

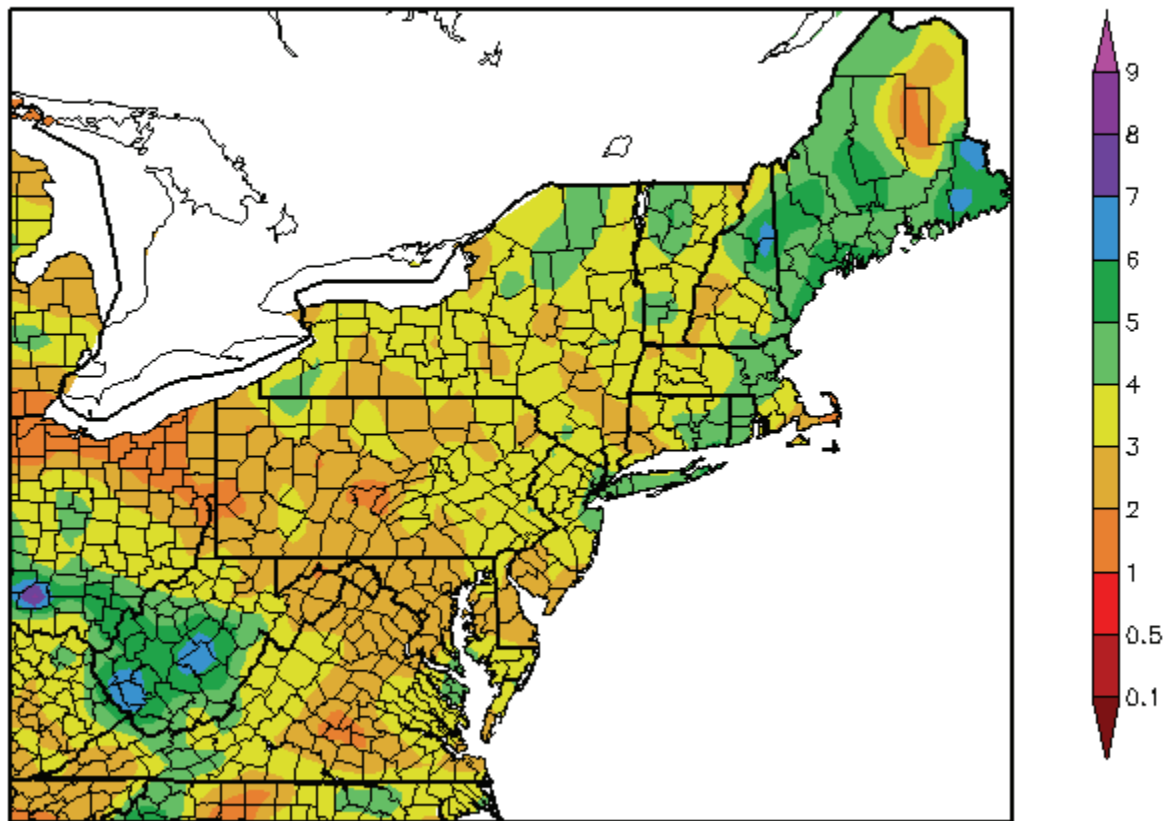
RHODE ISLAND DROUGHT STEERING COMMITTEE

May 8, 2012

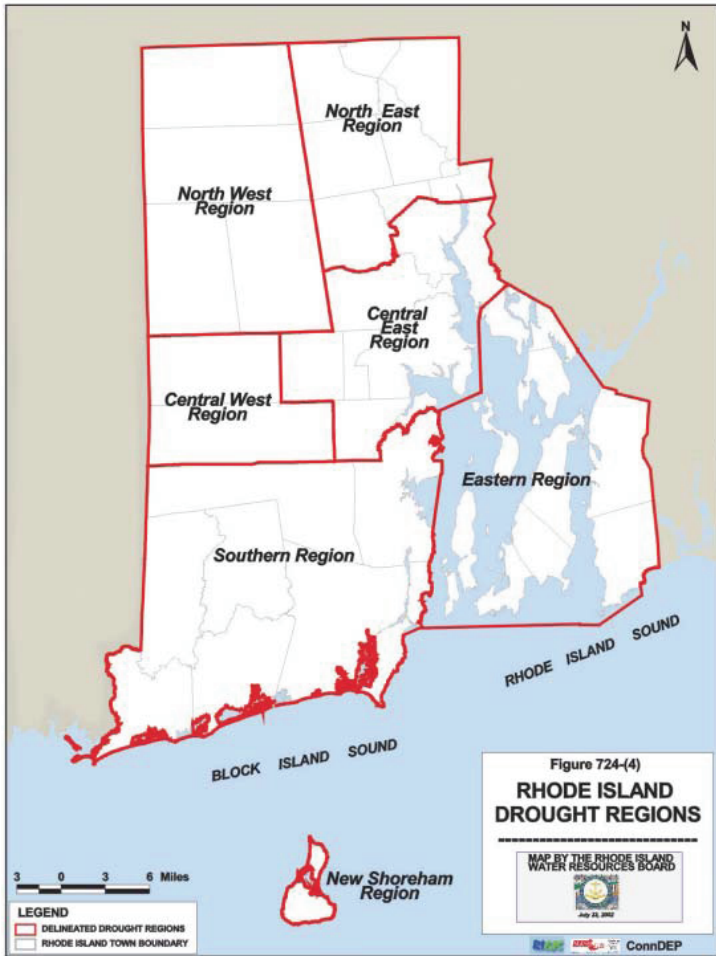


April 7 to May 6 2012 Precipitation

Precipitation (in)
4/7/2012 - 5/6/2012



Precipitation



Feb-Mar	Percent	Normal
Northwest	50	10.15
Northeast	63	9.75
Central West	56	9.76
Central East	60	9.37
Eastern	45	10.50
Southern	51	10.58
New Shoreham	51	10.58

