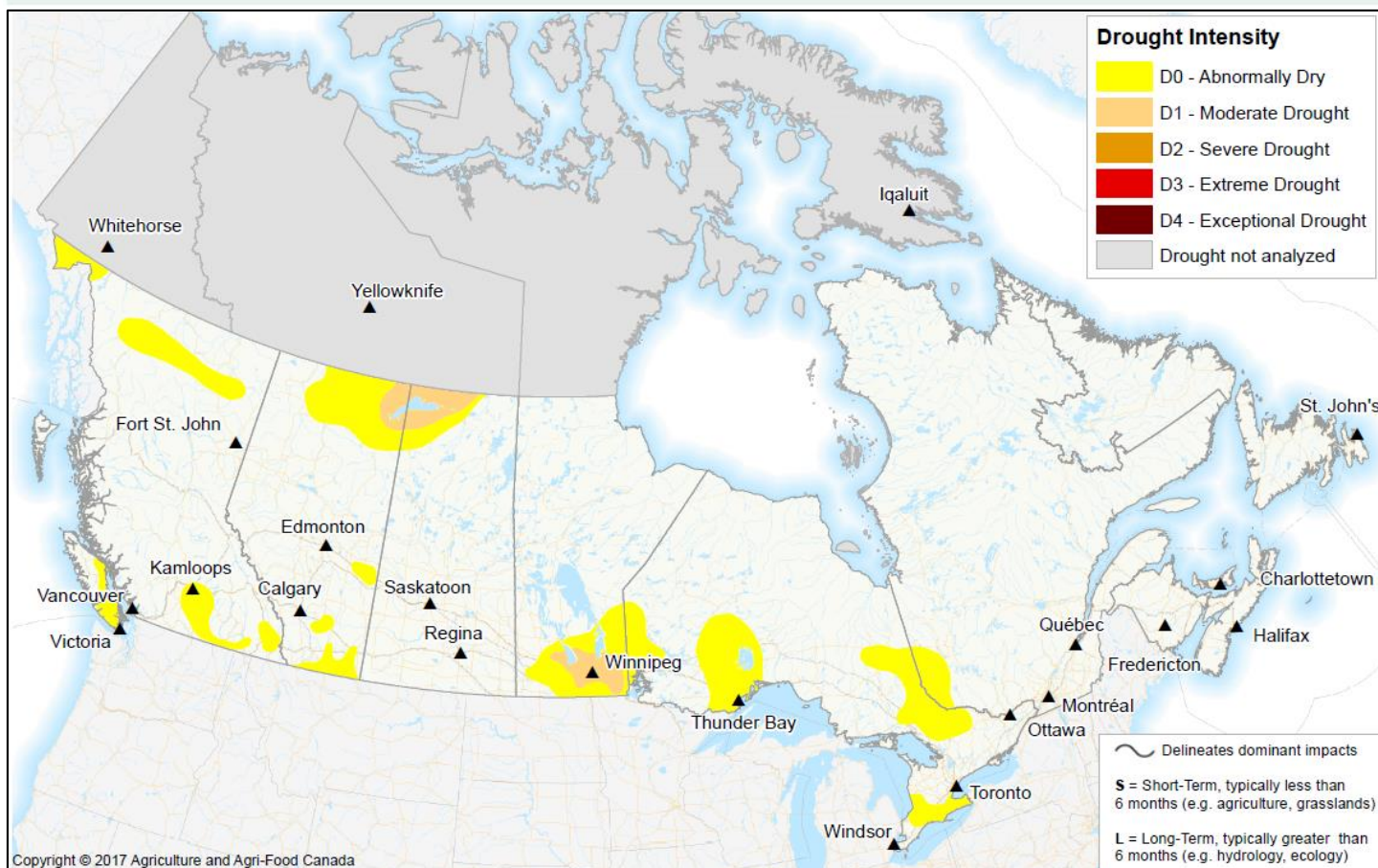


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of August 31, 2011



At the end of August, warmer than normal temperatures and reduced precipitation brought drought conditions to southern agricultural regions of the Prairies. Following the driest July on record for the region, precipitation in August remained well below normal in Eastern Manitoba. However, average to above-average rainfall alleviated drought conditions in southern Ontario and across the northern Boreal region of Western Canada. There were no concerns for drought in Eastern Canada, where preparations for hurricane season were underway.

Pacific Region (BC)

In British Columbia, parts of the southern interior near the U.S. border and the southern region of Vancouver Island reported less than 70% of normal rainfall over the past three months, and



were designated D0. Fire bans were put in place in the interior region, but no water use restrictions were expected unless the dry conditions persist. Stream flows were still average or above average as high elevation snow packs continued to melt. Snow accumulation in the mountains was higher than normal this past winter.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Although conditions improved over the past month, D1 (Moderate Drought) remained in the Lake Athabasca region of northern Alberta and Saskatchewan. Stations in the area have received 60% of average precipitation since April 1, or about 72 mm (2.8 in) less, where normally 190mm (7.5 in) is expected. This below-average rainfall has kept forest fire potential high all season, although the number of fires and amount of area burned was about half of the ten-year average in Saskatchewan, and to the end of the month, fire activity was generally low. August was also quiet for fire activity in Alberta, a welcome respite from one of the busiest on record. To date, the amount of area burned has topped the ten-year average about seven times over. Additional areas in northwest and east-central Alberta were classified Abnormally Dry (D0) because of less than average rainfall.

August brought above-normal temperatures to many regions of the country, most notably across the Prairies, where the heat moved crops along ahead of harvest. However, high heat and low humidity stressed crops in many areas. This was especially true for Eastern Manitoba, which, following an exceptionally wet spring season from April to June, was hot and dry throughout July and August. Early harvested canola yields were of average to below-average quality, with additional losses expected in later seeded and longer seasoned crops including soybeans, corn, and sunflowers. The second cut hay yield was also expected to be low because of the lack of rainfall in August, and pastures were rated in poor condition. Rainfall at Winnipeg was 97% of normal from April 1 to June 30, but by August 30 fell to 64%. The month of July was declared to be the driest at Winnipeg since records began in 1872. As a result of the rapid change, the region was classified D1 (Moderate Drought) around Winnipeg and its surrounding area, and D0 (Abnormally Dry) across the rest of the eastern Manitoba region. Fire bans were instituted in early August and though a number of fires spread through the region they were quickly controlled. Apart from the eastern region, fire activity for the season has been generally low in the province.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Just across the border, a large portion of northwest Ontario was classified D0 because of continued dry conditions. The fire season there has been very active; by the end of August the number of fires was near the ten-year average, but the area burned was more than ten times that. Fire bans remained in place across the northwest, and a number of firefighting units were mobilized from other provinces to help out. Abnormally dry conditions also emerged in the Timmins and North Bay areas of northeast Ontario where rainfall has been less than 70% of normal over the past three months—a shortfall of 75-100 mm, or 3-4 inches.

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