

# HELPFUL RESOURCES



In addition to the drought alert system, the CVRD has compiled **information to assist agricultural producers during drought conditions**. This includes information for both livestock and irrigation management.

As new and/or updated materials and resources become available these will be added to the website.

→ [www.cvrld.bc.ca/agri-drought](http://www.cvrld.bc.ca/agri-drought)

## Livestock management:

- Grazing management
- Livestock water requirements
- Livestock water-saving tips

## Irrigation management:

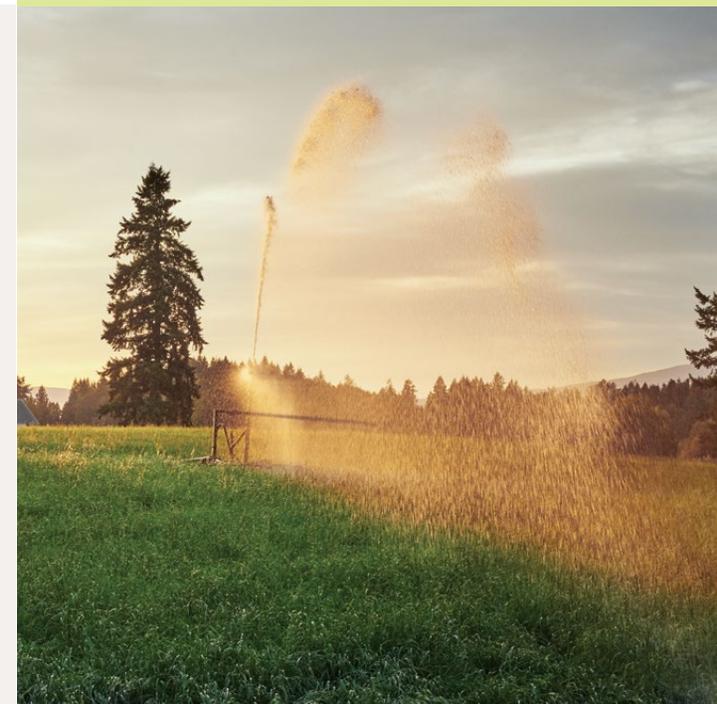
- Irrigation decisions with limited water
- Irrigation tips to conserve water
- Irrigation scheduling tools

# DROUGHT ALERT for AGRICULTURE

[www.cvrld.bc.ca/agri-drought](http://www.cvrld.bc.ca/agri-drought)



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# WHY DO DROUGHT LEVELS MATTER?

Increasingly dry summer conditions are a growing challenge for agricultural producers across the province. **For example, in 2015, Vancouver Island had already reached Drought Level 4 by the first of July.**

Provincial drought levels (see table below) are based on the BC River Forecast Centre's analysis of stream and snowpack levels, verified by staff in the field. It's important for agricultural producers

to be aware of these levels because, although they are not specific to individual watercourses, they communicate the regional water status, and provide expectations for management. **The higher levels initiate restrictions and/or regulatory responses.**

Awareness of regional drought levels helps producers make seasonal and long-term production and management decisions.



## THE NEW COWICHAN VALLEY DROUGHT ALERT INITIATIVE

Level	Conditions	Significance	Objective	Target
1	NORMAL	There is sufficient water to meet human & ecosystem needs	Preparedness	Ongoing reductions in community water use
2	DRY	First indications of a potential water supply problem	Voluntary conservation	Minimum 10% reduction
3	VERY DRY	Potentially serious ecosystem or socio-economic impacts are possible	Voluntary conservation & restrictions	Minimum additional 20% reduction
4	EXTREMELY DRY	Water supply insufficient to meet socio-economic and ecosystem needs	Voluntary conservation, restrictions & regulatory response	Maximum reduction
X	LOSS OF SUPPLY	Potential loss of a community's potable or fire fighting supply	Emergency response	Ensure health & safety

To ensure that local agricultural producers receive timely updates on drought status, a new initiative is underway through the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD).

The CVRD notifies producers of the drought level changes in several ways, including strategically-placed signs, direct mail-outs and text/phone alerts.

**Register online to receive Cowichan region Emergency Alerts** for drought, as well as other emergency events such as forest fires, floods and hazardous spills.

➔ [www.cvrld.bc.ca/EAlert](http://www.cvrld.bc.ca/EAlert)