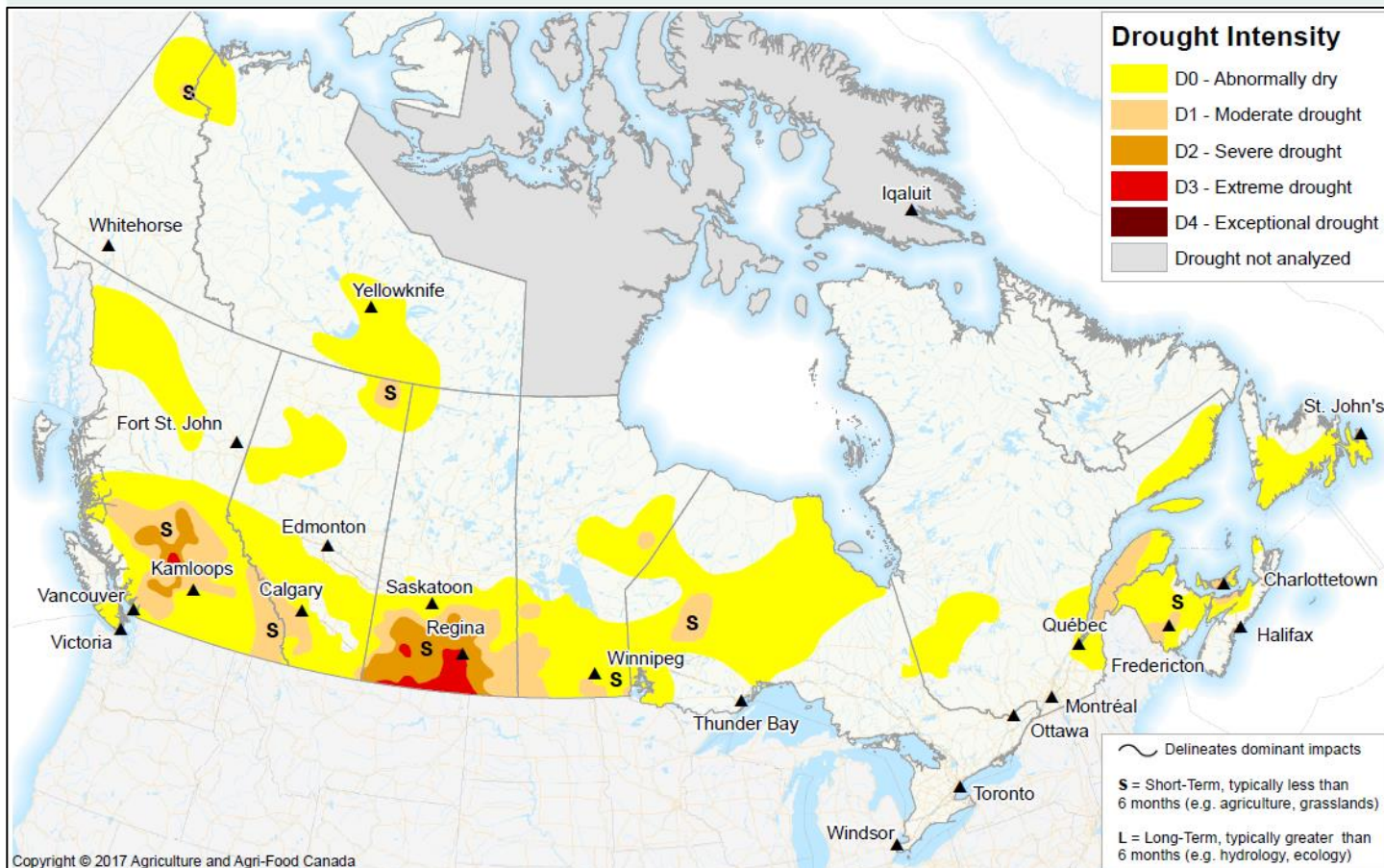


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of July 31, 2017



Continued precipitation deficits and well above normal temperatures in western Canada resulted in significant deterioration of conditions in July increasing the severity and extent of drought. Southern British Columbia rapidly settled into drought, with conditions degrading by three drought classes over the past month. Precipitation deficits continued to plague the southern half of the Prairie Region, particularly Southern Saskatchewan which experienced one of the driest July's in over a century. Abnormally dry conditions returned and expanded throughout Atlantic Canada however a wet spring reduced significant impacts. Southern regions of Ontario and western Quebec continued to receive well above normal precipitation resulting in excess moisture concerns rather than drought.

