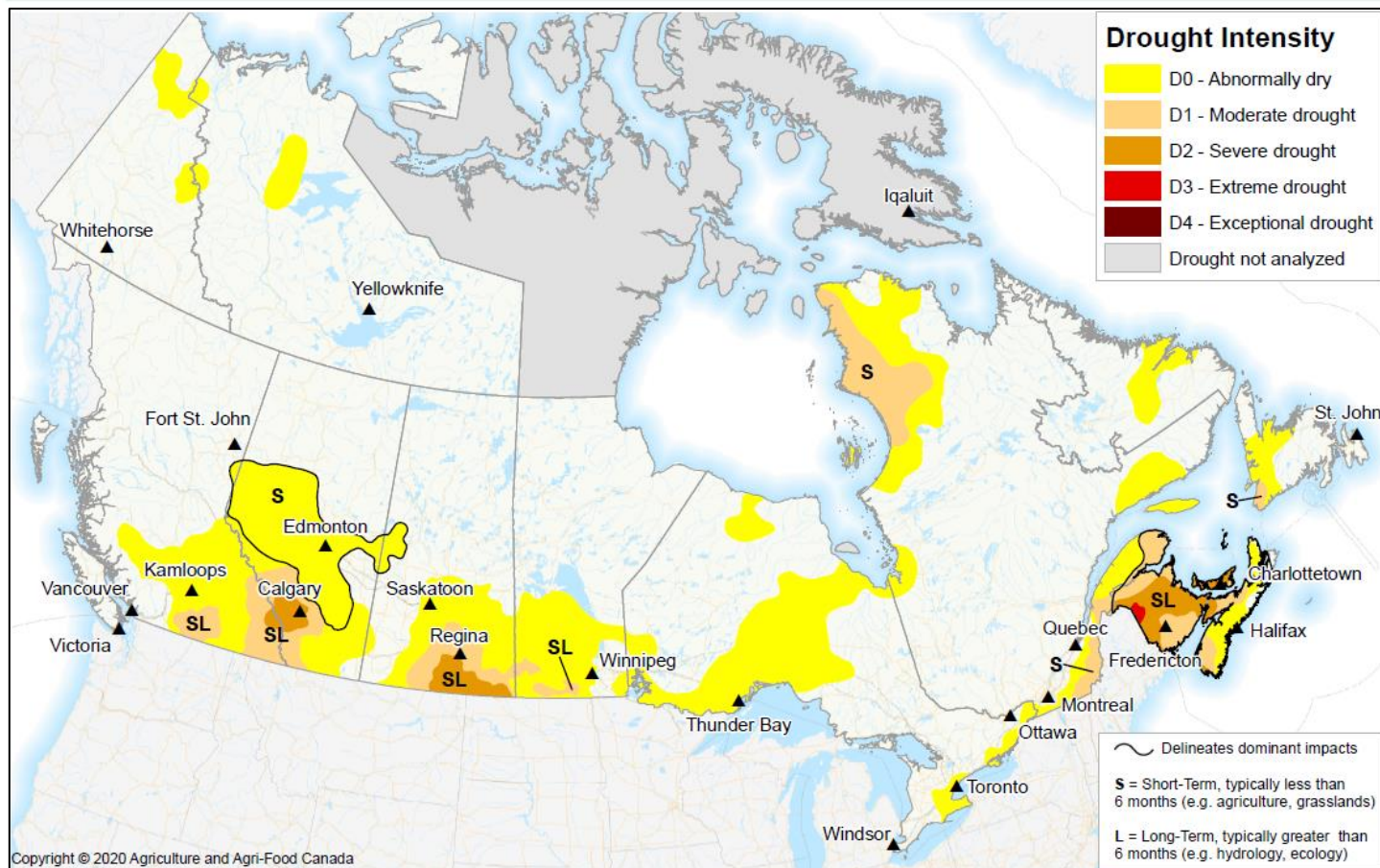


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of September 30, 2020



September conditions across western Canada continued to be dry, while Eastern Canada experienced some reprieve from drought as post-tropical storm Teddy brought much-needed moisture to the region. Below-normal precipitation across parts of the Prairies helped farmers advance their harvest progress. Above-normal temperatures and limited moisture caused drought to expand from southern B.C. into the foothills of Alberta. Central and Eastern Canada saw improved moisture, though significant moisture deficits continue to plague New Brunswick and P.E.I. due to a lack of precipitation over the last several months. Northern Canada remained relatively unchanged, however small improvements in Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions were observed due to improved moisture throughout the region. More than twenty-three percent of



the country was considered Abnormally Dry (D0) or in drought; this includes nearly sixty percent of the agricultural landscape.

