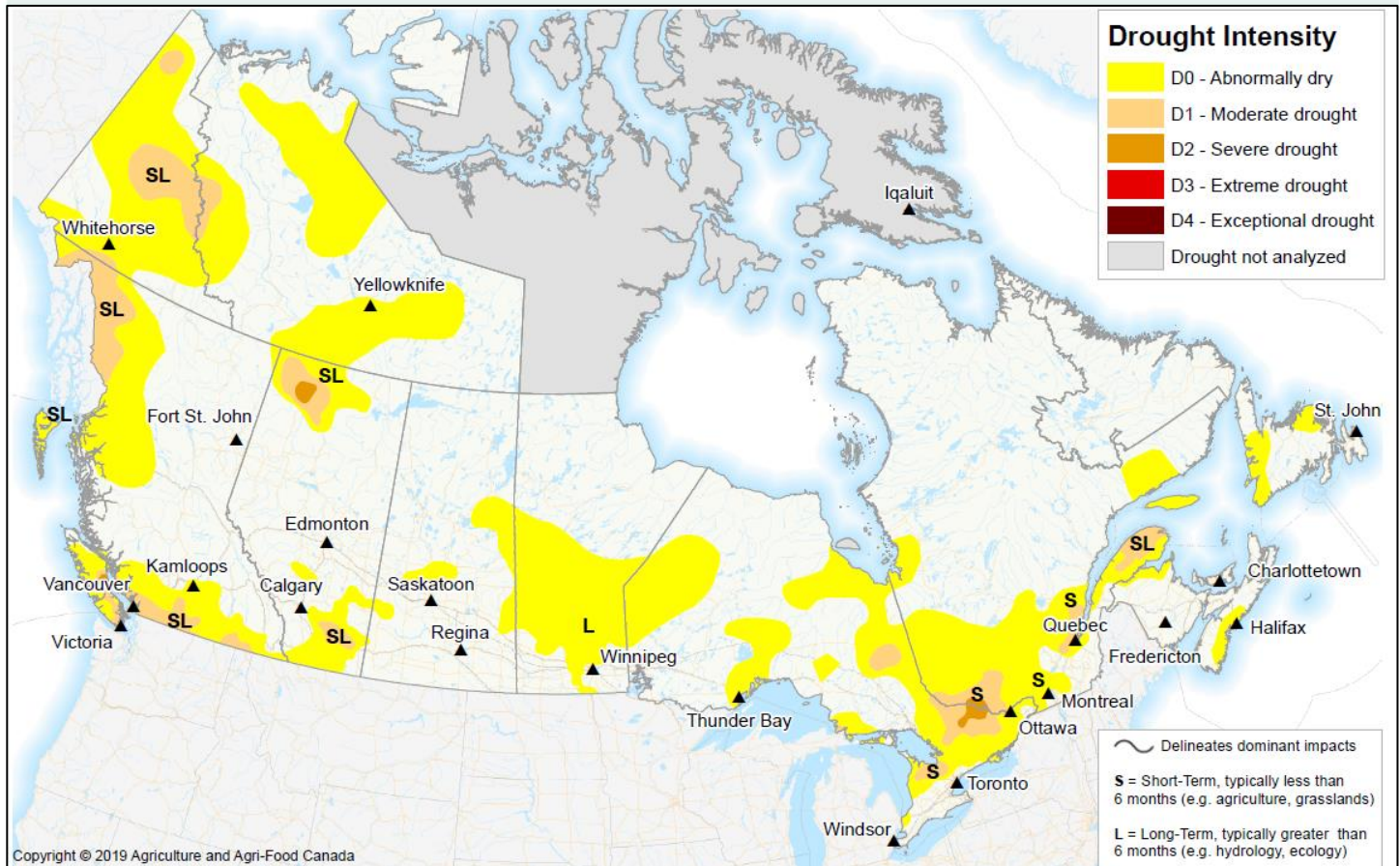


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of August 31, 2019



In August, drought conditions continued to improve throughout most regions in western Canada, while eastern Canada received abnormally low precipitation resulting in emerging short term drought conditions. Conditions in British Columbia improved gradually throughout August, particularly in south and central areas where Severe Drought (D2) condition improved to Moderate Drought (D1) or Abnormally Dry (D0). Despite significant improvements across the Prairies, Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions persist in the region with small Moderate Drought (D1) areas in southeastern and northern Alberta and a single pocket of Severe Drought (D2) around High Level. Conditions in eastern Canada deteriorated significantly with much of southern Ontario and southeastern Quebec now classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or Moderate Drought (D1) and the Ottawa area under Severe Drought (D2) as a result of substantial August precipitation deficits. Parts of Atlantic Canada have also been classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) as a result of precipitation deficits and poor streamflow. At the end of August 2019, Moderate



to Severe Drought (D1–D2) affected 4.3 percent of land area in Canada. The most significant drought conditions persisted in southern and northwestern British Columbia.

