

As the Coldwater River basin remains ranked [the driest in B.C.](#) at level four drought ("very dry"), the City of Merritt has enforced a ban on all lawn sprinkling in the city.

As of Aug. 26, Merrittonians will not be permitted to water their lawns until drought conditions improve.

The ban applies whether watering is done through automatic irrigation, controlled sprinklers, or by hand. No exceptions will be issued for lawn watering or car washing.

Vegetable gardens may still be watered once per week using automatic irrigation or controlled sprinklers (Tuesday for odd numbered addresses and Friday for even numbered addresses).

Additionally, vegetables and flowers may be watered by hand as required, so long as a controlled flow nozzle is used.

"This is a drastic step, but one we have to take", said Chief Administrative Officer, Scott Hildebrand. "We've been working closely with the Province regarding water restrictions since July, but the situation in the Coldwater River basin remains dire. The discharge level has halved since the start of August, and we are hovering around the critical environmental flow threshold."

The city is now pulling residential drinking water from the Nicola aquifer as opposed to the Coldwater aquifer, has ceased watering city parks and flower beds, and the Rotary Spray Park is closed as of Aug. 22.



City of Merritt

featured

water restrictions