DROUGHT ADVISORY CRITERIA:

2 month cumulative below 65% of normal

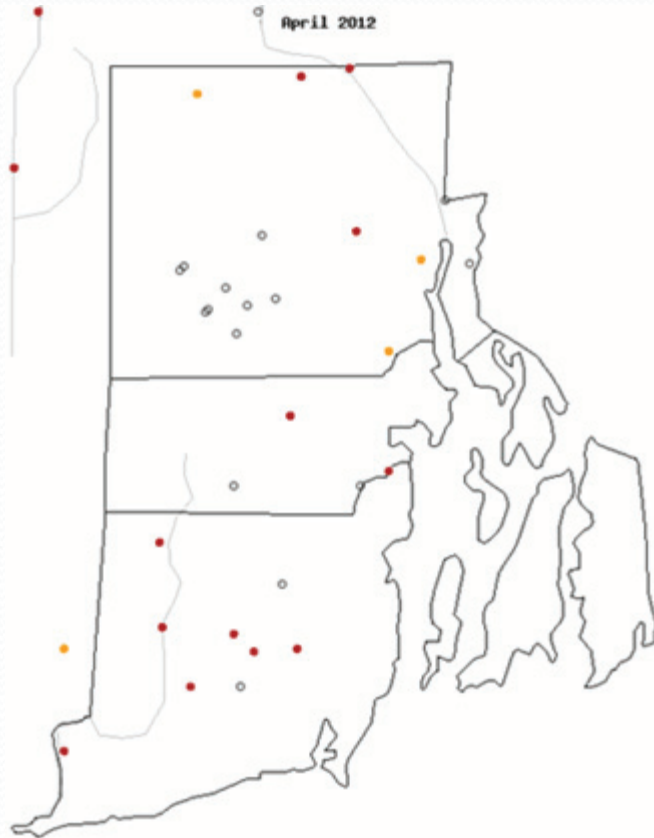
- Rainfall totals 5-6 inches

- Deficits 6-7 inches

- **MEETS DROUGHT ADVISORY CRITERIA**



Streamflow



DROUGHT ADVISORY CRITERIA: 3 Months below Normal

- Three months below normal through 4/30/12
- Temporary improvement with the rain late April/early May
- **MEETS THE DROUGHT ADVISORY CRITERIA**

USGS



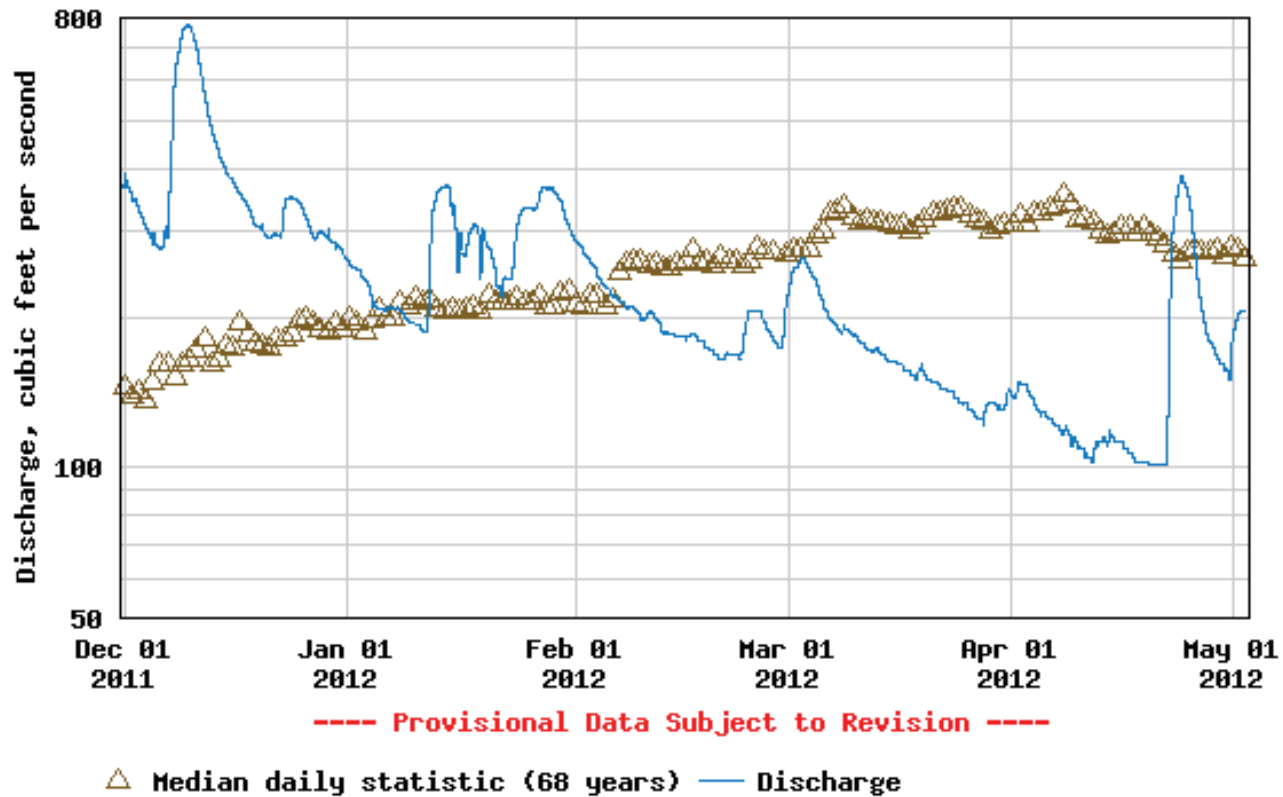
Explanation - Percentile classes					
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	High
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal



