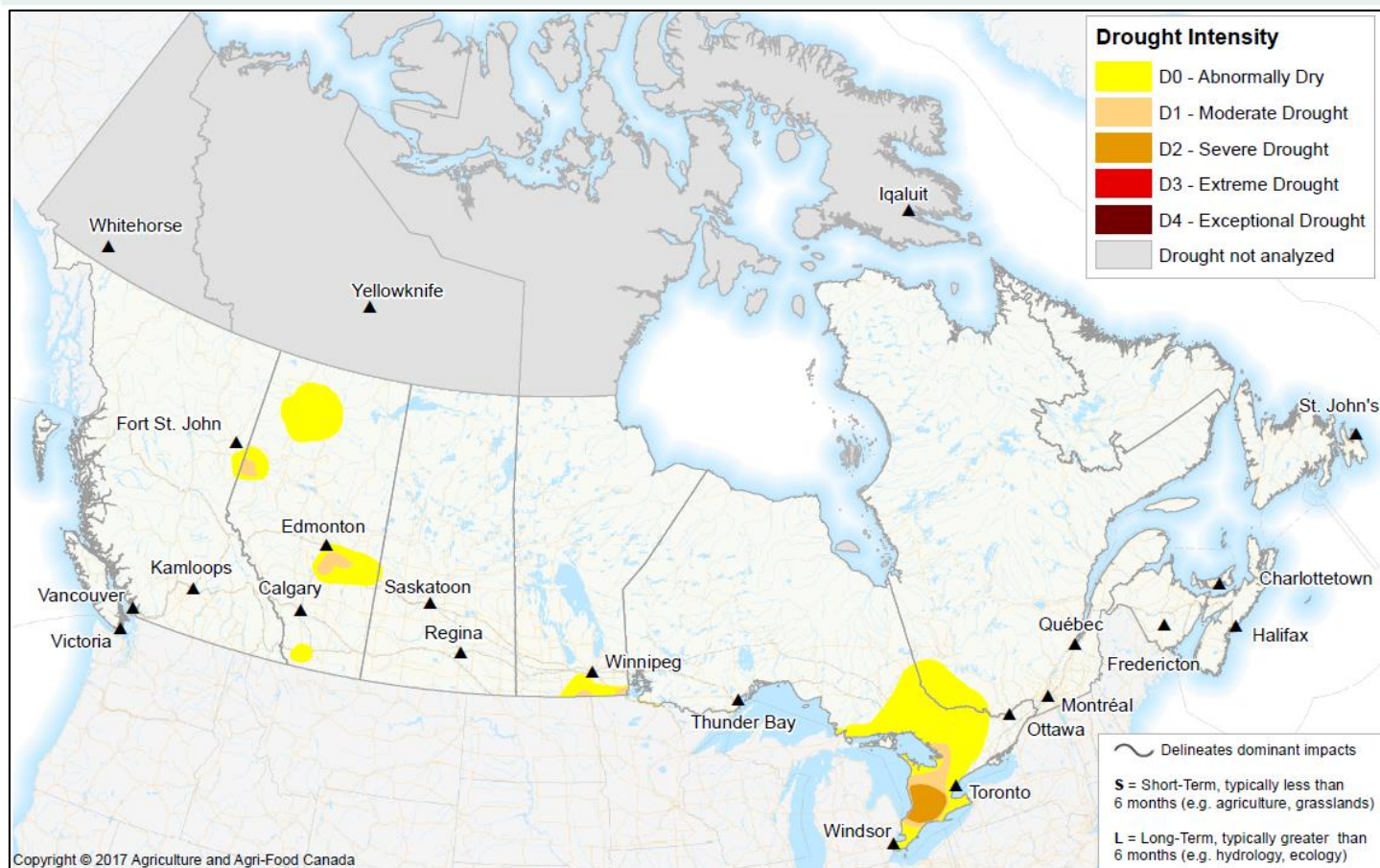


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of May 31, 2012



In May, conditions were generally wet in the west and extremely dry in the east. High precipitation accumulation across the prairie region alleviated drought, while minimal rainfall and above normal temperatures increased drought severity across southern Ontario. The forecast for the coming month calls for above-normal temperatures across much of the southern region of Canada. Precipitation is forecast to be below-normal except for the Atlantic region. High heat and low rainfall could exacerbate the drought conditions in currently dry regions

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)



On the prairies, May precipitation ranged from 10 mm to over 60 mm (0.6-2.4 in) above normal in a wide swath from eastern Alberta to south-central Manitoba. The highest accumulations were in central Saskatchewan where more than 110 mm (4.3 in) were received. Previous drought classifications in east-central Alberta and west-central Saskatchewan were downgraded accordingly. One small area just south of Edmonton remains in Moderate Drought (D1) where the May storms did not bring much moisture.

Over the past six months less than 70% of normal precipitation in this area has been received. Moderate Drought (D1) also persisted in the Peace River region of northwest Alberta. Since September 2011, parts of the region are short over 80 mm (3.2 in) of precipitation. Perennial forage and pasture in these areas continue to be affected over the long term.

Drought conditions improved in Manitoba where 30-40 mm (1.1-1.5 in) above average was received. However, the additional precipitation missed places nearest the US border, so a much reduced D1 classification remains. In the eastern region, producers who were concerned about low water supplies indicated that they are adequate for the short term where substantial rainfall was received. This recovery could be short-lived though if conditions turn hot and dry over the next one to two months.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Severe Drought (D2) continued to impact southern Ontario. Rainfall was less than 60% of normal across the region, with only 10-50 mm (0.6-2.0 in) received. Since September 2011, some places have a precipitation deficit of over 240 mm (9.4 in). Temperatures in May were well above normal with many places setting new record highs over the weekend of May 25-27. Toronto hit a high of over 30°C for the first time in 2012; normally this would not occur until late June. These conditions exacerbated the drought across southern Ontario. Corn, wheat and soybean crops are at risk without timely rainfall. As a result of the drought conditions, local Conservation Authorities maintained Level 1 and Level 2 Low Water Condition advisories across the region. Parts of northeast Ontario and northwest Quebec were classified as D0 (Abnormally Dry) and were over 25 mm (1.0 in) short of moisture in May. Numerous wildfires broke out in the area.

In northwest Ontario, drought conditions also improved thanks to high rainfall amounts in May; over 100 mm (4 in) above normal fell around the Thunder Bay area on the northern shore of Lake Superior. The region continues to emerge from long-term dry conditions and will be monitored closely.

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, represented by the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food (2012).

For more information reach us at www.agr.gc.ca or call us toll-free 1-855-773-0241.