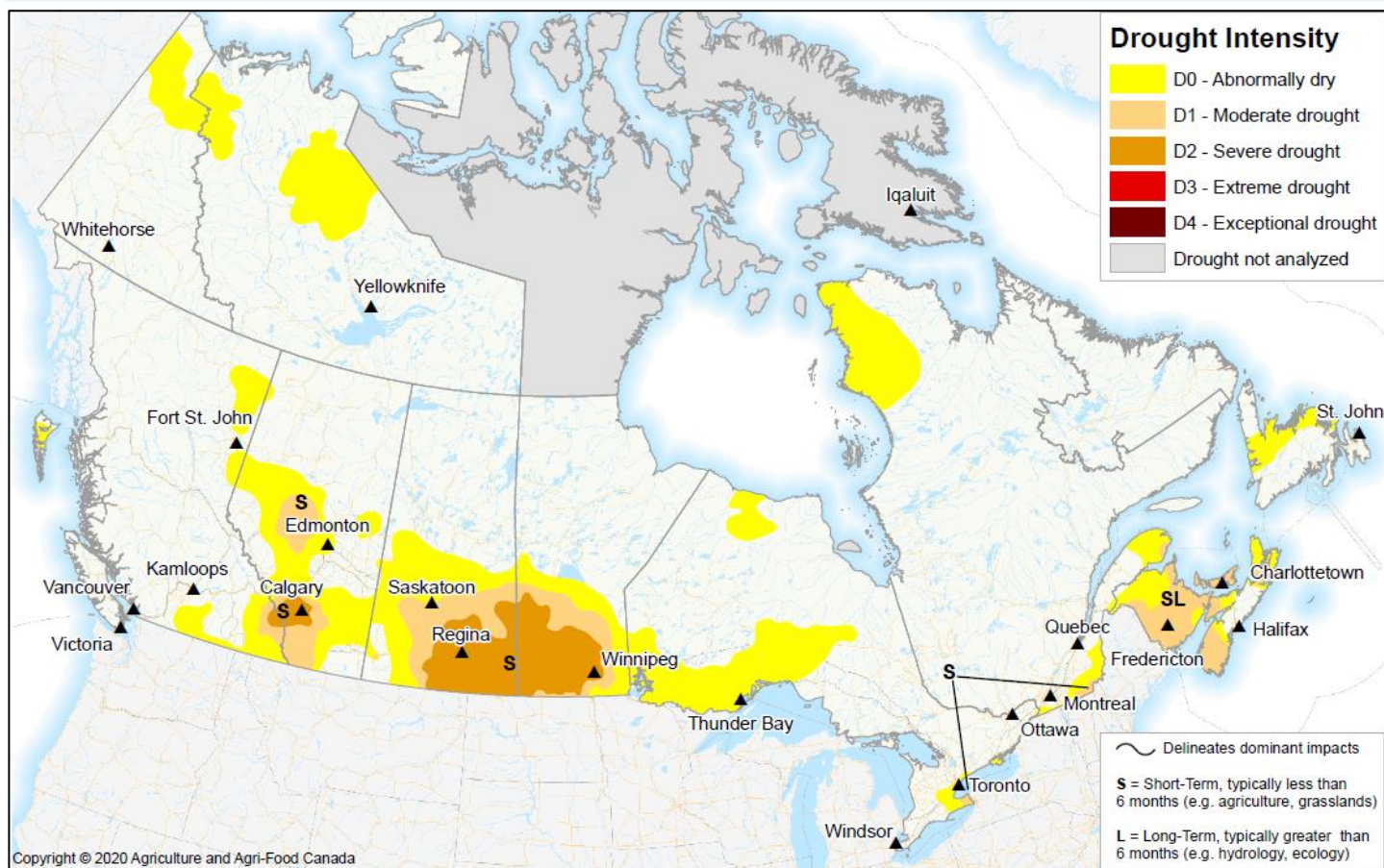


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of October 31, 2020



While moisture in the Pacific region allowed for significant improvements in drought, the rest of Western Canada received extremely low precipitation throughout the month, worsening existing dry conditions and drought. The well below-normal precipitation received in the Prairies in the last few months, which helped with harvest progress, has now impacted fall-seeding. Central and Eastern Canada saw some improvements to drought though much of New Brunswick, P.E.I. and southern Nova Scotia continue to experience Moderate Drought (D1) because of late summer drought. The Northern region experienced a slight expansion of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions though the region continues to have no drought classifications. More than twenty-one percent of the country was considered Abnormally Dry (D0) or in drought; this includes over fifty-eight percent of the agricultural landscape.



