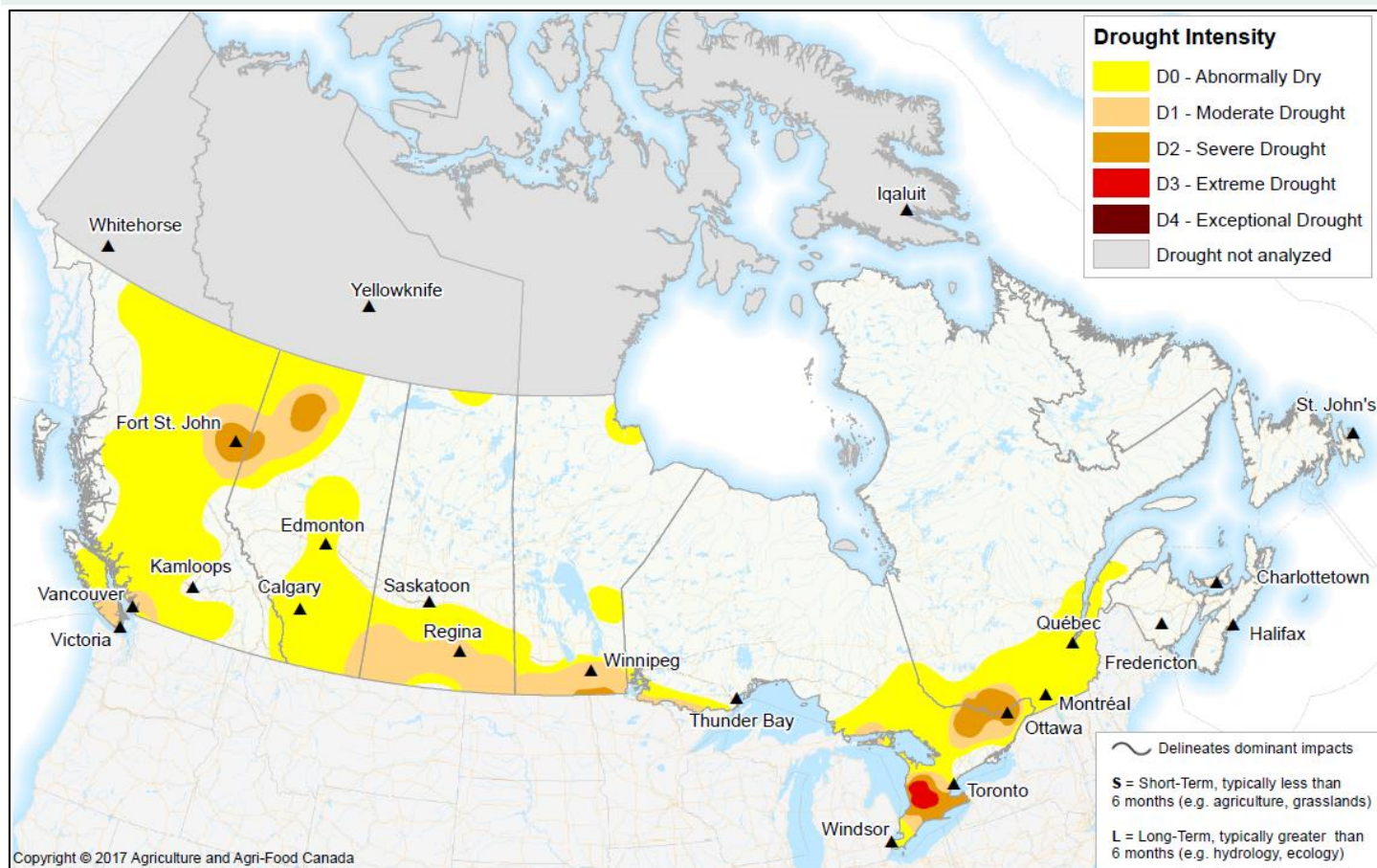


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of September 30, 2012



In September, dry conditions permeated across western Canada, while central regions were slightly above normal. The Atlantic region was deluged by the remnants of tropical storms moving north. Average temperatures ranged from normal to well above normal throughout the country. As a result, drought intensified in the west, and stabilized or improved in the east.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Drought intensified in Western Canada. September was hot and dry across the region. The conditions were good for harvest, but concern about the dryness ahead of the winter season will continue to ramp up. Soil moisture reserves are low from southeast Alberta to southern



Manitoba; much of this area was classified D1. Areas south of Winnipeg were particularly dry, where less than 70 percent of normal rain has fallen since April 1. Approximately 40% of on-farm water supplies were much lower than normal in the southeast area. Supplemental feeding on pasture started in mid-September. Hay supplies across the region are tight going into the winter.

Drought expanded across the Peace River region of northeast British Columbia and northwest Alberta; areas were classified Severe Drought (D2). Since April 1, areas on the Alberta side are short over 120 mm (4.5 in) of precipitation. Annual crops fared well with some timely rainfall, but long-term impacts to forage and pasture remained a concern. Low stream flow advisories continued throughout the British Columbia region, and grain crops were suffering from water stress. Crop yields were slightly below average as a result of the dry growing conditions. On the British Columbia side, precipitation has been below normal over the past three months, and median stream flow remained much less than average.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Extreme Drought (D3) persisted in southern Ontario within areas southwest of Toronto, east of Lake Huron, where only average rainfall was received in September. A deficit of over 160 mm (6.4 in) of precipitation since April 1 remained. The drought impacted, and continues to impact, many sectors of local agricultural production: hay yields for the growing season were down 30-50% of normal, normal grazing days on pasture were down by two-thirds of a normal season with extra hay being fed for an additional three to four months, and cattle were affected by parasites and had other health problems reported caused by foraging too close to the ground in stunted pastures. Dry conditions also limited pollination, which reduced fruit yields, and lowered honey production. Additional water pumping and storage required also drove up production costs.

West of Ottawa rainfall was about one-third of normal from May to July. Over September however the rain returned, delivering over 200% of normal; that helped bring the drought intensity rating down to D2 (Severe Drought). The rainfall greened up pastures temporarily, but root depth remained limited due to the severely dry conditions over the summer. Through precipitation levels increased, it will take some time for full recovery. Hay was difficult to produce and shortages are widespread throughout Ontario's primary cattle region, and prices have increased two to three times the norm. Feed normally reserved for winter, to begin feeding in November, was being distributed in mid-September. Despite recent heavy rainfall, river flows remained down to less than 30% of normal across the drought areas. Level 1 and Level 2 low water advisories were maintained across more than twenty Ontario Conversation Authorities. The Level 1 and 2 advisories call for voluntary water use reductions of 10 and 20 percent, respectively.

Drought conditions remained in southwest Quebec in September. 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. Across Quebec, a provincial fire ban remained in effect.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

In Atlantic Canada, all drought regions were eliminated as a result of excessive rainfall brought to the region by tropical storms moving north. Over 200 mm (8 in) more than normal was received in September, which caused localized flooding and resultant property damage for many in eastern Prince Edward Island and central Nova Scotia. Rainfall at Charlottetown, PEI for September was reported to be a record 273 mm (10.7 in). Impacts from this past summer's drought however continued in the form of increased poultry prices due to higher feed corn costs, and increased feed costs continued to hamper pork producers.