Streamflow

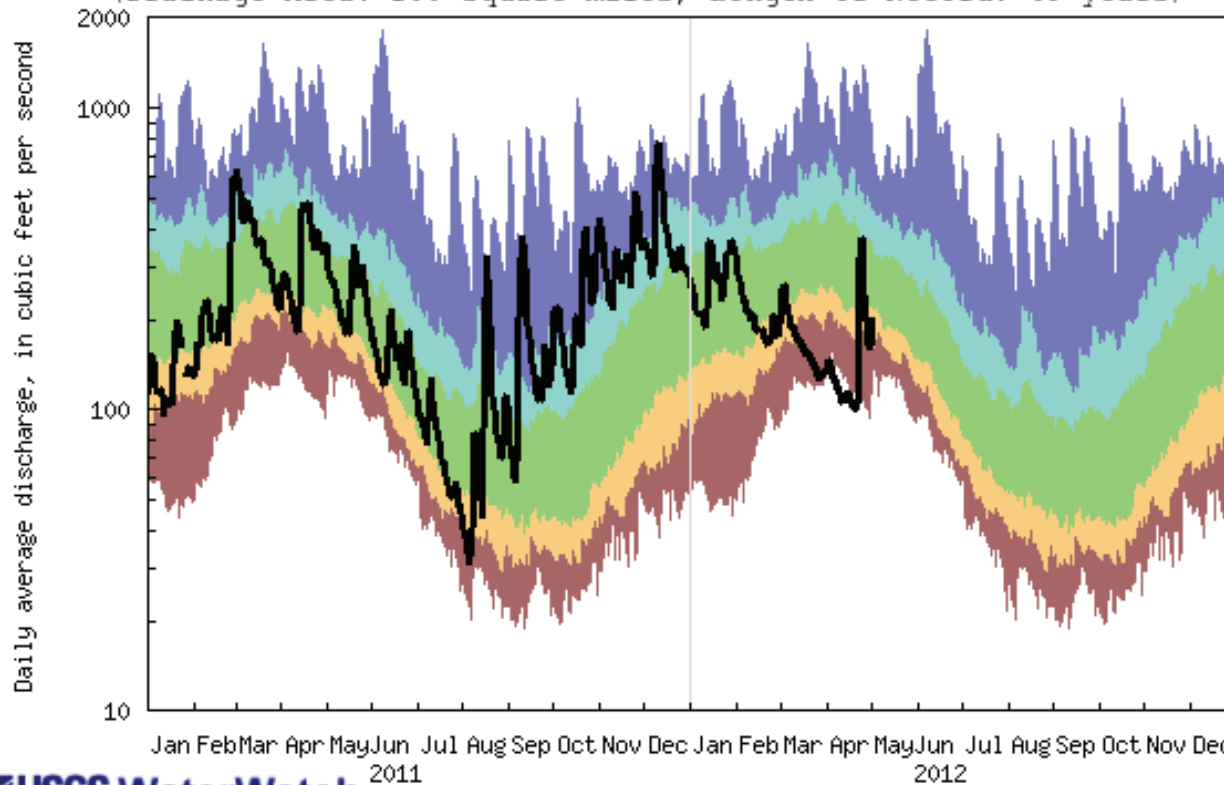


USGS 01117500 PAWCATUCK RIVER AT WOOD RIVER JUNCTION, RI



Streamflow

Duration hydrograph of daily average streamflow for USGS 01117500
 (Drainage Area: 100 square miles, Length of Record: 69 years)



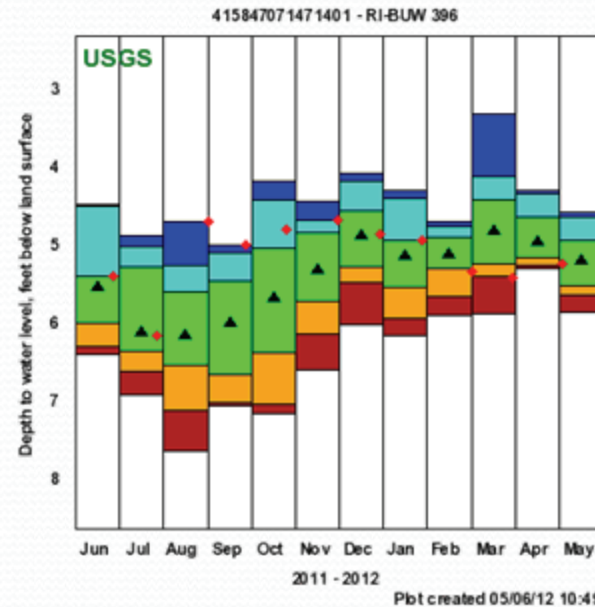
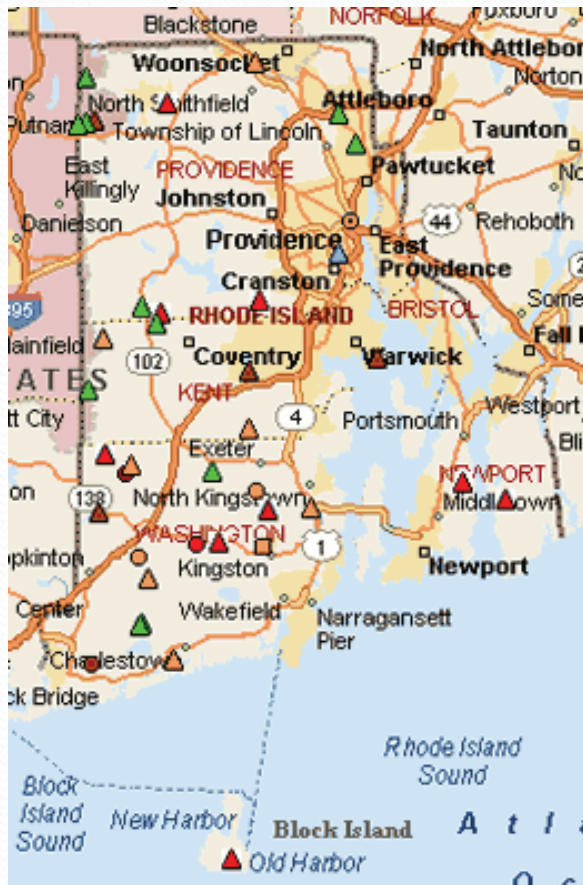
USGS WaterWatch

