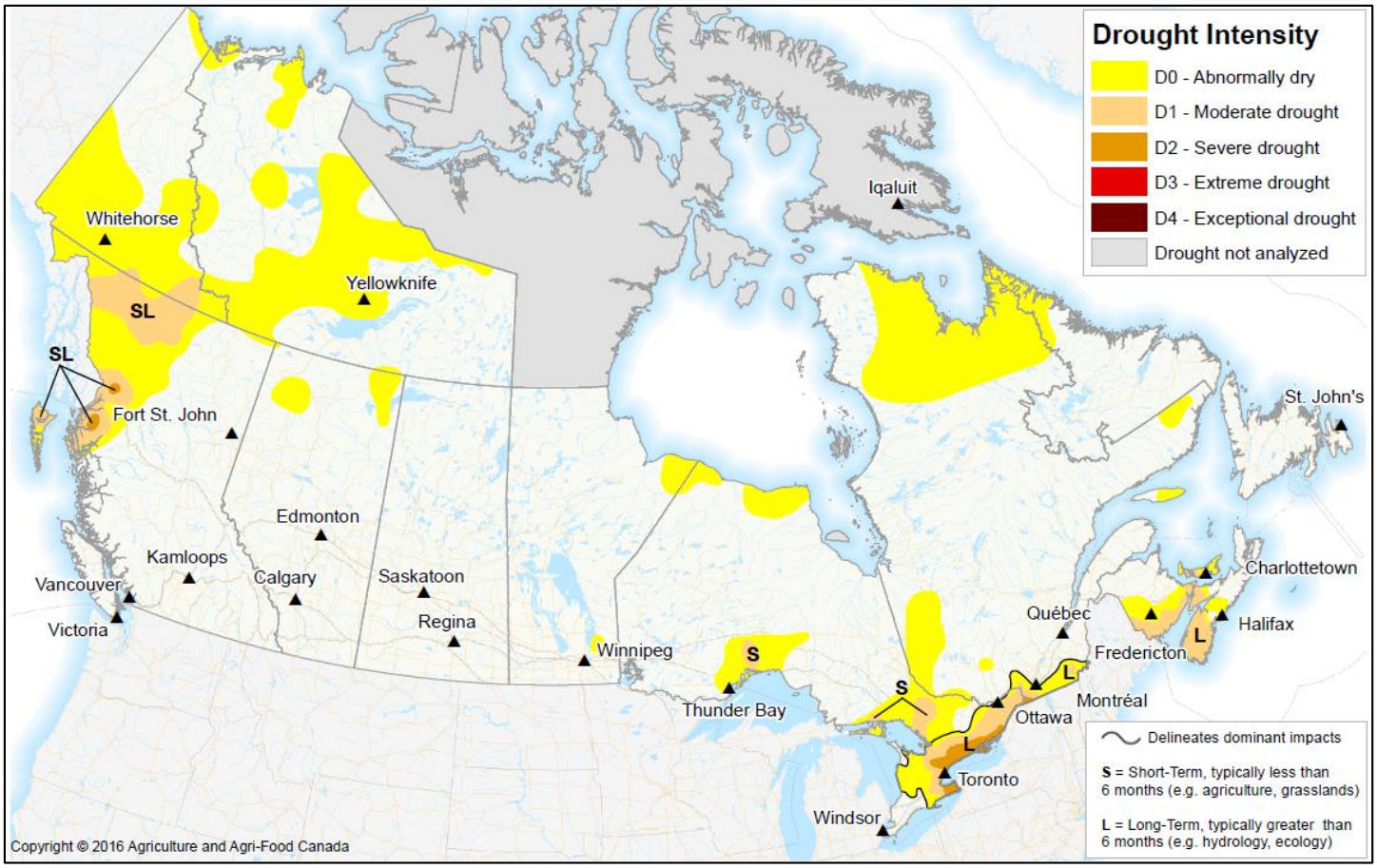
Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of October 31, 2016



Drought conditions across Canada improved in the month of October. Much of the country experienced above average precipitation over the past 31 days; some regions across the Prairies received too much, resulting in excessive moisture and negative impacts to harvest operations. Soil moisture improved significantly across the Atlantic region due to large swaths of precipitation throughout the month; however, long term drought impacts such as ground water and streamflow remained. Dry conditions persisted in northern British Columbia and portions of south eastern Ontario, where long term drought remained more of a concern.

