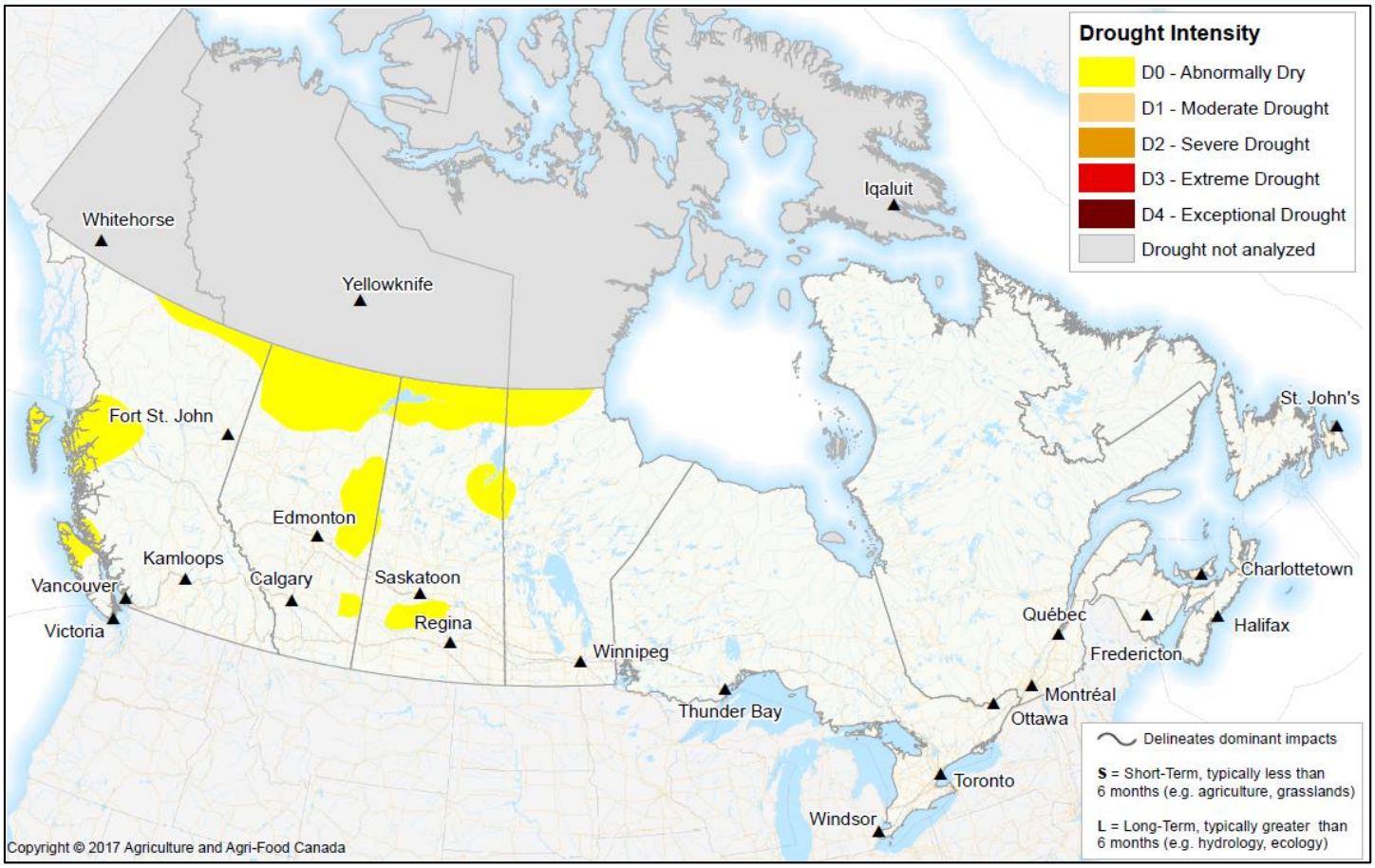
Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of May 31, 2013



The extent and severity of drought across Canada remained low for the month of May with few occurrences of abnormally dry (D0) areas throughout the country. All drought areas were located in Western Canada, primarily in northern forested regions which raised concern for forest fires.

May brought cooler than normal temperatures throughout the Atlantic Provinces. Frost events occurred throughout southern Quebec and Ontario which resulted in localized damage to early-emerged crops and necessitated some re-planting. Above normal temperatures occurred throughout Canada, particularly in British Columbia and Northern Quebec, but extended across the Prairies as well. Warmer-than-normal temperatures and wind throughout the Prairie region decreased soil moisture in agricultural regions.

Below-average precipitation occurred in the Prairies which helped to further alleviate the impacts from record high snow pack and resultant spring flooding. Southern Manitoba received above average precipitation, but there was no concern for excessive soil moisture and flooding. Below average precipitation was also received throughout the majority of Southern Ontario and British Columbia, while the interior of British Columbia received above average rainfall. Several large storm events produced localized precipitation along the Alberta-British Columbia border and southern Manitoba. Quebec and Atlantic Canada also received above average precipitation.

As a result of below normal rainfall and warmer temperatures, soils began drying out in western Saskatchewan and eastern Alberta which led to the D0 classification; since April 1 rainfall remained below 60 percent of normal for these areas. The lack of rainfall in north-central Saskatchewan increased concern for drought and forest fires, and across the boreal forest region from northeast British Columbia to northwest Manitoba. As a result this wide are a was classified D0. East of Edmonton, a large area in east-central Alberta was classified D0 where spring precipitation was also less than 60 percent of normal since April 1. Coastal BC, including the Queen Charlotte Islands, interior regions east of the Islands, and the northern portion of Vancouver Island remained classified D0 where rainfall was less than 60 percent of normal over the past six months. Impacts however were minor.

The heavy rain that occurred in parts of British Columbia, Quebec and eastern Canada decreased the risk for drought and resulted in high river levels, localized flooding and flood risks. As a result all D0 areas were removed from these regions.

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