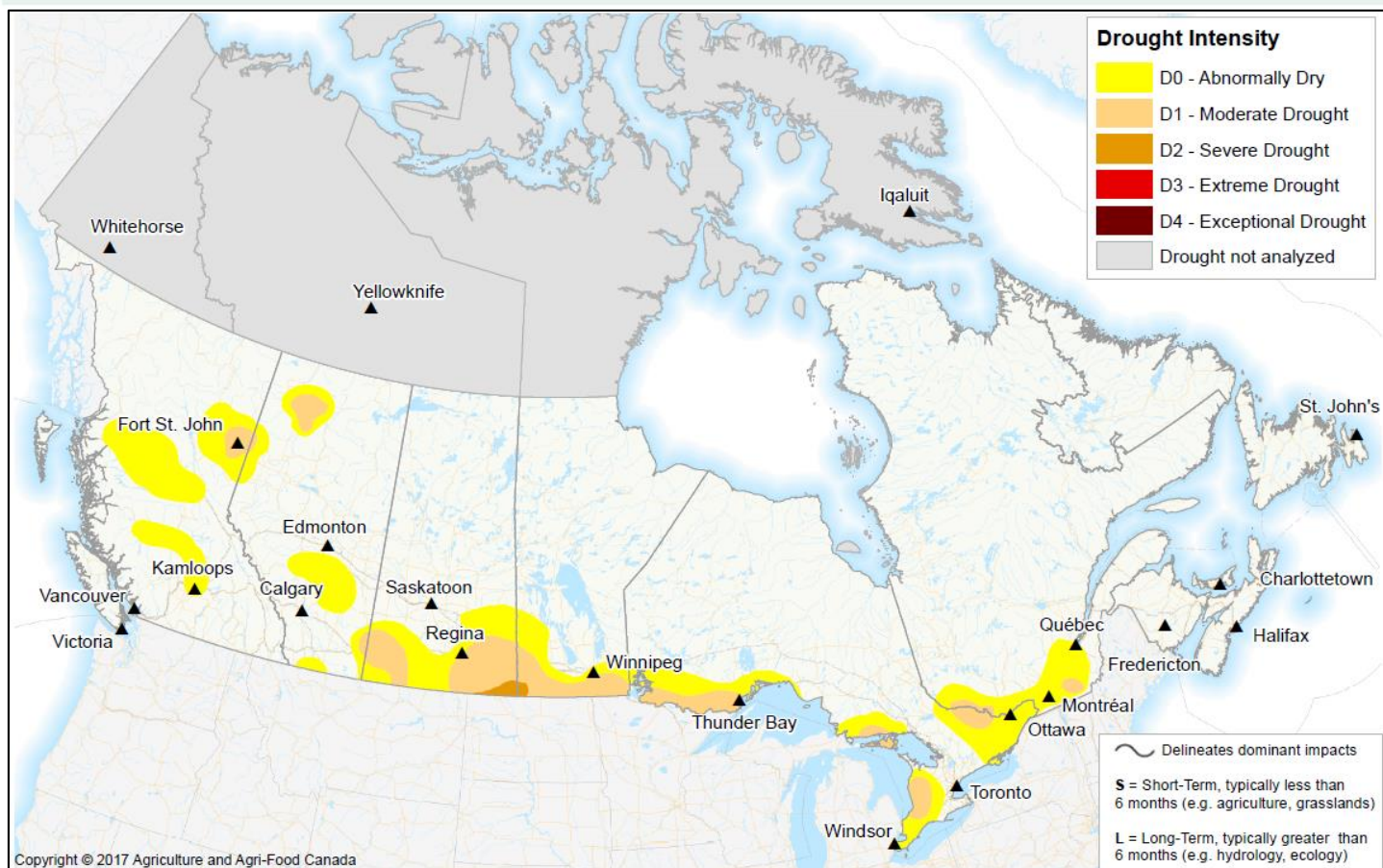


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of October 31, 2012



In October, drought conditions across western Canada worsened because rainfall was persistently below normal. Central regions in Ontario and Quebec received above-normal rainfall, which reduced drought conditions there. The Atlantic region was impacted by the remnants of tropical storms. As a result, drought intensified in the west, and improved in the east. Average temperatures ranged from normal to well above normal throughout the country.

