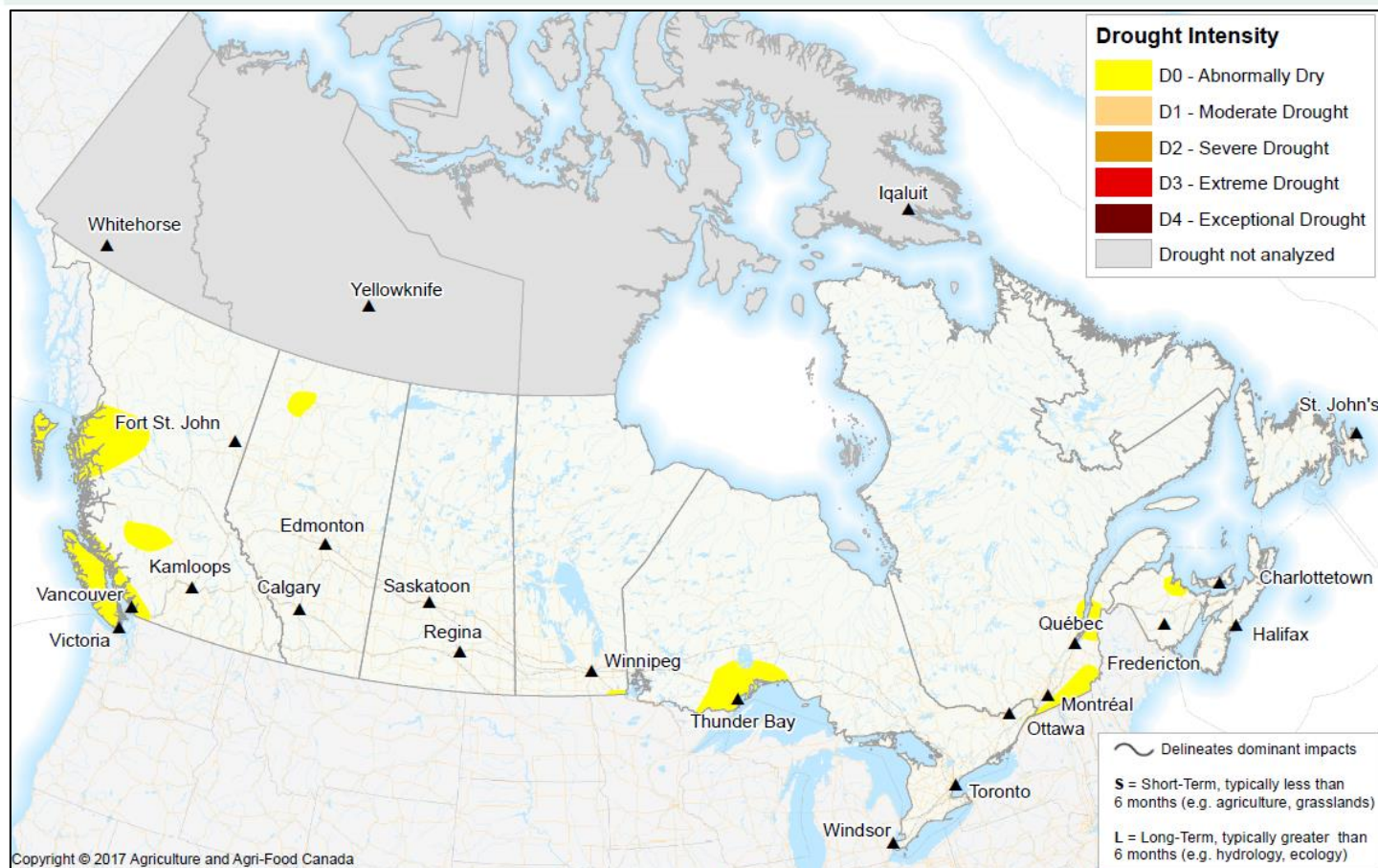


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of April 30, 2013



The extent and severity of drought across Canada remained low in April with many dry regions recharged by spring snow melt. There are no large regions of drought concern and very few that are assessed abnormally dry (D0). The majority of these areas occurred in British Columbia; however there were some other isolated areas in Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick. Snow remained in central and northern regions of the Prairies as well as northern regions of Ontario and Quebec. For the Prairie Provinces the snow pack extended much further south than normal at the end of April.

Pacific Region (BC)



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The large portion of interior British Columbia that was abnormally dry (D0) in March diminished by the end of April. Over the course of the month precipitation in the northwest region of British Columbia was over 200 percent of normal, while other areas such as Victoria received less than 40 percent of normal. As a result, Victoria, Vancouver Island and the south coast of western British Columbia were classified as D0 (abnormally dry). An area just west of the Fraser River in the Caribou municipal district had low amounts of precipitation and very low soil moisture due to reduced snow pack, and was classified as D0 (abnormally dry) as well.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Across the Prairie Provinces, abnormally low temperatures extended winter into late April which resulted in a delayed and extremely slow snow melt. Southern Saskatchewan experienced the largest departures from normal temperatures, and the snowpack was maintained to much later in the season. That also reduced soil moisture loss and decreased the chance for dryness or drought. British Columbia had normal temperatures in April. Temperatures from eastern Ontario to the Atlantic Provinces were above normal, but paired with high precipitation most of the region will have no concern for dryness or drought.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Drought conditions in the Thunder Bay region on the north shore of Lake Superior decreased in both size and severity to a small region classified abnormally dry (D0). This was due to increased precipitation in April, combined with higher temperatures that promoted thawing and runoff as well. The abnormally dry (D0) area in southwest Ontario was eliminated as a result of higher precipitation in March and April.

Other areas marked abnormally dry (D0) included the Montreal and Quebec City regions, and a small region of New Brunswick. These areas had below 60 percent of normal precipitation in April, which, combined with the higher than normal temperatures, brought about dryness in isolated areas. However at the time of this report, there are no significant concerns.

Spring thawing and runoff brought average levels for all of the Great Lakes higher compared to March, though overall water levels remained below the long-term average in April. Lakes Superior and Michigan continued to be close to record low levels; Lake Michigan in particular was only 20 mm (0.79 in) above the record low set in 1964. However some lakes began to rise because of the additional precipitation and spring runoff.