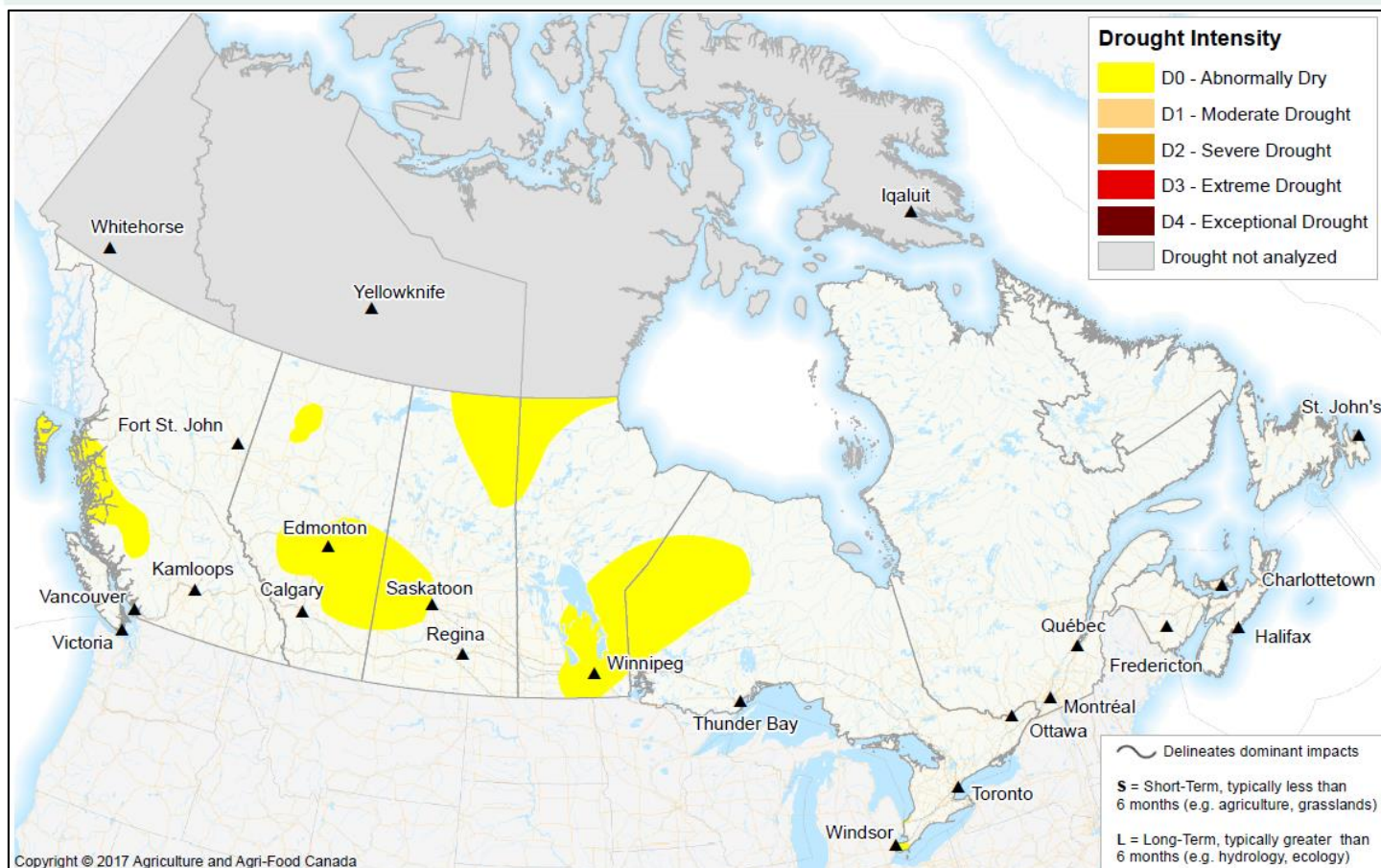


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of November 30, 2013



In November, the extent and severity of drought decreased slightly as winter began in earnest across Canada. In the west, many areas that were Abnormally Dry (D0) in October saw improvement, but conditions were upgraded to Moderate Drought (D1) in Manitoba. In eastern Canada, the dry conditions in Quebec returned to normal while a few small abnormally dry areas were reported in southern Ontario. With much of the November precipitation coming as snow that has not yet soaked into the soil, it is difficult to accurately assess changes in moisture conditions. The precipitation represents only potential relief to dryness and drought, so this must be considered when analyzing these results.

Pacific Region (BC)



In British Columbia, well above-average precipitation centered on Williams Lake alleviated the abnormally dry (D0) conditions in the area. The D0 classification was also lifted along the coast from Kitimat all the way north to the Yukon border. The Queen Charlotte Islands and the interior regions east of the Islands remained dry, but very little agricultural area was affected and snowfall has greatly reduced the risk of wildfire across the province.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

The Prairies received minimal fall precipitation, creating significant areas of low soil moisture that remained into November. In Alberta, the Fort Vermillion area was classified as abnormally dry, but a similarly dry area to the north along the Northwest Territories border returned to normal. The major area of drought in central Alberta and eastern Saskatchewan remained a concern, but in November both the D0 and D1 portions shrunk appreciably due to considerable precipitation. In Alberta, a large area stretching from Grande Prairie to Red Deer was hit with multiple snowstorms that resulted in as much as 75 mm of snow in places, which is over 200 percent of average for the region. Central Saskatchewan was buffeted with similar snowfall and also experienced well below-average temperatures. The cold weather has stressed feed supplies in those areas of the province that had already used up surpluses during the late spring melt. Manitoba continued to receive below-average precipitation in the south and central parts of the province, which intensified drought conditions. The area between Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba was upgraded to a Moderate Drought (D1) classification. There was, however, some relief in the north, as the abnormally dry area split up and shifted west into Saskatchewan and east into Ontario.

Central Region (ON, QC)

In Ontario, the abnormally dry areas near Hudson Bay and west of Thunder Bay were returned to normal, while two very small Abnormally Dry (D0) areas were identified near Windsor and Sarnia. While most of southern Ontario received below-average precipitation in November, there were many areas with saturated soils due to a wet fall, putting winter wheat crops under duress. Additionally, some of the grain corn and soybean crops were buried in snow before harvest was completed, but these crops could still be salvaged if there are a few days of warmer temperatures in the near future. In Quebec, dry conditions along the St. Lawrence Seaway were alleviated thanks to average to above-average precipitation. Frequent rain as well as occasional snow slowed down the harvest, but it is nearly complete in most areas. Grain corn harvest in eastern Quebec is furthest behind schedule, as it is only 82 per cent complete.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

Atlantic Canada remained free of dry conditions for another month, with little change in conditions from October. The region received a small amount of snow and winter freeze has begun, but the few crops that remained were harvested without difficulty.

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