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Rain is no match for drought

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JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

A woman carried an umbrella as light rain fell Monday in Downtown Crossing.

By Matt Rocheleau

GLOBE STAFF SEPTEMBER 20, 2016

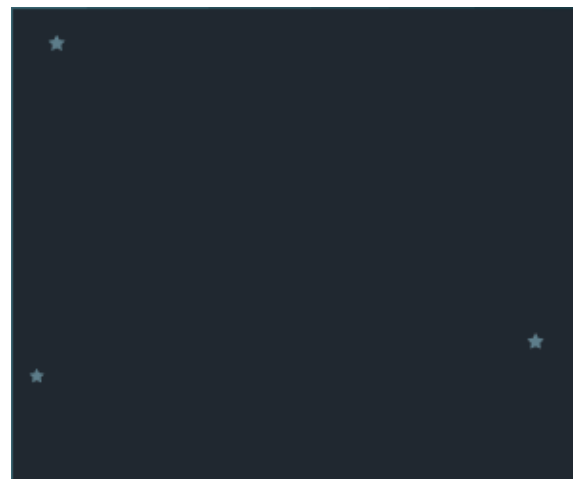
Sorry to drought on your parade, but the soggy start to the week will do little to get us out of this

[current dry spell](#), experts say.

Less than a quarter-inch of rain had fallen in Boston as of about 3 p.m. Monday, according to official measurements at Logan International Airport.

“It’s not really going to help much,” said Lenore Correia, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Taunton.

Boston remains nearly 10 inches shy of normal precipitation for this time of year.



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“Anything will help, but in order to be normal again, we’d need to make up those 10 inches, and preferably over a long period of time, or else there would be flooding and the soil wouldn’t have time to absorb it,” Correia said.

Other areas of the state got more rain Monday.

Orange had 2.34 inches as of midafternoon, while Worcester had about 1.9 inches, Correia said. Even so, those areas remain significantly below normal for the year.



Boston and many of its immediate suburbs received much lower rainfall totals.

“Unfortunately, Boston was almost completely missed on

this one,” she said.

What’s more, “This is probably going to be the most helpful rain we’re going to see for a while,” she said.

Correia said forecasters don’t expect a rainier day than Monday for at least the next week.

“There will be some rain, but the chances for rain are so small at this point, so there’s only a really small chance of it actually being helpful,” she said.

Forecasters [have said](#) they expect precipitation levels to remain below-average to average, at best, through November.

Jonathan Yeo, director of water supply protection for the state Department of Conservation and Recreation, said the region needs more consistent, longer-duration rain.


“The rain we’re having right now — it will help,” he said Monday morning. “But for the most part even when we see short, heavy rainstorms, it’s had little to no real impact.”

“Much of the water at this point is evaporating or going into a stream or being taken up by plants and trees,” said Yeo. “Any rain helps, but we need longer, steadier rainfall than occasional downpours.”

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