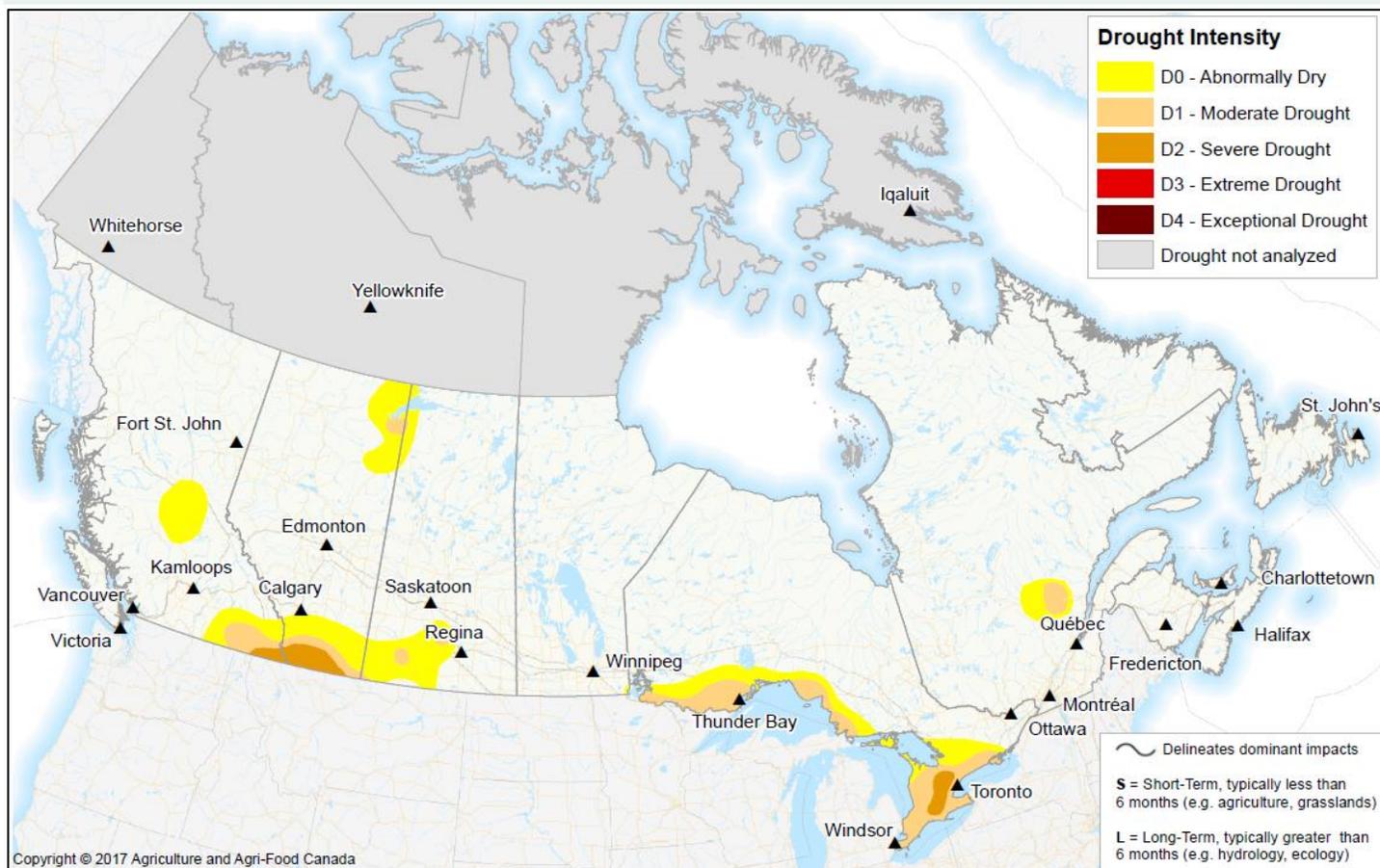


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of July 31, 2007



Extreme heat and below-average precipitation were typical for most of the country in July. As a result, crops across the Prairies showed signs of heat stress, and dugouts and soil moisture reserves began to dry up. Because of the July conditions, an emerging drought condition appeared across southern Alberta and Saskatchewan. Dry areas in the west also included the central interior of British Columbia, northeastern Alberta, and northwestern Saskatchewan. In the east, higher-than-normal temperatures and limited rainfall saw most of southern Ontario and the Lac-St Jean region north of Québec City decline further. Low Water Advisories have been issued encouraging voluntary water rationing in southern Ontario and crops were also beginning to show signs of heat stress.