Last updated: 2012-05-03

Explanation - Percentile classes					
lowest-10th percentile	10-24	25-75	76-90	90th percentile-highest	Flow
Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	



Groundwater



DROUGHT ADVISORY CRITERIA

2 of 3 Months below normal

Temporary improvement with the rain late April/early May

MEETS THE DROUGHT ADVISORY CRITERIA



Groundwater

USGS 412918071321001 RI-SNM 6 SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI

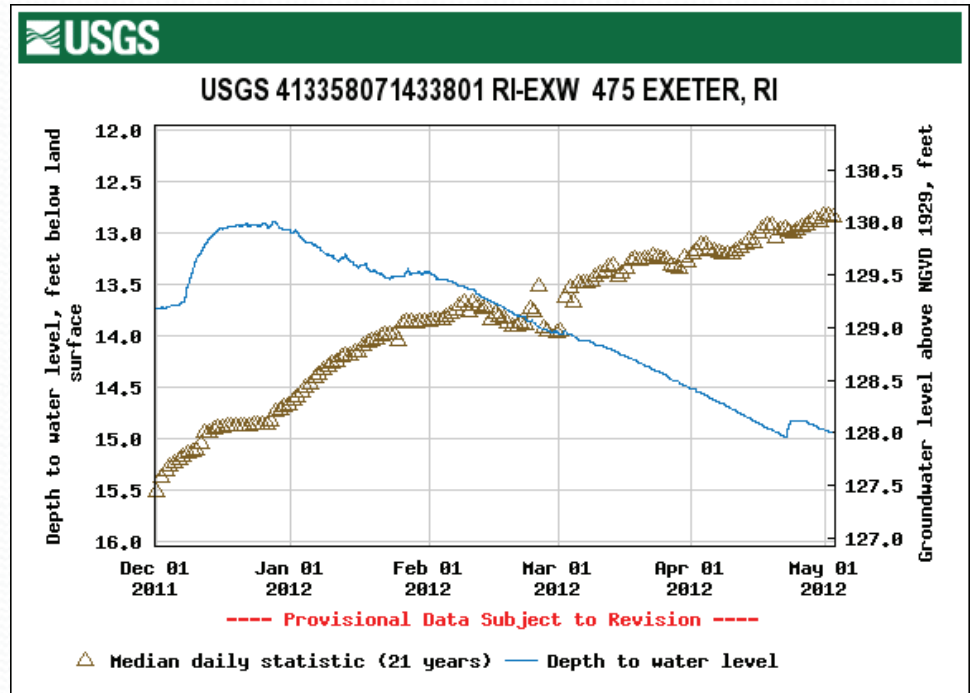
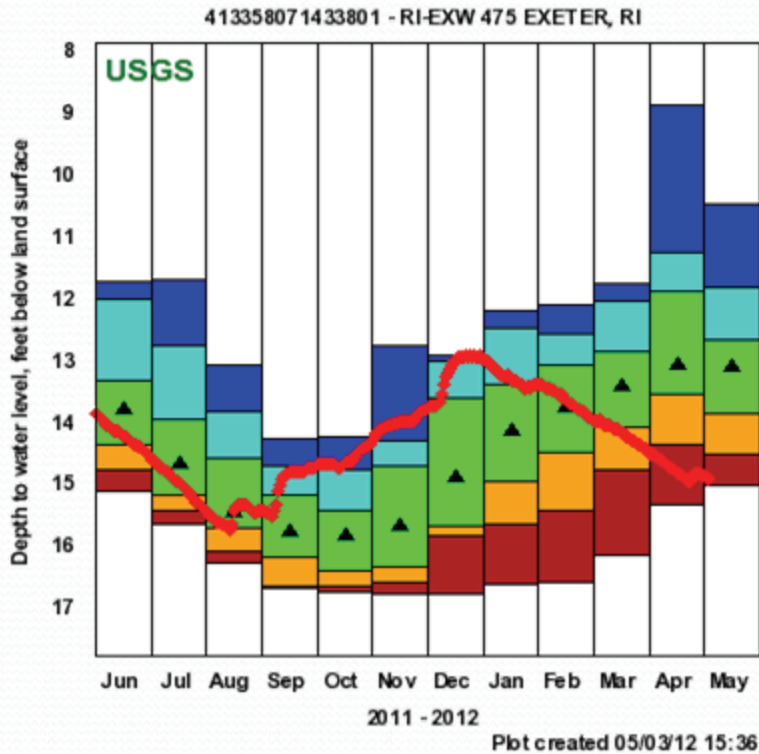


