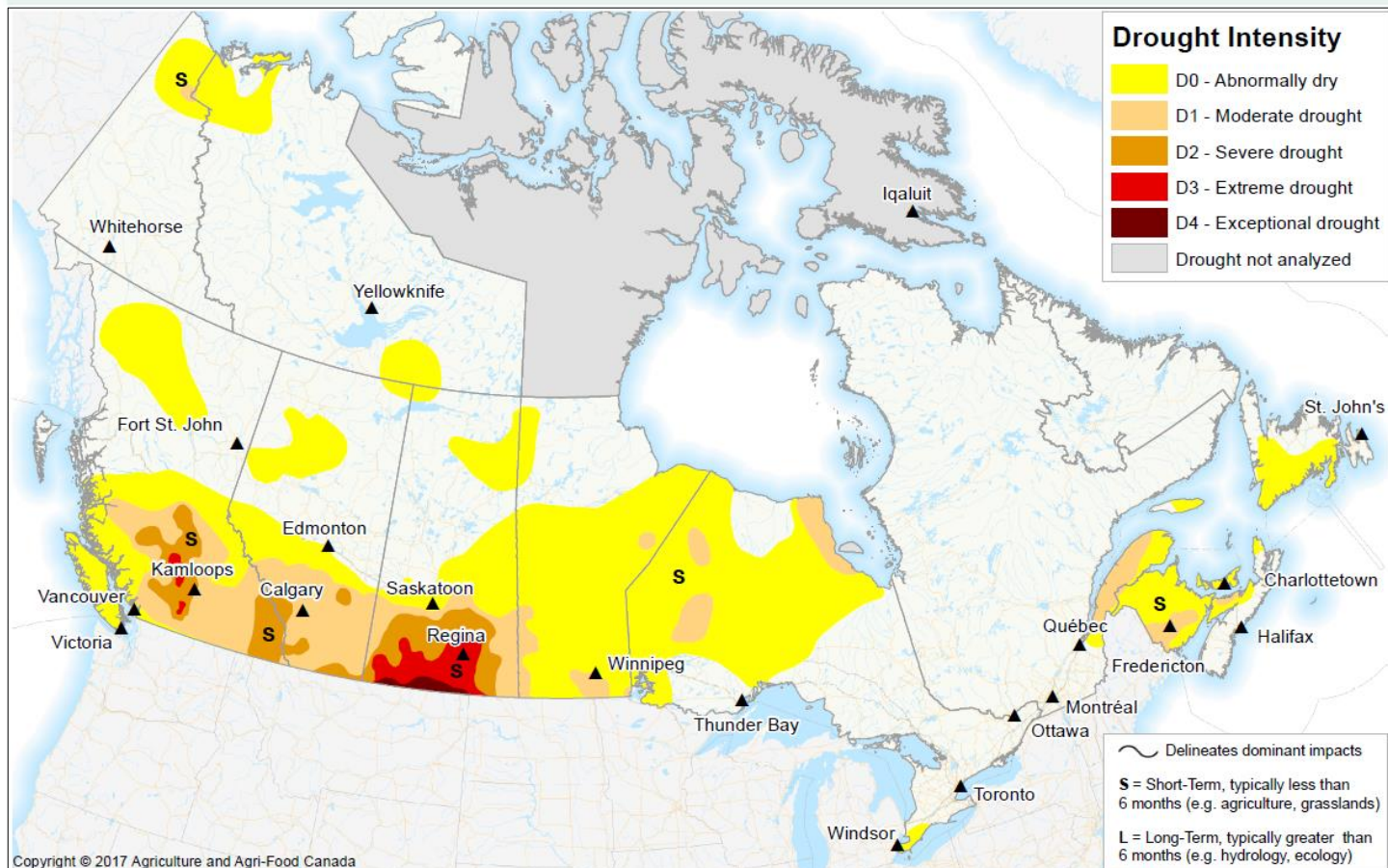


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of August 31, 2017



Drought conditions continued to degrade across Canada as much of the country experienced below average precipitation during the month of August. This meant expansion of the drought throughout much of Western Canada. For the hardest hit areas in central British Columbia and the southern Prairies, they have received less than sixty percent of average precipitation since April 1. In British Columbia, these severe precipitation deficits have helped to fuel the largest wildfire on record in the provinces history. At the end of August, the wildfires in British Columbia have consumed a record one million hectares (10,000 km²). For southern Alberta and Saskatchewan, continued drought conditions have caused growing concerns over forage production and livestock water supplies. In the east, agricultural regions of Ontario and Quebec continued to receive ample rainfall with the exception of a couple small regions. Drought concerns in most of Atlantic Canada were alleviated as a result of average precipitation



throughout the month. Meteorological drought persisted in New Brunswick with minimal impacts.

Pacific Region (BC)

The worst wildfire season on record led to continued deterioration of drought conditions in southern British Columbia. Most of the region is under Moderate Drought (D1) classification, having experienced no significant rainfall throughout August. Much of this area is currently under a voluntary 30% water reduction set by the Government of British Columbia. Severe precipitation deficit over the past ninety days led to the expansion of the Severe Drought (D2) pocket south towards Princeton and the development of an Extreme Drought (D3) pocket south of Merritt. Wildfires in the interior, particularly in the Cariboo-Chilcotin region, have burned more than 100,000 hectares (1,000 km²). This has caused extensive damage to rangeland, cattle, fences, feed and other infrastructure. A D2 pocket also arose in the southeast from the US border to the Alberta border, as this region received less than 40 percent of average precipitation this past month. Conditions in northern B.C. remained similar to the previous month's assessment, with a small Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket between Williston Lake and Dease Lake.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Drought conditions in southern Alberta and Saskatchewan continued to negatively impact most crops and pasture yields and quality. A dry August following an increasingly dry summer resulted in very poor soil moisture conditions in southern Alberta. As a result, the Moderate Drought (D1) pocket was expanded and three Severe Drought (D2) pockets developed. The Severe Drought (D2) and Extreme Drought (D3) pockets in southern Saskatchewan continued to expand as a result of poor soil moisture and continued precipitation deficits. This has caused further stress to livestock water and feed supplies. Severe impacts also resulted in the addition of a small Exceptional Drought (D4) pocket. Despite the extremely dry summer, crops are faring well due to good soil moisture heading into the growing season. Manitoba had a dry month with minimal impacts, and the Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket was expanded to include a large area of the province.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Conditions in Central Canada remained relatively consistent throughout August. Most of the agricultural regions in Ontario and Quebec continued to receive average to above average rainfall, except for a small pocket in southwestern Ontario where an Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket developed, and a persisting Moderate Drought (D1) pocket in eastern Quebec. Satellite-derived data indicated that conditions in northern Ontario continued to deteriorate, thus the D0 in this region was expanded and a small D1 pocket developed along the western shore of James Bay.

Atlantic Region (NB, NS, PEI, NL)

Conditions in Atlantic Canada improved this month, with adequate rainfall replenishing soil moisture in each province with the exception of New Brunswick. Meteorology-driven Moderate Drought (D1) persisted in southern New Brunswick and a small area along the Northumberland Strait in Nova Scotia, with insignificant agricultural impacts.

Northern Region (YK, NT)

Conditions in northern Canada remained relatively unchanged from the previous month's assessment. Satellite-derived data indicated that the region south of Mackenzie Bay continued to remain dry, thus the Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket was expanded. A small D0 pocket south of Great Slave Lake in the Northwest Territories also persisted.