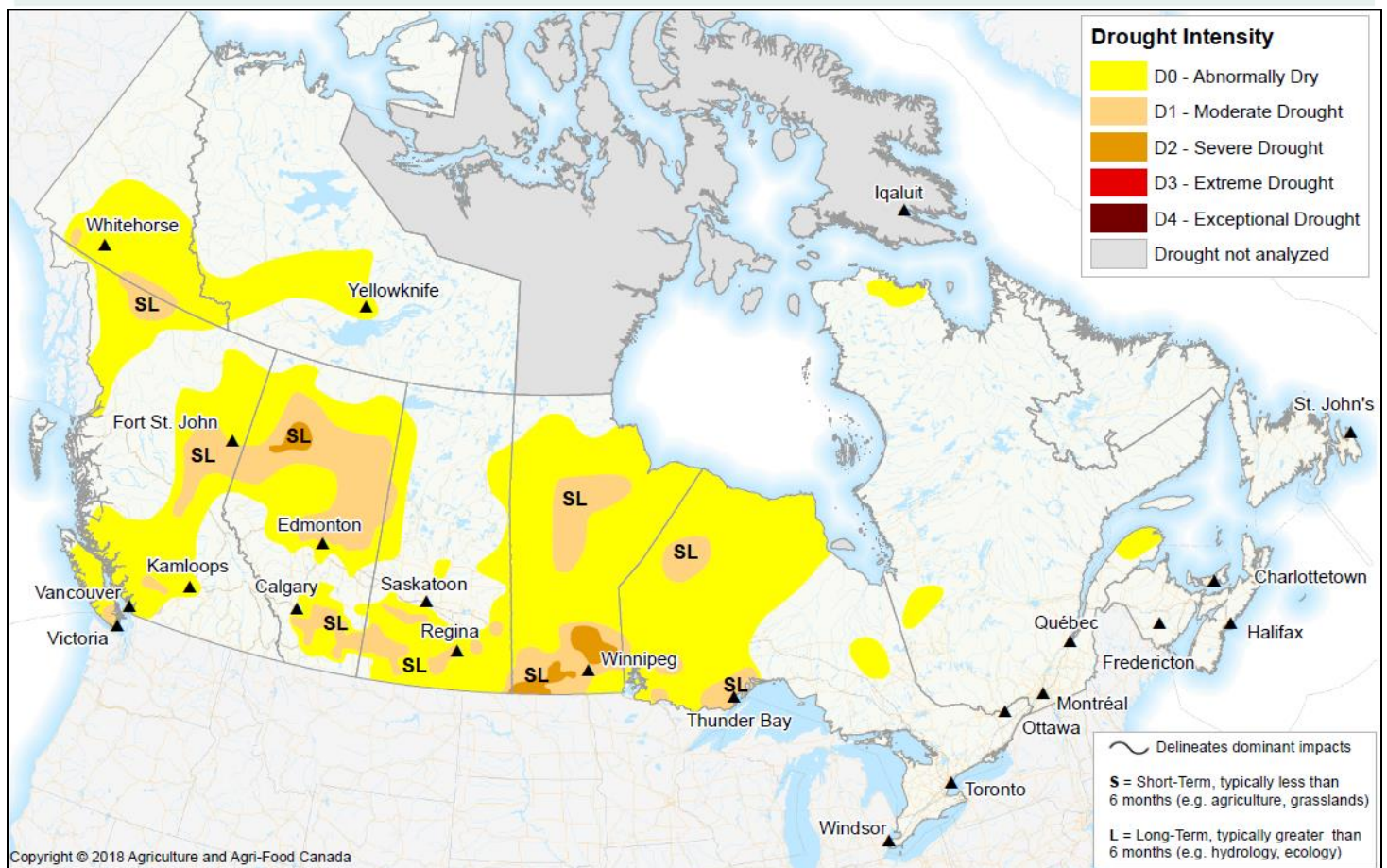


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of May 31st, 2018



Drought conditions continued to be centered in the southern prairies throughout the month of May. Above average temperatures and excessively low precipitation led to acceleration of drought across western Canada throughout the month. British Columbia's interior began to experience unexpectedly dry conditions early in the season, prompting several wildfires in the region. British Columbia experienced an abnormally dry May throughout the south west as well as the central interior resulting in a return of abnormally dry and drought conditions. Poor soil moisture across the southern Prairies led to the development of several drought pockets. Although much of the Central Region benefited from warm temperatures and a relief from excess moisture concerns, conditions in northern Ontario continued to deteriorate due to persisting dryness. Precipitation deficit and poor streamflow led to increased drought risk and wildfire concerns in Northern Canada. On the last day of May, a significant system moved in to



Southern Saskatchewan and brought significant rain to the region which improved the conditions rapidly. For agricultural production the timing of this rainfall couldn't have been better. With rapidly developing drought and the majority of seed in the ground, agricultural producers needed rain.

Pacific Region (BC)

Warm temperatures and significant rainfall deficits increased the risk of wildfire across the Pacific region in May. Although parts of the southern interior saw relief from excess moisture levels, most of the province became very hot and dry. Many areas across the province received less than 10mm of rain throughout May, well below expected values for this time of year. As a result, Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions expanded to include much of the province. Significant precipitation deficits and poor soil moisture led to the development of Moderate Drought (D1) along the Yukon border and in the Peace region.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Similar to the Pacific, hot and dry conditions prompted rapid drought emergence in the Prairie Region, especially in Alberta and Manitoba. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions expanded out to include a large portion of Alberta that received less than 15mm of rain throughout May. Satellite-derived data indicated that the Peace region, northeastern Alberta, and the southeast had received less than fifty percent of their average precipitation since March; thus two large Moderate Drought (D1) pockets emerged. Record-low precipitation surrounding Peace River throughout May resulted in the development of a Severe Drought (D2) pocket. Although saving rains at the end of the month improved agricultural conditions, moisture is required for germination to proceed. Southern Saskatchewan experienced significant improvement in May due to above average short-term precipitation. A large rainfall event on May 31 helped to alleviate long-term moisture concerns, and all drought conditions in the southeast improved, most significantly in areas east of Regina. D1 conditions persisted in parts of the southwest, where soil moisture deficits continued. Despite some relief to southeastern Manitoba, D2 conditions endured and expanded in the southern half of the province. Agricultural impacts across the prairies included decreased water supply, below normal slews, and decreased feed production.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Conditions continued to improve in southern Ontario and Quebec while they degraded in northern Ontario. An Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket expanded in the northwest, and several pockets north of Lake Superior deteriorated into Moderate Drought (D1) due to enduring dryness and poor surface soil moisture. D0 conditions developed north of La Sarre in Quebec due to short-term precipitation deficits, leading to increased wildfire risk. A D0 pocket persisted along the Gulf of St. Lawrence in Quebec due to persisting moisture deficits.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

In Atlantic Canada, May brought normal to above normal precipitation for most of the region and low temperatures across the regions. Excess moisture conditions across parts of the Atlantic have decreased. Due to adequate rainfall replenishing soil moisture, all lingering dryness concerns were alleviated.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

Dryness concern in Northern Canada expanded throughout May due to reduced precipitation and increased wildfire risk. Satellite-derived data indicated that part of the southern Yukon Territory had received adequate precipitation since March; thus only a couple of small Moderate Drought (D1) pockets persisted. An Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket was expanded from the Yukon to the Northwest Territories due to poor streamflow and precipitation deficits throughout the month.

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