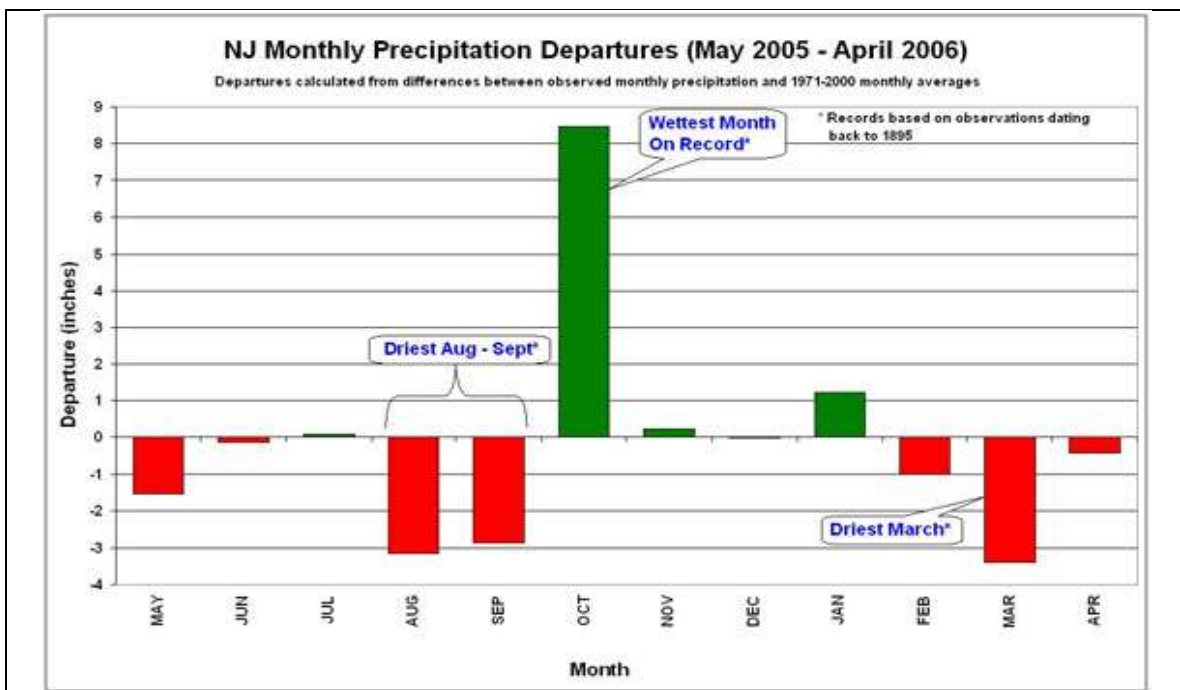


Water Supply Conditions – November 5, 2005

By the end of September 2005, reservoirs, stream flows, and ground water levels were declining sharply following several months of record warmth, below-normal precipitation and above-average water demands. Several weather superlatives contributed to the depletion of water supplies throughout the State: the June-September span was the warmest ever recorded, while August and September combined as both the warmest and driest on record. Graphics illustrating these weather extremes appear below.

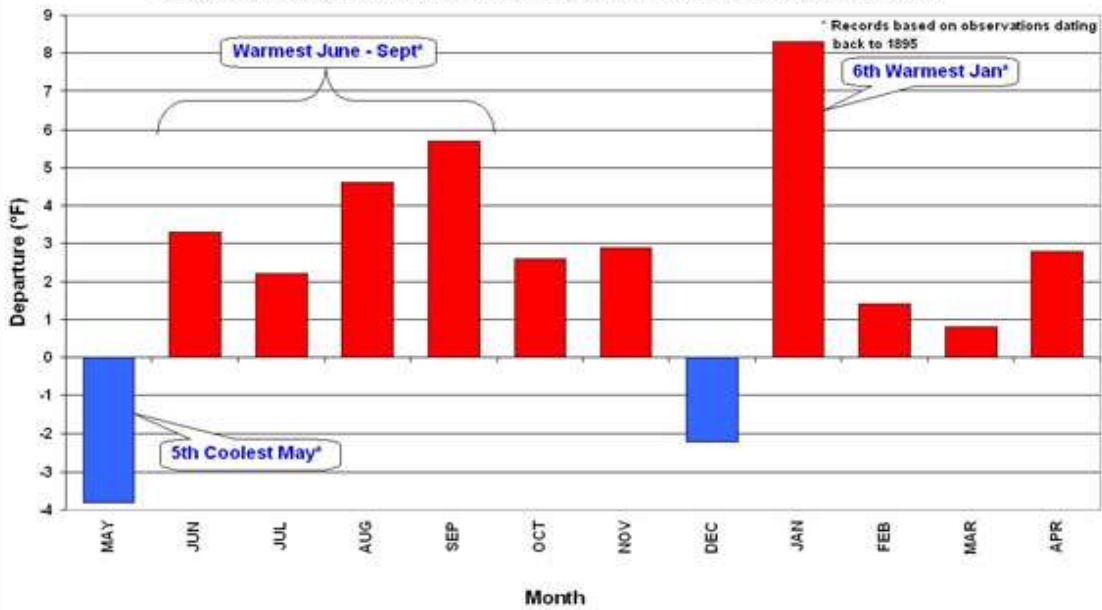
With the prospects of a late season water shortage developing, the Department issued a Drought Watch on September 13, 2005, alerting residents of the need to collectively reduce water usage and urging the cooperation of all users to preserve available supplies. With no relief in sight, staff continued consultations with affected water suppliers to discuss management options, and the likelihood of a Drought Warning designation for at least some drought regions seemed inevitable.