Pacific Region (BC)

The Pacific region saw a variable amount of precipitation in October, with high precipitation in the south and a deficit in the northern half of the province. All drought concerns in southern British Columbia (B.C.) were eliminated as a result of normal to above-normal precipitation levels and improved streamflow. The Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket in Northern B.C. was reduced away from Fort Nelson, as precipitation analysis indicated this area was no longer a concern for drought. A large D0 pocket throughout much of northwestern B.C. persisted, including all of Haida Gwaii and Prince Rupert, up to the border with Yukon Territory. Precipitation indices indicated that northern Haida Gwaii and parts of northwestern B.C. continued to be in a Moderate Drought (D1). Due to poor streamflow and precipitation analysis, small pockets surrounding Prince Rupert and Meziadin Junction were downgraded to Severe Drought (D2).

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Drought was not a concern across the prairies this month. On the contrary, frost and excessive moisture negatively impacted harvest throughout much of the region. Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba had exceptional streamflow, with many areas receiving more than 150% above average precipitation throughout the fall period. The Abnormally Dry (D0) pockets in northern Alberta and northeast Manitoba persisted due to long-term conditions and lingering impacts.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Streamflow, ground water and soil moisture continued to be a concern in southeastern Ontario, with the majority of drought conditions surrounding Lake Ontario. The north shore of Lake Ontario and Niagara region saw very little precipitation in October, ending the growing season (April 1 to October 31) with near record low precipitation (below the 10^{th} percentile). With little to no improvement, this region remained classified as a Severe Drought (D2). Due to poor streamflow, the Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket in southern Ontario extended east to include Petawawa and west to include Goderich. The D0 pocket surrounding North Bay was extended northeast to Matamagi, Québec given long term precipitation deficits and poor streamflow. A small area between North Bay and Parry Sound was also downgraded to Moderate Drought (D1) based on Canadian Forest Service's Drought Code. Dry conditions in northern Ontario improved along the northern shore of Lake Superior and around Lake Nipigon. However, poor streamflow and precipitation deficits in this region resulted in the downgrading of a small pocket southeast of Lake Nipigon to Moderate Drought (D1) conditions. The province of Québec experienced above average precipitation this month; as a result, many of the dry conditions in southern Québec improved and streamflow returned to normal. The Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket in the region was pulled back due to good streamflow south of Québec City. The Moderate Drought (D1) pocket around Granby was also reduced to a small pocket around Sherbrooke. Below average precipitation led to a small Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket being formed north of Mont-Laurier. Dry conditions in northern Québec persisted given satellite-derived data, thus the D0 pocket was extended further north to include Kangiqsujuaq.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

The Atlantic region received significant rainfall in the month of October improving overall drought conditions throughout the region. However, despite well above normal monthly precipitation, drought remained a concern in portions of the region, especially in southern Nova Scotia, where ground water and streamflows were low. In Newfoundland, drought conditions were relieved by heavy rain; as a result, drought designations were removed or improved, including all of Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia towards New Glasgow and Stewiacke. This also extended to an area along the shore northeast of Halifax, which no longer indicated signs of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions. Despite the rain elsewhere across the region, dry conditions persisted on Prince Edward Island. Moderate Drought (D1) conditions extended from O'Leary and southeast to a line stretching north of Crapaud, while the remainder of the island was blanketed by Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions also continued throughout southern New Brunswick; most remained the same as the previous month, with some dry conditions extending northward. Given the dry conditions indicated over the past month, some areas in southern New Brunswick were also downgraded to Moderate Drought (D1).

Northern Region (YT, NT)

Across northern regions of Canada, a large area of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions persisted into the month of October. Satellite-derived precipitation and soil moisture data indicated large swaths of the region to be considered as Abnormally Dry (D0), stretching from southern areas of the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories, extending as far north as Mackenzie Bay including Great Slave Lake and Great Bear Lake.

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