Pacific Region (BC)

Drought continued across the Peace River region of northeast British Columbia and northwest Alberta, areas classified as Moderate Drought (D1). Since April 1, areas on the Alberta side were short over 120 mm (4.5 inches) of precipitation until October, which brought more than 80 mm of precipitation to some areas. Annual crops fared well with some timely rainfall, but long-term



impacts to forage and pasture were a concern. Low stream flow advisories ended and in some southwest areas high flow advisories were in effect. Crop yields were slightly below average as a result of the dry growing conditions. On the British Columbia side, precipitation was above or near normal during October, and median stream flow increased.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Drought worsened in Western Canada. In Alberta, October was cool and wet which helped recharge soil moisture reserves throughout the province. Soil moisture reserves continued to be low from southwestern Saskatchewan to southeastern Manitoba so much of this area was classified D1. Areas south of Winnipeg have improved somewhat from D2 to D1 thanks to a large snow storm that passed through mid-month. However, long term issues remained: approximately 40% of on-farm water supplies were much lower than normal in the southeast area. Supplemental feeding on pasture began in mid-September, and hay supplies across the region are tight going into the winter.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Extreme Drought (D3) and Severe Drought (D2) conditions completely diminished in southern Ontario in areas southwest of Toronto and east of Lake Huron due to localized heavy rainfall from post-tropical storm Sandy. The storm caused issues with the remaining corn harvest but yield loss should be minimal. The high rainfall at the end of the month helped reduce the large precipitation deficit from April 1 to October 31, and will help recharge lakes and reservoirs which range from below average to record low levels. However, the drought continued to impact many sectors of local agricultural production: hay yields for the growing season were down 30-50% of normal, and hay will continue to be shipped into Ontario from the west to supplement the low production; dry conditions also limited pollination, which reduced fruit yields, and lowered honey production; and additional water pumping and storage required to mitigate drought conditions also drove up production costs.

West of Ottawa, rainfall was a mere one-third of normal from May to July. In September however, the rain returned, delivering more than 200% of normal; that helped bring the drought intensity rating down to D2 (Severe Drought). Additional rainfall from posttropical storm Sandy further reduced the drought rating and by month's end the area was rated D1 (Moderate Drought) thanks to steady but not extreme rainfall. The rainfall greened up pastures temporarily, but benefit was limited because it arrived so late in the season. Through precipitation levels increased, it will take some time for full recovery. Hay was difficult to produce and shortages were widespread throughout Ontario's primary cattle region, and prices have increased two to three times the norm. Feed normally reserved for winter was being distributed in mid-September. Despite recent heavy rainfall, river flows remained down to less than 30% of normal across the drought areas.

Drought conditions diminished in much of southwest Quebec in October. Average rainfall helped improve moisture levels across the province but missed some areas. Much of the region is short over 125 mm (5 inches) since April 1. While rainfall was above average throughout the Great Lakes basin, water levels on all lakes remained lower than normal in October. Lakes Michigan and Huron were 710 mm (28 inches) below normal, with levels forecast to be near record lows through November to April of next year. Lakes Erie and Ontario were 230 and 280 mm (9 and 11 inches) lower than average, respectively. Boaters on all lakes were warned of potential navigation problems because of the low lake levels.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

In Atlantic Canada, flooding occurred due to post-tropical storm Sandy. As a result, all drought regions were eliminated because of excessive rainfall brought to the region by Sandy and other tropical storms that moved northward. Up to 200 mm (8 inches) of precipitation was received in October, which caused localized flooding and resultant property damage for many in western and eastern Nova Scotia. Rainfall for Newfoundland during October was 10-60 mm above normal. Despite the rainfall, impacts from the drought conditions this past summer continued in the form of increased poultry prices due to higher feed corn costs, and increased feed costs continued to hamper pork producers