Pacific Region (BC)



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After a cool, rainy spring, temperatures became more seasonable and several communities even hit record highs. All High Stream Flow Advisories have been lifted but most streams continued to have above normal flows. The exception occurs in the central interior where stream flows in the Nicola and Moyie Rivers and inflows to Okanagan Lake were between 55 and 67% of normal for the April-to-July period. Thus, the area has been classified as abnormally dry (D0). Although stream flow levels have been low for this region, no water supply concerns exist at this time. For the D0-D3 area in the southeast, growing-season rainfall ranged from “Low” (20-40% of the historical normal) to “Extremely Low” (10-20% of the historical normal) over the last four months.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

While the July heat wave in Alberta was needed for advancing development of this spring’s late-seeded crops, heat stress now has quickly threatened to lower yield expectations in some areas. Despite the late start and excessive heat, the majority of crops across the province are mostly in good condition because of high humidity. An exception is the extreme south (south of Lethbridge), where less than 10mm of rain has fallen in the last 30 days, and numerous forest fires have been reported. As a result of the below-average precipitation, low soil moisture reserves, and extreme fire risk, this area has been classified between a D0 and a D2. Another area of concern remains in the extreme northeast where less than 70% of normal precipitation has been reported over the last three months. This area has been given a D0 and D1 designation. As for the northern Peace parkland area in the northwest, previously identified as abnormally dry, 50-60mm of rainfall has been received over the last month.

Recent hot, dry weather has lowered crop yield estimates to about average. Topsoil moisture has been deteriorating in southern areas, with less than 40% of reporters rating topsoil moisture as adequate. In the southwest, pastures were in poor shape or were drying up because less than 25mm of rain was reported since July 1. All these factors have resulted in a D0-D1 drought classification for this region. Rainfall has occurred from localized convective storms and has been variable, so crops have started to show signs of drought stress in parts of the province.

Like much of the Prairies, hot weather prevailed across Manitoba, along with variable rainfall. Generally, crops have developed well but have been experiencing heat stress, particularly in southwest Manitoba where moisture is needed to allow development to finish. In this area, dugout levels have dropped to 50-60% of capacity. This contrasts to central parts of the province where some fields are still waterlogged.

Central Region (ON, QC)

For much of Ontario, moisture stress impacts on crops have been quite variable because localized thunderstorms have provided rain to some areas. With higher-than-normal temperatures throughout much of July, corn and field crops planted earlier in the growing season in better-drained soils have developed well, but later-planted crops and ones in poorer soils have been affected by heat stress and lack of moisture. Because of the lack of rainfall, stream flows in southern Ontario have been below average this summer. For the area classified as a D0-D2, growing season rainfall ranged from “Low” (20-40% of the historical normal) to “Record Dry” (10% of the historical normal) over the last four months. Also within this area, The Ministry of Natural Resources has issued Level I Low Water Advisories for most counties (10% voluntary reduction in water use). A Level II Low Water Advisory (20% voluntary reduction in water use) has been issued for the Grand River watershed in the Long Point Region Conservation Authority. Northwest Ontario remains as a D0-D1 classification, as some stream flows have been at less than 70% of normal and resulting in a Level 1 Low Water Advisory in the Fort Frances and Lakehead areas.

Growing conditions have generally been good and crops have developed well. Insect infestations, particularly the soybean aphid and armyworms, have been causing some concern and are being monitored. The Lac-St. Jean area, north of Quebec City, has still been very dry and thus remains classified in a D0-D1 drought condition.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

Although the region has experienced variable precipitation and slightly above-average temperatures, generally crops have developed well.