Pacific Region (BC)

Drought conditions in British Columbia saw significant improvement during the month of August. The greatest improvement was around Vancouver and the Sunshine Coast, where over the past few months precipitation values have been near normal improving dry spring conditions. Improving conditions resulted in Severe Drought (D2) areas being improved to Moderate Drought (D1) or Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions. Severe Drought (D2) remains in the Courtenay area. Conditions in both northwestern and the central interior improved due to adequate precipitation over the month of August. This has resulted in a reduction in the Moderate Drought (D1) and Abnormally Dry (D0) areas. Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate drought (D1) pockets remained in north western interior and southern parts of the province. Moderate to Severe Drought (D1–D2) conditions affected 10.3 percent of the area and 75.9 percent of the population of British Columbia.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Conditions across the Prairies continued to improve in all regions during the month of August due to above normal precipitation the last few months. Despite above normal precipitation, small pockets of Moderate Drought (D1) and Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions remain and long term impacts linger from spring drought conditions. Despite adequate or abundant rainfall in July and August, as well as significantly improved pasture conditions through August, hay production and feed supplies continue to be a significant concern for agricultural producers throughout the region as a result of intense drought conditions in the spring. Twelve rural municipalities in Manitoba recently declared agricultural disaster due to the limited feed availability. Drought continues in southern Alberta despite small improvements over the month, allowing the removal of the Severe Drought (D2) and reducing the Moderate Drought (D1) pocket considerably. Northern Alberta has remained relatively unchanged due to long term deficits and Severe Drought (D2) conditions are still present with a small pocket in the High Level area. Despite a relatively dry August across much of central Alberta abundant soil moisture and excess precipitation in July has resulted in wet conditions. Saskatchewan experienced the greatest improvement of the Prairie provinces having received 150 percent (60 to 100 mm) of normal precipitation in the past 30 days in most southern regions. Only small pockets of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions remain around Kindersley, between North Battleford to Prince Albert and along parts of the eastern border due to long term conditions. Manitoba has received near normal precipitation this month with central areas having now received 60 to 85 percent of average growing season precipitation. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions remain across much of eastern and parts of northern Manitoba due to long term precipitation deficits and poor soil moisture conditions. Moderate to Severe Drought (D1–D2) conditions affected 6.1 percent of the area and 2.3 percent of the population of Alberta in the Prairie Region.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Drought conditions emerged in central Canada as the region received below normal precipitation during the month of August. Departure from normal precipitation in southern and central Ontario was 50 to 100 mm and in southeastern Quebec was 30 to 50 mm in the past 30 days. In the northern agricultural region around Ottawa this deficit represents a one in 50 year event. As a result of this short term precipitation deficit Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) pockets expanded significantly across southern and central Ontario and also southern and eastern Quebec. As a result of the precipitation deficit a Severe Drought (D2) pocket developed around Ottawa. It should be noted that conditions in central Canada are considered short term in nature as spring and earlier summer conditions were wet. Precipitation levels average out or are slightly above average when viewed from a longer term perspective. Due to wet spring conditions agricultural crops developed shallow root systems which has made these crops more vulnerable to late season drought. Moderate to Severe Drought (D1–D2) conditions affected 3.9 percent of the area and 7.2 percent of the population of the Central Region.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

Most of Atlantic Canada received below normal precipitation during the past 30 days. Parts of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Islands and Nova Scotia experienced precipitation deficit and poor streamflow which lead to the development or expansion of small Abnormally Dry (D0) pockets. These conditions are short term but are impacting agriculture, particularly potato size in P.E.I. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions affected 9.6 percent of the area and 29.5 percent of the population of the Atlantic Region.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

Conditions in Northern Canada improved throughout the month of August. Although the Moderate Drought (D1) persists in pockets of the Yukon and Northwest Territories. There was, however, some improvement in moisture conditions in the northwestern Yukon and south of Yellowknife reducing the extent of Moderate Drought (D1) in the area. Northern regions of the Northwest Territories saw the emergence of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions as a result of precipitation deficits and poor stream flow. Moderate drought (D1) conditions affected 5.1 percent of the area and 1.6 percent of the population of the Northern Region.