Pacific Region (BC)



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Precipitation deficit along with extreme heat and winds led to the rapid deterioration of conditions in southern B.C. throughout July. This region is currently experiencing a flash drought, characterized by the rapid onset of drought following a heat wave and short-term dryness. A severe lack of precipitation since the beginning of June led to the expansion of the Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket to include most of the southern half of the province, as well as a large Moderate Drought pocket. Significant impacts due to wildfires in the central interior resulted in an Extreme Drought (D3) pocket surrounded by a larger Severe Drought (D2) pocket. Wildfires prompted the government of B.C. to declare a provincial state of emergency as many blazes are still growing and evacuation orders remain in effect for thousands of people. Very little rain and consistently high temperatures along the southern border with Alberta resulted in a second Moderate Drought (D1) pocket stretching along the southern border with Alberta. Satellite-derived data showed that conditions in northern B.C. had improved; thus the D1 pocket was removed and the D0 pocket was reduced away from the southern border of Yukon Territory.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Conditions in the Prairies continued to deteriorate in July, as drought spread across the southern region. Southern Alberta continued to dry out, resulting in a large Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket encompassing the southern half of the province, with the exception of a region between Innisfail and Medicine Hat. Extreme heat coupled with precipitation deficit led to the development of a Moderate Drought (D1) pocket from Banff to Pincher Creek. Dry conditions also developed in parts of the Peace Region, and the D0 in northern Alberta was expanded to include this. Conditions in southern Saskatchewan declined rapidly as a result of very little precipitation, extreme heat and winds; several cities experienced the driest July in over a century. Regina had only 1.8 millimetres of rain in July, the second driest July in 130 years. It was the driest July ever recorded in the city of Moose Jaw. Regina had 11 days over 30°C and the city of Swift Current 14 days over 30°C in July. The extreme heat resulted in moisture loss and heat stress to many agricultural crops. All data indicated that much of this region has experienced extremely low precipitation all year, especially since the beginning of the growing season. The Severe Drought (D2) pocket was expanded significantly, and a large Extreme Drought (D3) pockets developed from Regina towards and along the US border due to record low precipitation since 1950. The southern portion of the province is in a pretty poor situation with many crops not profitable to combine. Pasture conditions are extremely poor and producers facing feed shortages. Poor water quality due to hot dry conditions has resulted in cattle mortality. Southern Manitoba also continued to experience a precipitation deficit, resulting in the addition and expansion of several D1 pockets; however, agricultural impacts have been minimal.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Agricultural regions of Central Canada continued to receive an abundance of rain throughout July. An Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket developed in northern Ontario as a result of short-term precipitation deficit and poor streamflow. Below average rainfall and poor streamflow in eastern Quebec led to Moderate Drought (D1) conditions developing along the St. Lawrence River. Previously dry conditions in northern Quebec improved to normal as indicated by satellite-derived data.

Atlantic Region (NB, NS, PEI, NL)

Atlantic Canada experienced a dry month with minimal impacts due to the abundance of rain throughout the growing season. Several Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) pockets were added in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland as a result of noteworthy precipitation deficits. Satellite-derived data indicated adequate precipitation in northern Labrador; thus conditions improved to normal.

Northern Region (YK, NT)

Satellite-derived data indicated that the southern region of Yukon Territory had received ample precipitation over the month of July, leading to an improvement of conditions to normal. Persisting dryness in the north resulted in the expansion of the Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket south of Mackenzie Bay and the development of a small Moderate Drought (D1) pocket. Conditions in the Northwest Territories remained relatively consistent, with a small expansion of the D0 pocket north of Great Slave Lake.