----- Provisional Data Subject to Revision -----

— Median daily statistic (18 years) — Daily mean depth to water level

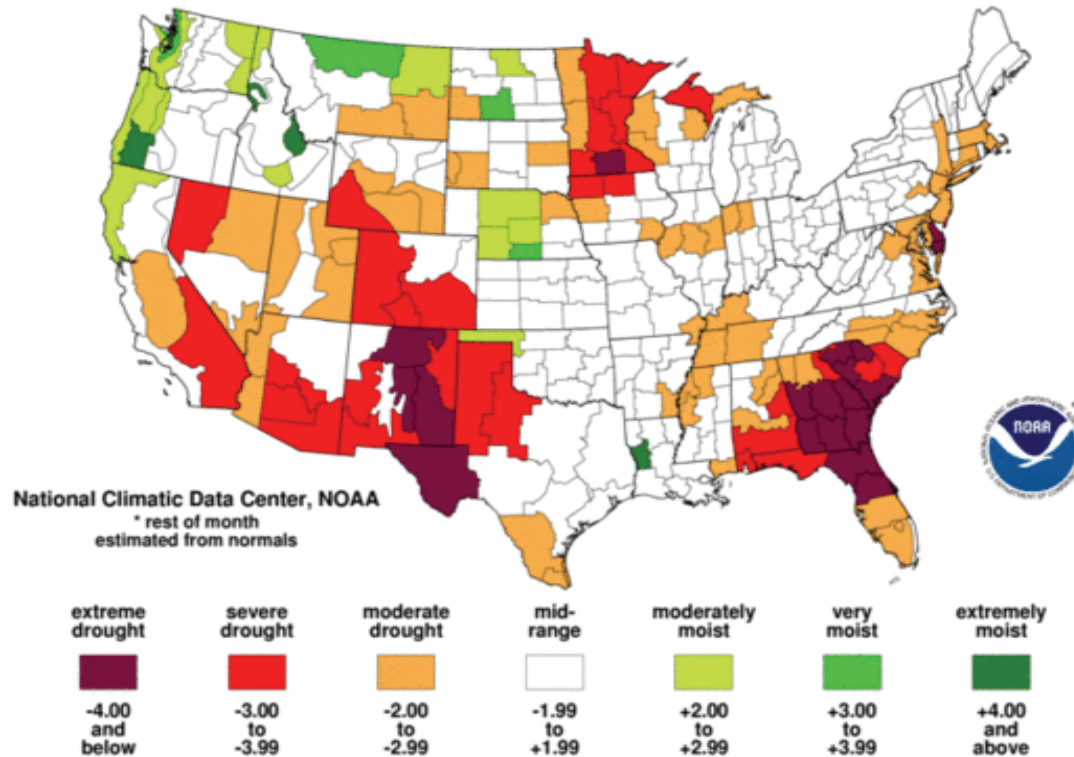


Groundwater



Palmer Drought Index Long-Term (Meteorological) Conditions

April 2012: through April 28, 2012*



**DROUGHT ADVISORY CRITERIA:
-2.0 to -2.99 (moderate drought)**

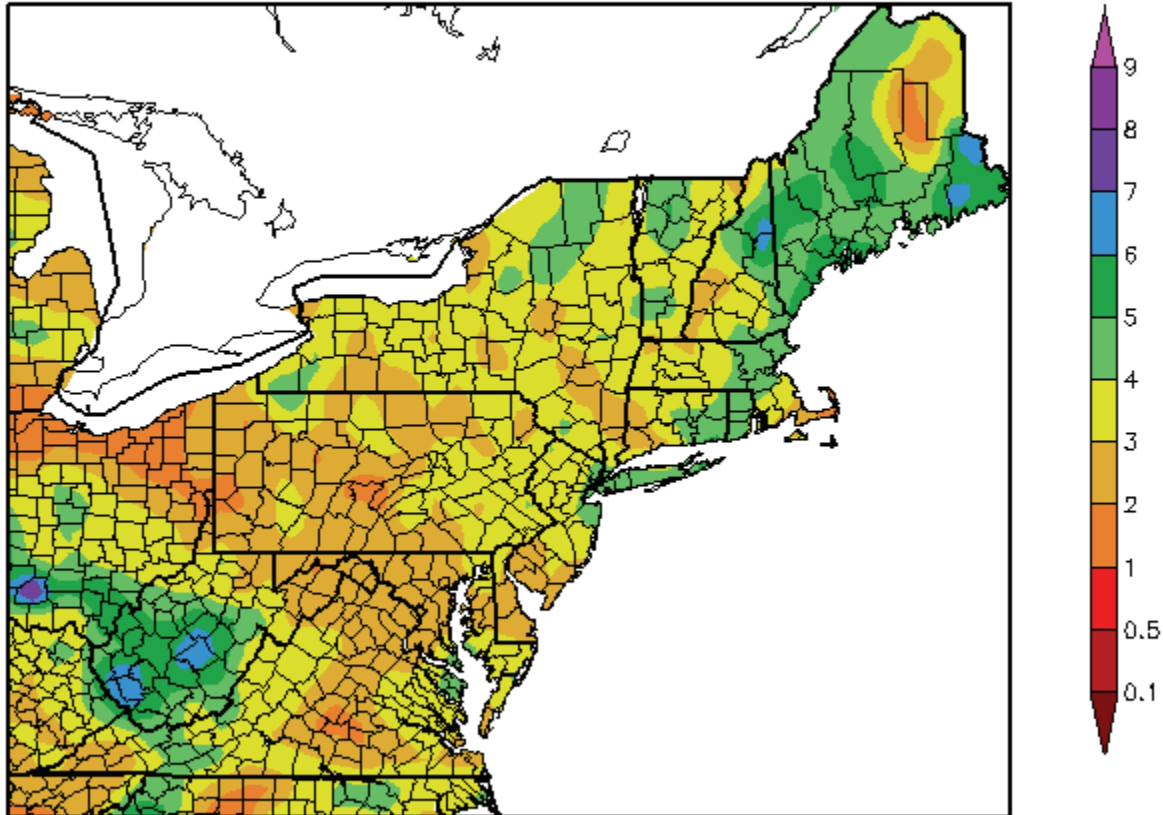
April PDI is Normal (mid-range -1.99-+1.99)

DOES NOT MEET THE DROUGHT ADVISORY CRITERIA



April 7 to May 6 2012 Precipitation

Precipitation (in)
4/7/2012 - 5/6/2012



April 30th through May 6th Total Precipitation

May Precipitation

Providence

Month to date 0.80"