But then a record 11.91 inches of rain fell in an 8-day event in October – the most rainfall ever in a single month in New Jersey (fig. 1) – filling reservoirs, restoring stream flows, and significantly recharging depleted ground water levels. The unprecedented (and certainly unanticipated) rainfall – the result of a rare nor'easter-type coastal front anomaly – allowed for a dramatic recovery of hydrological conditions. A before and after comparison of the water supply indicators summary sheets is included at the end this narrative.



NJ Monthly Temperature Departures (May 2005 - April 2006)

Departures calculated from differences between observed monthly temperatures and 1971-2000 monthly averages



NEW JERSEY Regional Drought Indicators & Declared Drought Status October 5, 2005

Region	Indicator Status	Drought Indicator					Drought Status
		Precipitation	Stream flow	RI res.	Del. R. res.	Ground water	
Northwest	Near or above normal	●	●	●	●	●	Normal
	Moderately dry	●	●	●	●	●	Watch
	Severely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Warning
	Extremely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Emergency
Central	Near or above normal	●	●	●	●	●	Normal
	Moderately dry	●	●	●	●	●	Watch
	Severely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Warning
	Extremely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Emergency
Northeast	Near or above normal	●	●	●	●	●	Normal
	Moderately dry	●	●	●	●	●	Watch
	Severely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Warning
	Extremely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Emergency
Southwest	Near or above normal	●	●	●	●	●	Normal
	Moderately dry	●	●	●	●	●	Watch
	Severely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Warning
	Extremely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Emergency
Coastal North	Near or above normal	●	●	●	●	●	Normal
	Moderately dry	●	●	●	●	●	Watch
	Severely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Warning
	Extremely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Emergency
Coastal South	Near or above normal	●	●	●	●	●	Normal
	Moderately dry	●	●	●	●	●	Watch
	Severely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Warning
	Extremely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Emergency

The number in each colored dot is the number of weeks the specific indicator in that region has been in that status. For indicators which changed status this evaluation cycle the arrow indicates the direction of change, it points from the previous status to the current. A water drop icon indicates the indicator has been green for more than a year.

Subject to revision and update. This shows regional drought indicators for New Jersey. Local water supply conditions may vary. Declared drought status is based on DEP professional judgment of water supply characteristics and drought indicators in each region. Indicators are shown only for those water resources significant for each region.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Bradley M. Campbell, Commissioner

For more information:
www.njdrought.org

NEW JERSEY Regional Drought Indicators & Declared Drought Status November 2, 2005

Region	Indicator Status	Drought Indicator					Drought Status
		Precipitation	Stream flow	RI res.	Del. R. res.	Ground water	
Northwest	Near or above normal	●	●	●	●	●	Normal
	Moderately dry	●	●	●	●	●	Watch
	Severely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Warning
	Extremely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Emergency
Central	Near or above normal	●	●	●	●	●	Normal
	Moderately dry	●	●	●	●	●	Watch
	Severely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Warning
	Extremely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Emergency
Northeast	Near or above normal	●	●	●	●	●	Normal
	Moderately dry	●	●	●	●	●	Watch
	Severely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Warning
	Extremely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Emergency
Southwest	Near or above normal	●	●	●	●	●	Normal
	Moderately dry	●	●	●	●	●	Watch
	Severely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Warning
	Extremely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Emergency
Coastal North	Near or above normal	●	●	●	●	●	Normal
	Moderately dry	●	●	●	●	●	Watch
	Severely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Warning
	Extremely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Emergency
Coastal South	Near or above normal	●	●	●	●	●	Normal
	Moderately dry	●	●	●	●	●	Watch
	Severely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Warning
	Extremely dry	●	●	●	●	●	Emergency

The number in each colored dot is the number of weeks the specific indicator in that region has been in that status. For indicators which changed status this evaluation cycle the arrow indicates the direction of change, it points from the previous status to the current. A water drop icon indicates the indicator has been green for more than a year.

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