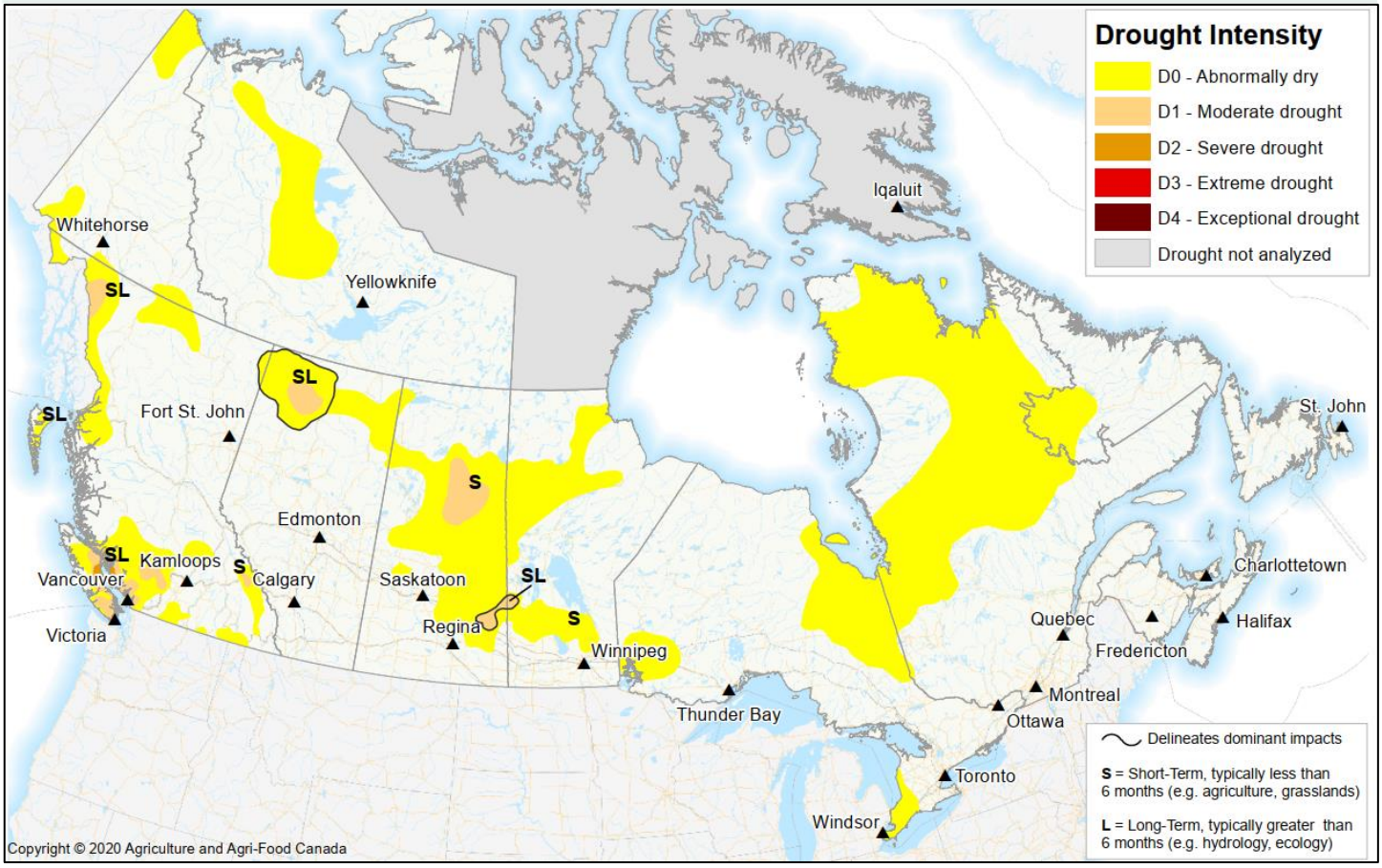
Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of December 31, 2019



Most regions of Canada received below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures throughout December. Despite a very dry month, drought levels have remained fairly static throughout most regions of Canada as a result of good soil moisture prior to freeze up. The exception to this is the west coast, which normally receives their highest monthly precipitation totals during December and many areas received well below normal precipitation resulting in the most significant changes in drought conditions this month in Canada. Drought (D1-D4) affected 9 percent of the assessed land area in December. Abnormally Dry Conditions covers 23 percent of the assessed region of Canada.

Pacific Region (BC)

Vancouver island and portions of south western British Columbia continued to receive less than 50 per cent of normal precipitation in December. In the past 90 days this region has received 400 to 450 mm less than normal putting this region's precipitation below the 10th percentile. In addition most of this region had temperatures 1 to2 degrees warmer than normal. As a result of persistent dry conditions this fall, the extent of Abnormally Dry and drought classifications were increased. Moderate Drought (D1) now encompasses the majority of Vancouver island and the western coast. A Severe Drought (D2) classification has been applied to the area around Courtney, Comox and Powel River. Precipitation through the rest of the province was adequate to maintain the current drought classification or improve slightly. Abnormally dry conditions continue in Portion of the southern Interior, and in northwestern British Columbia. Drought (D1-D4) affected 4 percent of British Columbia land area in December.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

December was an extremely dry month across the eastern Prairies, with precipitation accumulation below 20 mm; approximately 60 percent of normal. A large region of east central Saskatchewan and southwestern Manitoba received minimal precipitation with a number of stations reporting in the top 10 for driest December's on record. In addition, climate stations at Yorkton and Swan River recorded their driest December ever.. Despite the extreme lack of precipitation over the past month, and below normal precipitation in November many of these areas remain unclassified due to the high precipitation through September and October and excessive soil moisture at the time of freeze up. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions have continued to expand in northeastern agriculture regions of Saskatchewan and northern agriculture regions of Manitoba. Northern Regions of all three Prairie provinces remain abnormally dry for this time of year with two regions of Moderate Drought (D1) remaining; one in northwestern Alberta around High Level and the second being in central Saskatchewan. Drought (D1-D4) affected 3 percent of land area in the Prairie region in December.

Central Region (ON, QC)

In Central Canada, sufficient precipitation was received to maintain improvement in dry conditions that impacted southern regions earlier this fall. However, Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions emerged in Southwestern Ontario due to extremely dry conditions over the past two months. Drought classifications throughout northern regions of Ontario and Quebec remained relatively unchanged from November with precipitation not warranting any improvement or degradation. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions affected 35 percent of land area in the Central Region in December.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

Atlantic Canada received near normal precipitation over the past month resulting in an above normal precipitation trend through the early winter period. No drought or Abnormally Dry classifications were made in the Atlantic region.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

Over all, conditions in Northern Canada improved significantly in December as a result of average to above average precipitation and improved stream flows. Northwestern Yukon is the one notable change since the November assessment. The area around Old Crow recorded its 7th driest December on record. This month's deficits along with below normal conditions in November have prompted an Abnormally Dry classification. Overall, Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions affected 11 percent of land area in Yukon and the North West Territories.

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