have diverse water supplies and can keep the water flowing in both dry and wet years. The U.S. Drought Monitor is in no way intended to replace assessments or guidance from local water systems as to whether residents should conserve water.*



Figure 4 - Famartin/Wikimedia Commons – A UCLA-led research team studied centuries of megadroughts in the region spanning southern Montana to northern Mexico and the Pacific Ocean to the Rocky Mountains. The megadrought shown above is in the southwest and has lasted about 1,200 years. <https://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/megadrought-southwestern-north-america>

Mary Kay Thompson

The **Master Gardener Update** is developed by and distributed online monthly by the Rock Prairie Master Gardener Association, Incorporated, for master gardener volunteers and other interested people who have ties to Rock County, Wisconsin. Current officers of the association include Ruth Flescher, president (yafello2@gail.com); Mary Kay Thompson, vice president (mastergardenermary@gmail.com); Sue Wood, Secretary (wood-slibrarymedia@gmail.com) and Deb Grams, treasurer (debgrams@yahoo.com).

Mailing Address: Rock Prairie Master Gardener Association, c/o Sue Wood

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