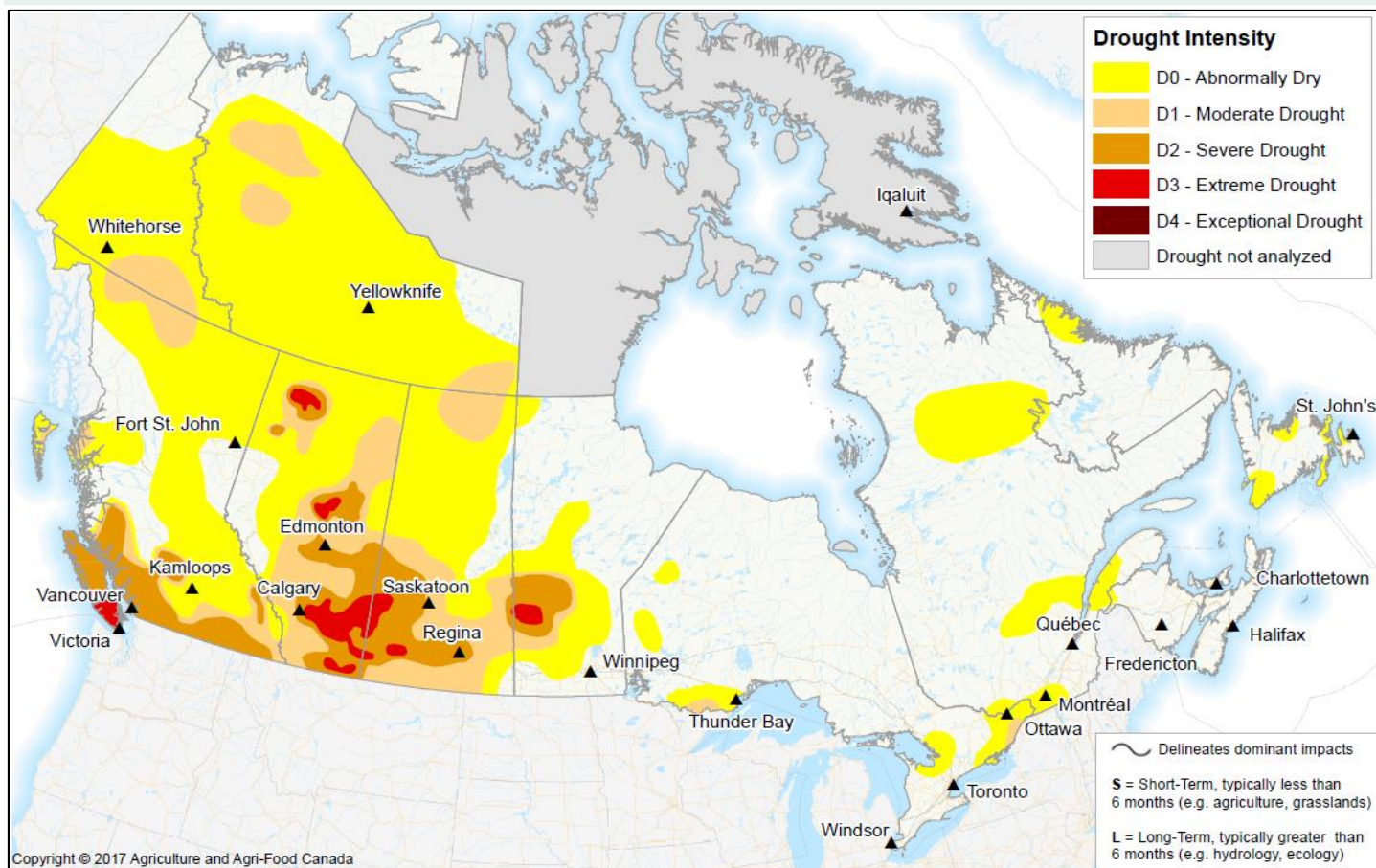


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of June 30, 2015



Western Canada continued to receive above-average temperatures and below-average precipitation in June. Drought conditions intensified in many regions — all four western provinces (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba) experienced record dry conditions this spring. The drought contributed to an early start to the wildfire season, as well as a much higher-than-average number of fires, which, for example, led to widespread evacuations in northern Saskatchewan and negatively impacted air quality throughout the entire province. Drought also affected agricultural production during a phase when available moisture was critical for germination and crop development and growth. Similar to the western provinces, the Yukon and Northwest Territories were also Abnormally Dry (D0), with a few areas in Moderate Drought (D1). Timely rains in Ontario and Québec and extreme precipitation events in Atlantic Canada resulted in a reduction in the D0 and D1 classifications in these regions.



Pacific Region (BC)

In British Columbia, warmer- and drier-than-normal conditions persisted this month. Haida Gwaii, Vancouver Island, the south coast and the southern interior moved into a Severe Drought (D2). Most of the remainder of the province remained in D0. With extremely low April snow pack and a record dry May, the wildfire season began early — the risk of wildfire was Moderate to High throughout the province as of June 30th; and water shortages are being anticipated.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Drought expanded on the Prairies, particularly in Alberta and Saskatchewan. This region experienced the driest winter and spring on record, which has resulted in the presence of D0 to Extreme Drought (D3) conditions. The majority of Alberta and Saskatchewan received less than 60 per cent of average precipitation and southern Alberta and southern Saskatchewan experienced record dry conditions this spring. The drought was exacerbated by above-average spring temperatures, which negatively affected soil moisture reserves. Below-average precipitation and above-average temperatures are projected to continue into the summer and potentially the fall. Conversely, Manitoba received average to above-average precipitation this spring, which resulted in a slight reduction in the D0 area. The exception in Manitoba was the central-west region, which did not receive as much precipitation and, like Alberta and Saskatchewan, experienced record dry conditions this spring. This region of Manitoba therefore remained as D1 and D2.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Eastern Canada continued to receive below-average temperatures and above-average precipitation this month. Subsequently, the areas that were designated D0 and D1 decreased in size in the following provinces: Ontario, Québec and Newfoundland as well as Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. Long-term hydrologic drought was still a concern in southern Ontario and southern Québec due to below-average fall and winter precipitation. In addition, a D0 patch appeared in eastern Québec near the mouth of the St. Lawrence River.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

Drought also emerged in the Yukon and Northwest Territories this spring. Below-average snow pack and above-average temperatures led to D0 conditions across most of the two territories, as well as to an extreme fire danger. Southern Yukon and northwestern and southeastern Northwest Territories experienced D1 conditions as a result of below-average spring precipitation (50 per cent of normal in some areas).

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, represented by the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food (2015).

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