Departure +0.11"

Monthly Normal 3.55"

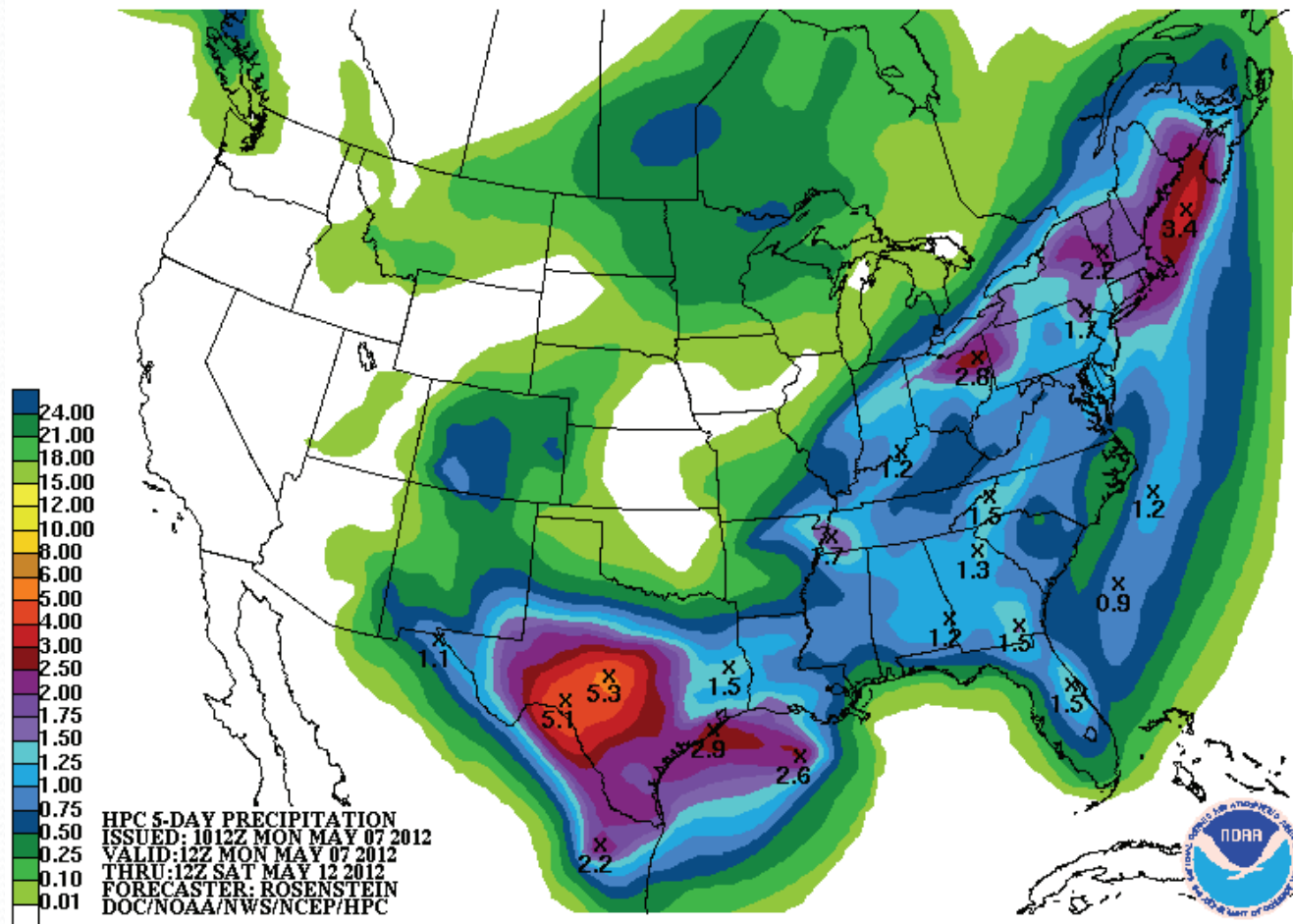
Kingstown

Month to Date 0.90"

Departure +0.12"

Monthly Normal 3.95"

Forecast through May 12th



Showers likely Tuesday through Thursday with heaviest rainfall Tuesday night and Wednesday night.

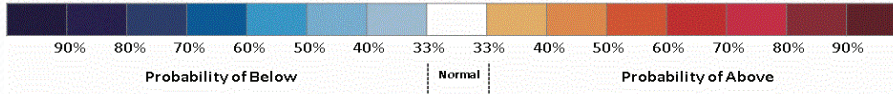
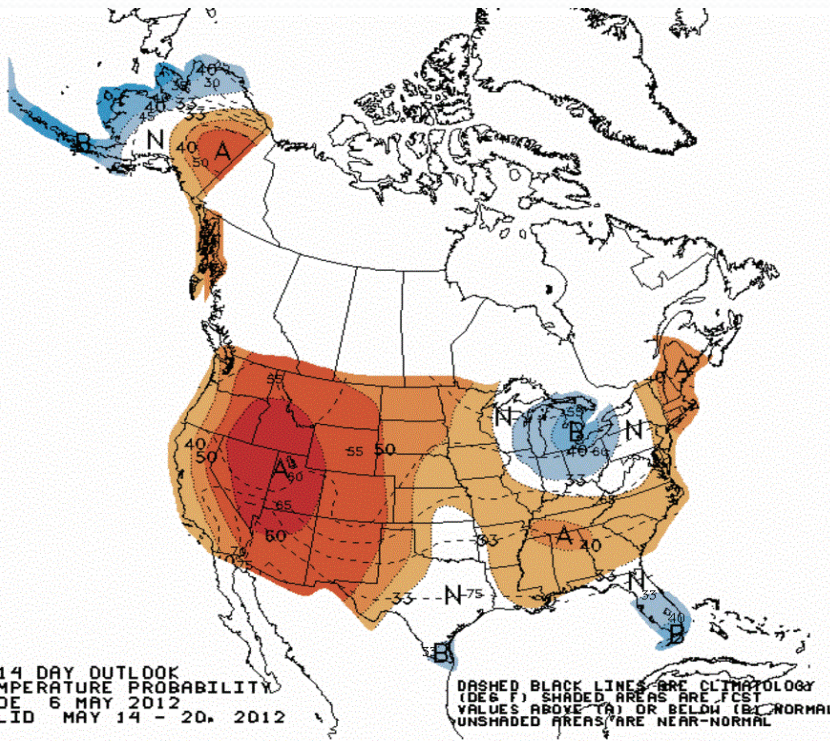
Showers end Thursday morning with high pressure building in from the west.