Pacific Region (BC)

In the month of October, drought conditions improved significantly throughout British Columbia due to increased precipitation. In southern B.C., Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions were reduced considerably and Moderate Drought (D1) in the southern Okanagan region was removed completely. This was result of above normal precipitation over the last 60 days. There remains to be some Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions in the Okanagan region where as little as 60 percent of normal precipitation was received over the last three months. Small regions of Moderate Drought (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) remain near the Alberta border, in Southeastern British Columbia, east of Kimberley and Fernie, though drought in this area has improved as well. A pocket of D0 developed on Haida Gwaii, where 150 mm less than normal precipitation was received in the last 30 days, as well as a pocket in northern B.C. from Fort Nelson to Fort St. John. Streamflow throughout the province continued to improve though the province. Ten percent of the province was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0), Moderate Drought (D1) or Severe Drought (D2), down nearly eleven percent compared to last month; this includes approximately twenty-two percent of the agricultural landscape.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Following cooler than normal temperatures and low precipitation, drought and abnormally dry conditions worsened throughout October in the Prairie region. In southern Alberta, Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions were reduced slightly however Moderate Drought (D1) continues to affect the area from the foothills south to the U.S. border and Severe Drought (D2) from Canmore to High River. This is due to dry conditions over the last 60 to 90 days. This dryness is also indicated by soil moisture levels shown by satellite-derived data. Excess moisture and flooding seen throughout the central region of Alberta quickly dried during the fall of 2020. As little as 40 percent of normal precipitation was received in the area from Fox Creek to Drayton Valley over the last three months, which led to the development of short-term Moderate Drought (D1) conditions. In Saskatchewan, conditions continued to deteriorate resulting in Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) classifications expanding northward, reaching Saskatoon and Rosetown, and to the west near Swift Current. These D1 conditions, caused by precipitation below the 20th percentile over the last three months, extended into Manitoba reaching as far north as Red Deer Lake and as far east as Beausejour. With as little as 40 percent of normal precipitation received in the last 90 days, Severe Drought (D2) expanded significantly over southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba as well, spanning from Gravelbourg, SK to Winnipeg, MB. Regina received just 11 percent of normal precipitation for the month of October. Harvest is now complete in the Prairies, however the dry conditions are impacting fall seeding particularly

in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. All three Prairie provinces are hoping for more precipitation over the winter to replenish the soil moisture and dugouts in the spring. Almost forty-seven percent of the Prairie region was classified as either Abnormally Dry (D0), in Moderate Drought (D1) or in Severe Drought (D2); this includes over seventy-nine percent of the region's agricultural landscape.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Conditions in the Central region improved throughout the month of October, with some exceptions. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions persist in western Ontario near Thunder Bay though the area was reduced significantly. Satellite-derived data shows that below average precipitation was received in this area over the last 60 days. There is also a pocket of D0 in northern Ontario, west of Peawanuck, that persists as well. Some pockets of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions continue affect areas from Brantford to Cornwall, ON and Moderate Drought (D1) developed near Niagara Falls. The Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI) shows this area as dry over the last 60 days. These conditions carried into Quebec where a small pocket of D1 developed south of Sherbrooke where less than normal precipitation was received in the last two months. However, satellite-derived precipitation data depicted a slight improvement in drought conditions for northern Quebec which led to the elimination of D1 and a reduction of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions. Given the slight improvement in drought, fourteen percent of the Central region remains in either Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate Drought (D1), an improvement of twelve percent from last month; this includes fourteen percent of the agricultural landscape.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

Drought and abnormally dry conditions continued to improve throughout the month of October in the Atlantic region. With up to 80 percent of normal precipitation in New Brunswick over the last two months, drought persists but is now classified as Moderate Drought (D1). Much of the province continues to experience drought or abnormally dry conditions due to long-term precipitation deficits. Over the last six months, New Brunswick received 150mm less than average precipitation and streamflow values are below the 5th percentile in southern areas. All of P.E.I. continues to experience drought conditions as a result of the dry summer months, though the classification was improved to Moderate Drought (D1) following near normal precipitation in October. In Nova Scotia, drought conditions improved though Moderate Drought (D1) persists particularly in the southern portion of the province where as little as 40 percent of average precipitation was received in the last six months. Drought was alleviated in

Newfoundland though Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions persist from Corner Brook to Bonavista. Approximately fourteen percent of the Atlantic region is classified as in drought; this includes sixty-two percent of the region's agricultural landscape.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

Conditions in the Northern region remained fairly stable over the month of October. There was no drought reported in the region for this month though there continues to be minimal areas covered by Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions. A pocket of D0 persists near Old Crow, Yukon and has expanded slightly eastward into the Northwest Territories as a result of precipitation accumulations below 30mm in the month of October. Due to slightly below normal precipitation, the pocket of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions near Colville Lake, NWT has expanded eastward towards the Nunavut border. However, the pocket of D0 conditions was removed on the Yukon-NWT border east of Keno Hill, Yukon. About ten percent of the Northern region is classified as Abnormally Dry (D0).

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