Pacific Region (BC)

In the month of September, Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) conditions expanded across much of British Columbia. Across southern B.C., a general lack of precipitation led to the persistence and expansion of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions from Chilko Lake towards the Canada-U.S. border and north towards McBride. Satellite soil moisture data indicated areas in the Okanagan valley were particularly dry, leading to a larger pocket of Moderate Drought (D1), specifically around Penticton and Kelowna; this area only saw 40% of normal precipitation in the last 3 months. In southwestern B.C., conditions also deteriorated from Golden to Creston, leading to the expansion of Moderate Drought (D1). This expansion of (D0) and (D1) conditions were the result of Moderately Low precipitation, between the 10th and 20th percentile, in the last 90 days. This dryness is also indicated by the Standardised Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI) product over the last two to three months. Areas along the coastline and Vancouver Island were not included in categories of drought as the region received more than 50mm of precipitation in the last 30 days. There also continues to be no drought or abnormally dry conditions in northern B.C. Approximately twenty-one percent of the province was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0), in Moderate Drought (D1) or in Severe Drought (D2), up seven percent compared to last month; this includes more than forty-seven percent of the agricultural landscape.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Overall precipitation in the month of September was quite varied across the Prairies: northern areas received the greatest amount of precipitation (upwards of more than 150mm), while parts of the agricultural region saw less than 5mm. These dry conditions helped producers continue their harvest operations, but led to persisting or worsening drought across southern Alberta and Saskatchewan. An area extending southward from the foothills of Alberta towards Crowsnest Pass experienced further deterioration of conditions as precipitation ranked between the 10th and 2nd percentile over the last 2 months. This resulted in the extension of Moderate Drought (D1) as well as the development of Severe Drought (D2). Central Alberta also received very little precipitation in September, however early growing season precipitation helped to alleviate soil moisture concerns. Due to this pre-existing moisture, only Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions expanded in the region, from Grand Prairie towards Cold Lake. Within Saskatchewan, 89 percent of crops were combined as of September 28th, which is well ahead of the five-year average of 67 percent, thanks to the favorable harvest conditions. The

southwestern portion of the province saw up to 50mm of precipitation in September which helped alleviate dryness previously reported in August. South of Regina, however, less than 5mm of rain fell in September and only 10mm was received in August. Percentile values were reported as Extremely Low to Exceptionally Low in this area, leading to the development of a Severe Drought (D2) pocket. Low root zone soil moisture was also reported across much of southeastern Saskatchewan given limited moisture throughout the growing season. Despite sufficient precipitation in July, Moderate Drought (D1) was expanded in the region. Conditions in southern Manitoba remain relatively unchanged as precipitation was reported to be near-normal; this excludes a couple pockets around Winkler and west of Brandon, where 40-60% of normal precipitation fell over the last 2 months. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions were also retained near Dauphin given satellite-derived soil moisture dryness. Almost thirty-five 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-one percent of the region's agricultural landscape.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Precipitation throughout Central Canada improved in the last 30 days, barring some exceptions. Upwards of 150mm of precipitation was received across northwestern Ontario and as a result, much of the Abnormally Dry (D0) classification in this area was reduced. Moderate Drought (D1) was also removed in the area from Lake of the Woods towards Thunder Bay and Nipigon. However, Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions persist from Thunder Bay north towards Fort Albany as streamflow levels are as low as the 5th percentile in addition to soil moisture deficits. Although precipitation over the last 30 days in southern Ontario and Quebec has been minimal, concerns of dryness were minimized by significant precipitation received in July and August; near-normal conditions were also depicted by the 3-month SPEI product. For this reason, portions of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions were reduced and all pockets of Moderate Drought (D1) were removed from London to Cornwall, Ontario. However, streamflow values across southern Quebec continued to report the lowest percentile and thus remained in Moderate Drought (D1). Satellite-derived precipitation and soil moisture data depicted a slight worsening in drought conditions for northern Quebec. The pockets of Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) were expanded as a result. Although drought still remains on the Gaspé Peninsula, the area impacted by Moderate Drought (D1) conditions was reduced due to near-normal Percentile data in the last 90 days. Given the significant reduction in drought, twenty-six percent of the Central region remains in either Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate Drought (D1), an improvement of nine percent from last month; this includes twenty-nine percent of the agricultural landscape.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

Significant moisture deficits from the month of August have improved slightly in the Atlantic region, but much of the drought remains in place, specifically throughout New Brunswick and P.E.I. Approximately nineteen percent of the Atlantic region is classified as in drought; this includes seventy-one percent of the region's agricultural landscape. Severe Drought (D2) persists across much of New Brunswick as 50 percent below-normal precipitation has been received in the last two months and 25-50 percent below-normal precipitation in the last three months. Although recent precipitation fell across the Bouctouche and Moncton area, Severe Drought (D2) remains in place because of short and long-term dryness, especially over the last six to nine months. Furthermore, a pocket of Extreme Drought (D3) emerged this month near Grand Falls, New Brunswick as very little precipitation, from 25mm to less than 5mm in some areas, was received. Soil moisture and other drought indicators such as SPEI also show this pocket of New Brunswick continuing to struggle with significant precipitation deficits. Moderate Drought (D1) continues to plague northern New Brunswick as well. Across Newfoundland and Labrador, the lowest precipitation amounts received this month were from Cape Ray towards Twillingate. This area received 75 percent below-normal precipitation with only 50mm received, thus leading to the expansion of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions. post-tropical storm 'Teddy' impacted the Atlantic region near the end of the month, but much of the precipitation from this event fell across Nova Scotia. As a result of this precipitation, drought conditions improved with reductions in Moderate Drought (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) classifications, particularly in southern Nova Scotia.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

The Northern region of Canada received fairly average precipitation for the month of September; in many areas, this was upwards of 50mm. There was no drought reported in the region for this month, and the minimal area covered by Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions was reduced further. Only a few pockets of D0 remain including one around Old Crow, Yukon, which received approximately 8mm of precipitation; this is far below the average of 29mm, at only 30% of normal precipitation. In addition, small pockets of D0 persists on the Yukon-NWT border and east of Fort Good Hope, from Tulita to Colville Lake. Only five of the Northern region is classified as Abnormally Dry (D0).

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