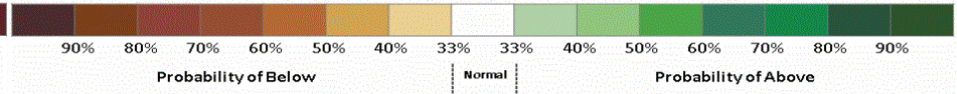
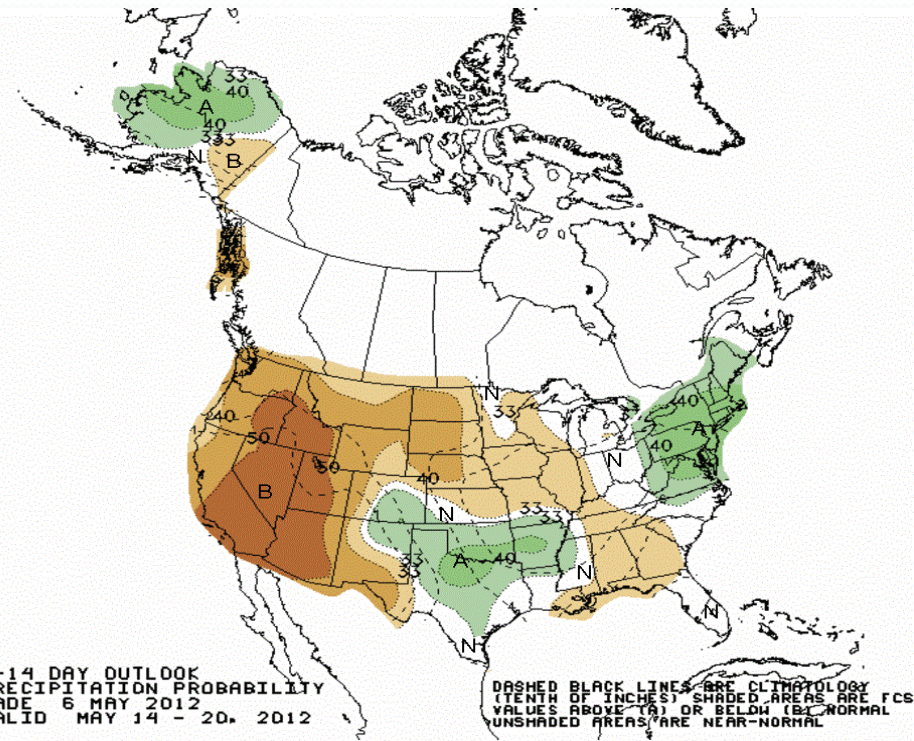
CPC 8-14 Day Outlook

(May 14-20)

