

## **Lawn-sprinkling restrictions set to take effect in mid-May**

### **Reservoir levels are slightly below average, but higher than last year**

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Metro Vancouver will launch its summer lawn-sprinkling restrictions two weeks earlier this year — on May 15 — but expects it should have an “adequate water supply” to serve the region's population.

The regulations will allow residents to water only three days a week from 4 to 9 a.m., with even numbered addresses sprinkling on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday mornings, and odd-numbered addresses on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday mornings. The restrictions will remain in effect until Oct. 15.

Residents are urged to restrict total Metro water use to 1.2 billion litres daily.

The extended regulations follow a hot, dry summer last year that led to Stage 3 water restrictions and resulted in bans of all lawn sprinkling across the region.

“We really don't want to get to Stage 3 regulations again,” said Darrell Mussatto, mayor of North Vancouver City and chairman of Metro's utilities committee. “I think people, hopefully, are still aware of the challenges we had last year and we can build on that.”

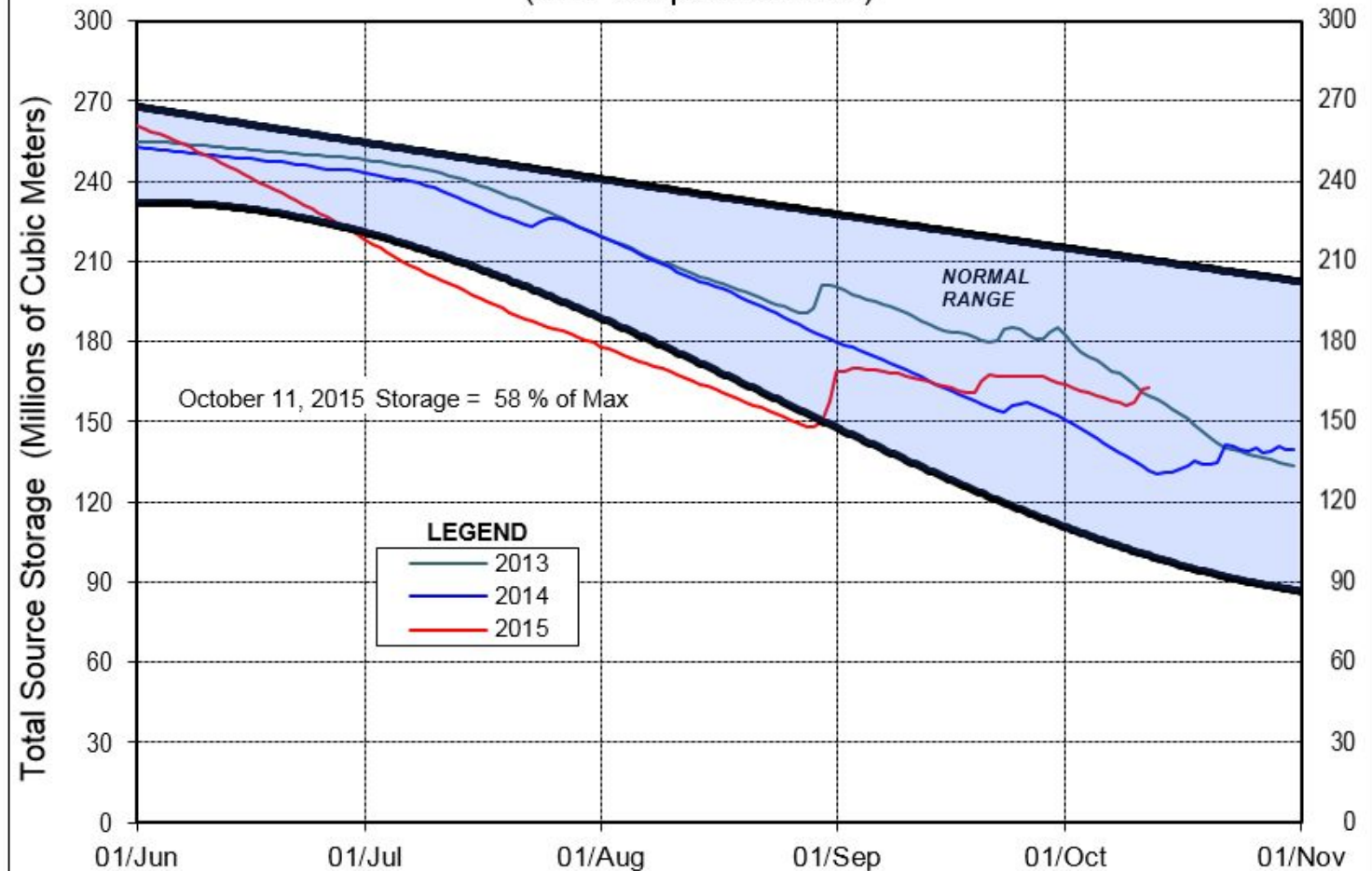
A Metro Vancouver staff report suggested last month that the region will have an adequate supply of water this summer, noting the snowpack in the South Coast Mountains is lower than the historical average, but is well above the record low levels measured last spring ahead of the summer drought. As a result, the region's water reservoir at Seymour is 85 per cent full and Capilano 95 per cent, with both expected to be recharged by mid-May, the report stated. Metro Vancouver has also negotiated with B.C. Hydro to withdraw more water from Coquitlam Lake, the third reservoir, if needed.

**Metro Vancouver usually asks B.C. Hydro to set aside a specific amount of water each year. In 2014, it was 50 billion litres, worth \$630,000, while last year it requested 68.2 billion litres, which would cost \$862,000.**

At this time last year, Metro also said it was equipped for the summer, despite a 13 per cent lower snowpack, before water use across the region rose to about 33.5 billion litres in May — 15 per cent higher than the same period in 2014 — and a lack of rain prompted more stringent water restrictions.

**Note: The attached figure below shows that even the worst low rainfall on record still left some 58% of water capacity in our reservoirs. The severe water restrictions of last summer resulted in untold damages to the public - not the least of which was the damage caused to our residential lawns. - cjk**

# Total Storage For Metro Vancouver Usage (Incl. Coquitlam Lake)



Data subject to change based upon confirmatory analysis and new data.

**THIS IS THE LAST POSTING FOR THE 2015 SUMMER SEASON**