



Scottish Environment
Protection Agency
Buidheann Dìon
Àrainneachd na h-Alba

Protect your business

Water scarcity in Scotland. Plan ahead

We advise all agricultural abstractors to be aware of the potential risk of water scarcity, and to plan ahead where possible.

- » Understand the risk of water scarcity in your area and to your business.
- » Assess your drought risk by considering:
 - your resilience to dry spells. Think about crop demand, types and requirements, soil type, your abstraction licence volume, storage and groundwater availability.
 - how does water resource availability align with your planting programme.
- » Work out the costs and benefits of irrigation and the value of water to your business. This will help you to plan investments in equipment and infrastructure.
- » Consider if there are more innovative ways of working that would improve your water use efficiency?

The number of extreme drought events is projected to increase from an average of

one every

20 YEARS



to one every

2 YEARS



During dry periods

The summer months are a crucial time of year for water demand. Abstractors and irrigators are advised to manage water wisely to minimise the need for restrictions.

- » Check SEPA's website and regular water scarcity reports so you are aware of the water situation in your area.
- » Regularly check your irrigation equipment to make sure it's in good condition and fix any leaks straight away.
- » Where possible, reduce the volume and rate of your abstractions.
- » Work with neighbours to minimise and stagger abstractions to make best use of available water and minimise the need for restrictions on abstractions.
- » Have a contingency plan if suspensions are put in place:
 - Have you any stored water available?
 - Can you switch to an alternative source, if available within your current authorisation?
 - Can you temporarily switch to ground water?



www.sepa.org.uk/waterscarcity
or search: **SEPA Water Scarcity**