Temperature

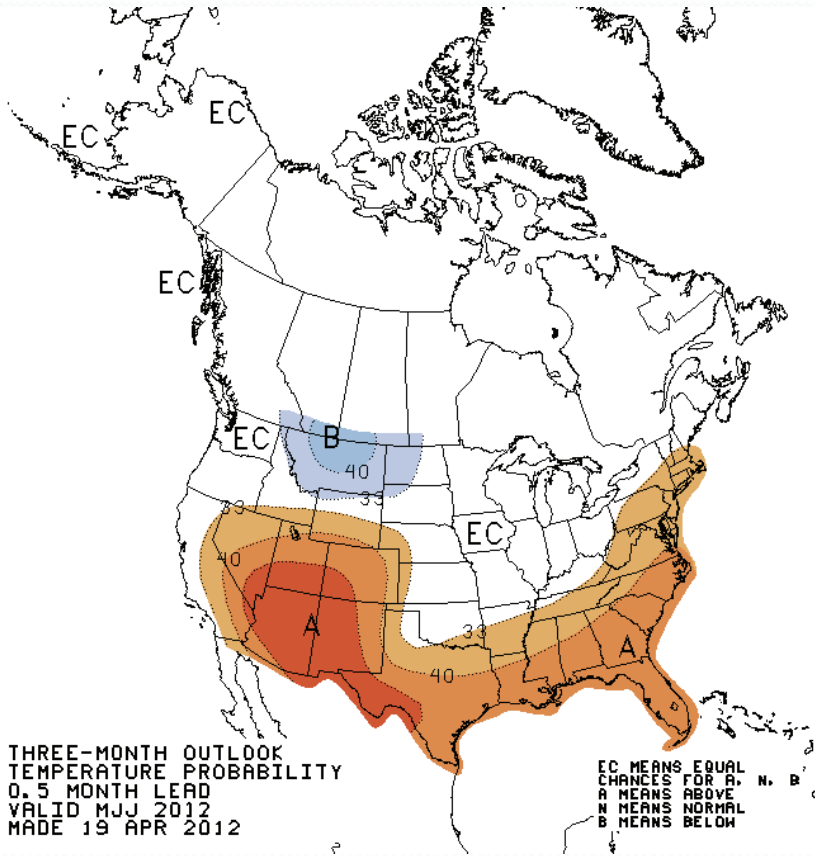


Precipitation

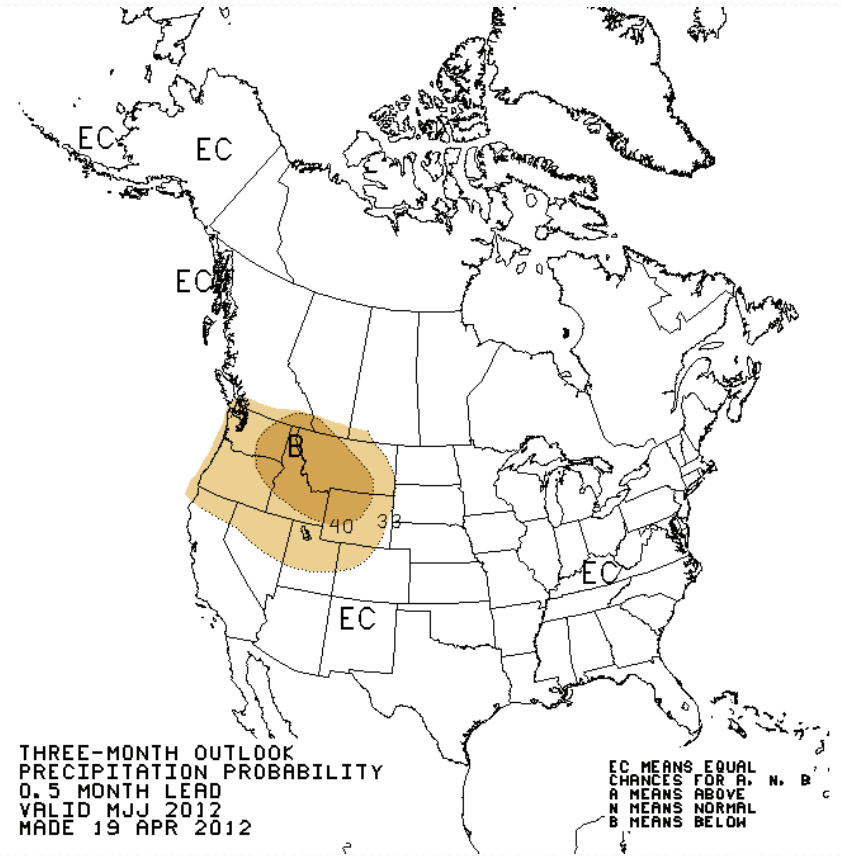


CPC Outlook for May-July

Temperature



Precipitation



Indicators Summary

- Meet 3 of the 4 criteria for a Drought Advisory as of 4/30. 3 of 4 required to issue advisory
- Cooler wetter weather at the end of April into the first week of May brought signs of improvement-only time will tell whether they are permanent
- No advisories as of May 7 in CT or MA but MA is considering Advisories in two regions



Other Indicators And Impacts

WATER SUPPLY

- Surface Water
- Groundwater

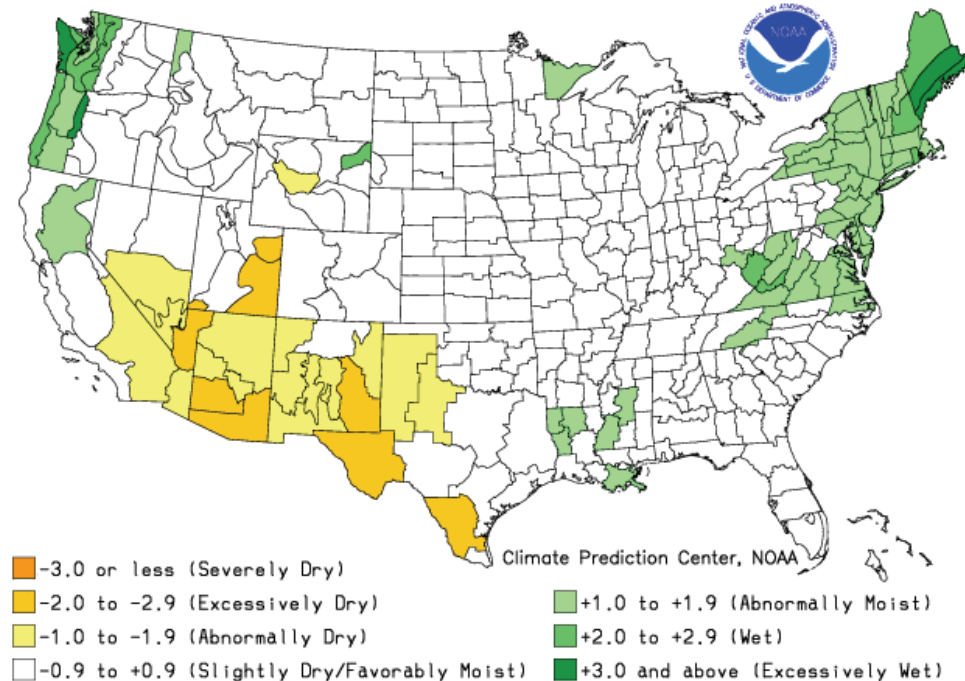
AGRICULTURE

FIRE DANGER

ENVIRONMENT

- Impacts to date
- Future concerns

Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending APR 28, 2012
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile





Francis Carter Dried Basin
Photo from Peter Payton



Toupoysett April 1 2012 Photo by Peter Payton

Drought Level Considerations

- The magnitude of the precipitation deficit
- Streamflow and groundwater have improved slightly overall but remain below normal
- Streamflow and precipitation indices could reach Watch levels by June if May receives below normal precipitation
- Forecasts for temperature and precipitation
- Recent rain and temperatures may indicate improvement-only time will tell
- Public perception



Committee Recommendation

- WRB staff continues to monitor conditions and will provide an update report via email to the Committee in two weeks
- Reconvene the second week of June

