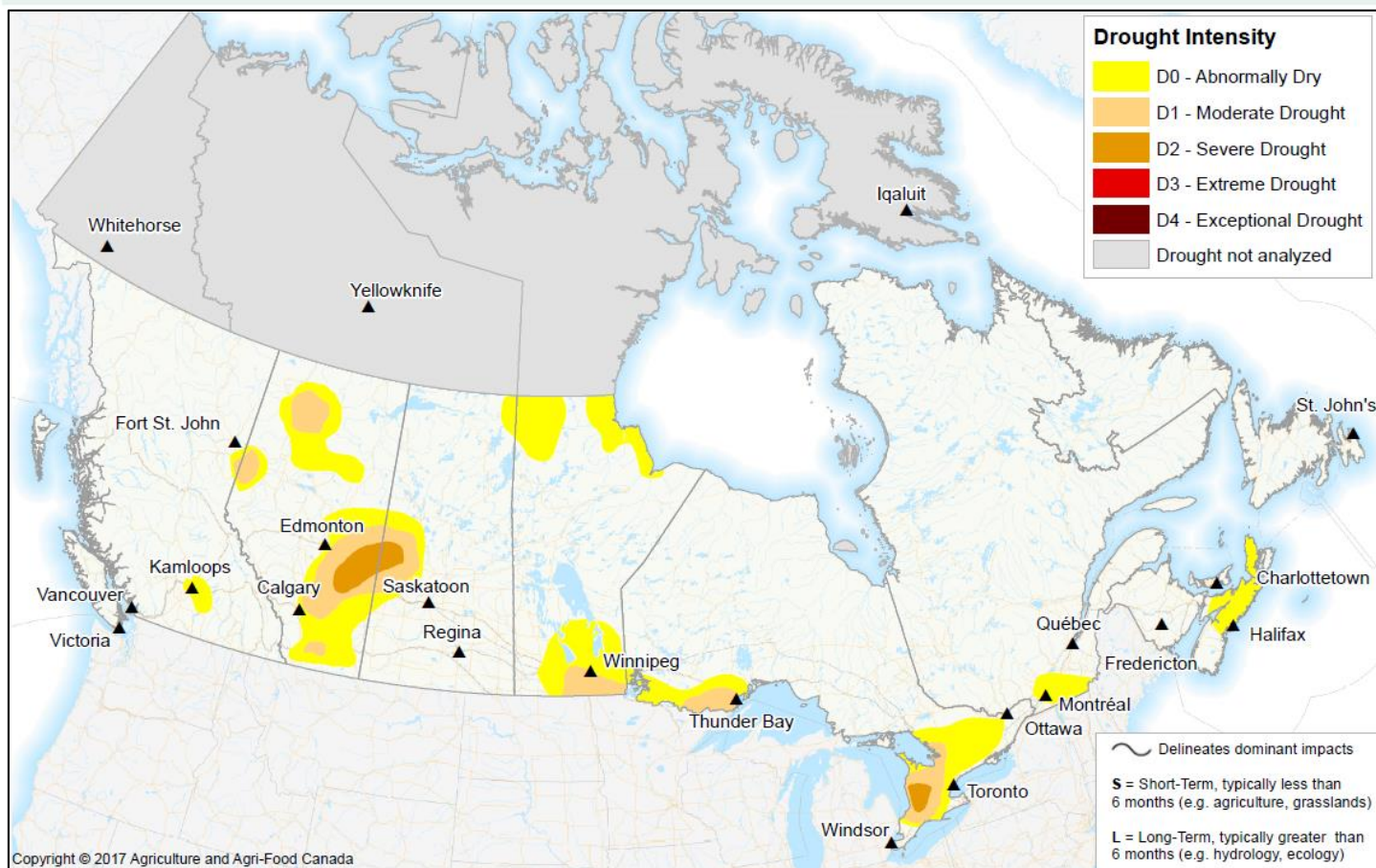


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of April 30, 2012



Drought continued unabated across Southern Ontario where rainfall was well below normal. While in the conditions in western Canada improved thanks to the timely arrival of much needed moisture. A significant area of Southern Ontario's high value agricultural remained in Severe Drought and led to low water advisories in many areas. Drought also persisted in central Alberta, northwestern Saskatchewan and southern Manitoba. Temperatures in April were near normal for most regions of the country, with only Manitoba and the Atlantic region slightly warmer than normal. following on one of the warmest winters on record For the month ahead temperatures are forecast to be above normal across most of Canada. The May to July precipitation forecast from Environment Canada show high probability of below normal precipitation throughout British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Southern Ontario. High heat and low rainfall could exacerbate the drought conditions in currently dry regions.



Pacific Region (BC)

In central British Columbia rainfall was better than expected improving conditions significantly. Many of the areas drought classifications were removed as soil moisture and water supplies are adequate. High elevations snow packs were also above normal which led to some concern for localized flooding, and should keep rivers running near normal through the summer months.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Severe drought remained in east-central Alberta and west-central Saskatchewan; however this region has decreased in severity and extent throughout the month with significant rains. A number of spring storms brought 50-75 mm (2-3 in) of rain and snow to this region. This helped fill dugouts and replenish soil moisture reserves ahead of spring seeding. A large area designated D2 (Severe Drought) and D1 (Moderate Drought) remained where precipitation has been 40-60% of normal since September 2011. This may impact crop seeding intentions, while longer term impacts continued to influence the production of perennial forage and pastures.

The Peace River region of northwest Alberta also remained in drought, though with some improvement. Over the past month approximately 15-50 mm (0.6-2.0 in) of rain/snow was received which helped address moisture shortages. However since September 2011 a deficit of over 75 mm (3 in) remains so the drought classifications remained. The region had a respite from its multi-year drought last summer when rainfall was above normal, but long term impacts continue and more severe drought conditions could develop without more spring rainfall.

In southern Manitoba April precipitation helped increase soil moisture levels and water supply dugouts are close to full in most areas. However some areas west of Winnipeg still reported low water supplies and most stream flows remained well below normal across the southern area. Over the past six months the area is short more than 60 mm (2.3 in), so the D1 classification continued. In the eastern region low lake water levels were reported, and about 50% of dugouts were at inadequate levels to meet livestock requirements. Grass fire risk also remained high.

Central Region (ON, QC)

April precipitation was much below normal across southern Ontario. Over the past three months rainfall has been about 50% of normal, with some regions showing a deficit of more than 120mm. Record warmth in March put field operations ahead of normal, but coupled with continued dryness and cooler temperatures in April could place some early planted crops at risk. The cool and dry conditions also slowed pasture grass development. The D1 (Moderate Drought) classification continued in southern Ontario where precipitation has been very sparse since September 2011. In the driest region the classification was changed to a D2 (Severe Drought)

to reflect the severity of the lack of precipitation and the impacts to agriculture. Northwest Ontario remained in long term drought (D1). Local Conservation Authorities across the north and south regions maintained their Level 1 Low Water Condition advisories. In the absence of additional rainfall the more severe Level 2 is likely to be declared next month.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

The Atlantic region saw some improvement to dry regions of New Brunswick where over 100 mm (4 in) of precipitation was received in April. Dry conditions continued in Nova Scotia however, though impacts to date were minimal.