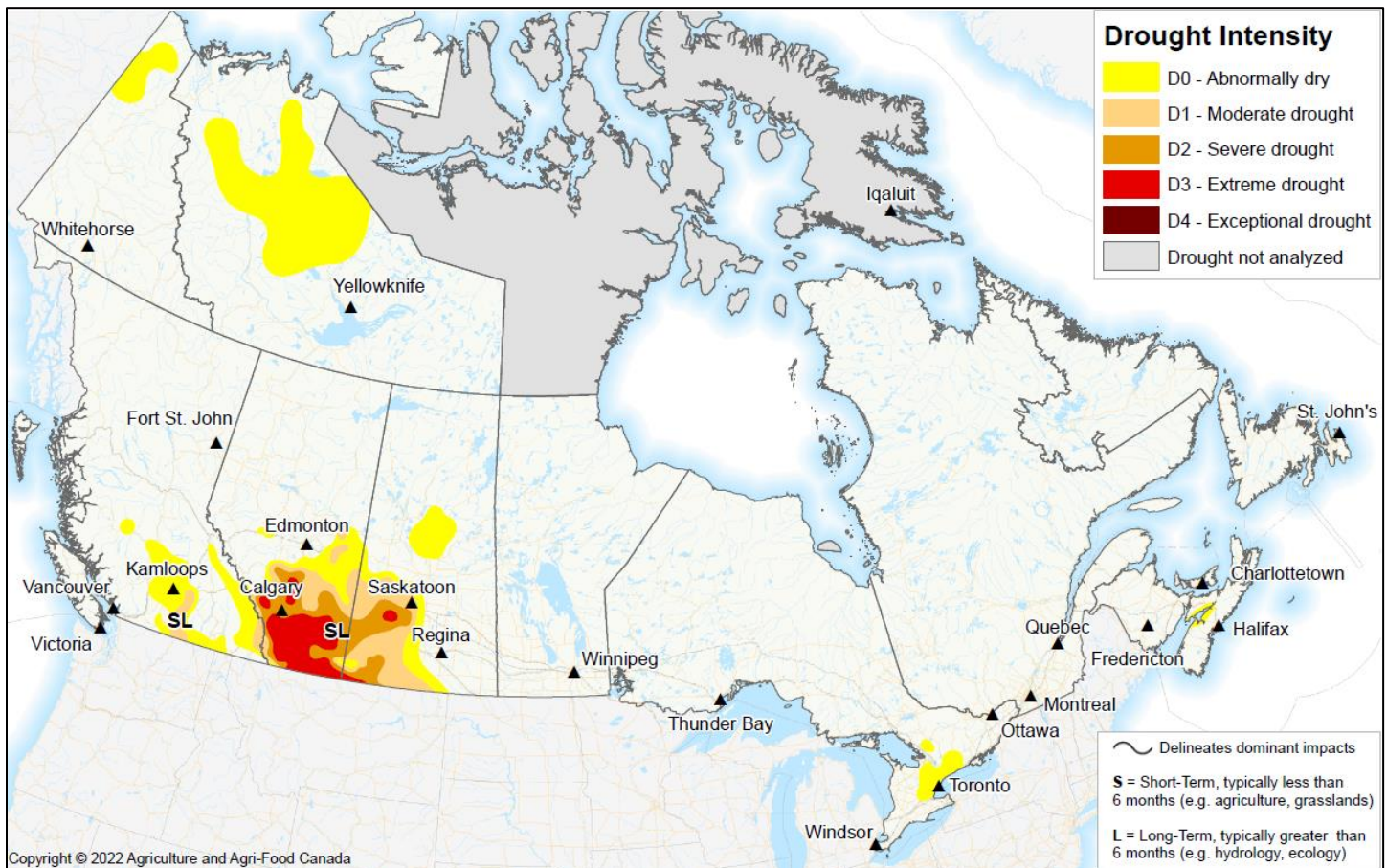


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of May 31, 2022



During May, well above-normal precipitation continued throughout Coastal and central British Columbia, the eastern Prairies, northwestern Ontario as well as southern portions of both the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Overland flooding and excess moisture conditions also continued in southern Manitoba and northwestern Ontario. Wet conditions throughout the eastern Prairies alleviated all moisture concerns that had developed from the 2021 drought. The driest area of the country continued to be southern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan, where Extreme Drought (D3) expanded throughout substantial portions of the region. Short and long-term precipitation deficits resulted in significant impacts including water supply issues, low stream flow, poor vegetative production and poor germination of agricultural



crops. Remaining areas of the country experienced minimal impacts from drought or excess moisture this month.

At the end of the month, ten percent of the country was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Extreme Drought (D1 to D3), including thirty-two percent of the country's agricultural landscape. There was no Exceptional Drought (D4) reported this month.

Pacific Region (BC)

The southern Interior of B.C. remained dry while coastal and central areas of the province as well as the Peace region received significant monthly precipitation. Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland received Moderately High to Very High precipitation this month, while the Peace Region received Very High to Exceptionally High moisture. Much of this moisture was significant enough to stave off any development of drought or Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions. In addition to this moisture, May temperatures were slightly cooler than normal across much of the province, barring a pocket west of Kamloops that reported temperatures more than 5 degrees above normal.

The Okanagan region in the southern Interior continued to miss significant precipitation events. This dry trend extended from the spring, where 60 to 85 percent of normal moisture fell. Areas across the Rockies also reported low spring moisture; only 40 to 60 percent of normal precipitation in the last 3 months. In addition to this short-term dryness, longer-term impacts persisted throughout the Interior. Pasture and hay quality remained a concern with limited hay available; this led to some producers to worry about further culling their herd. Given both short and longer-term moisture deficits, Moderate Drought (D1) remained across the Okanagan. However, due to the cooler temperatures and minimal deficits, there was no degradation of conditions.

At the end of the month, ten percent of the Pacific Region was considered Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate Drought (D1), including thirty-five percent of the region's agricultural landscape.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Both extremely wet and dry conditions persisted into May across the Prairie Region: the eastern Prairies and the Peace region in northwestern Alberta continued to receive well above-normal precipitation, while southwestern portions of the region received very limited

precipitation this month. Temperatures remained slightly cooler than normal, lessening the potential evapotranspiration across the region.

Significant impacts emerged throughout the southeastern Prairies due to the severe lack of moisture. Exceptional dryness developed around Lethbridge this month, while 3-month precipitation was reported as Exceptionally Dry around nearly all of southwestern Alberta, stretching from Cardston to Banff. This roughly translated to less than 40 percent of normal moisture since March, while surrounding areas received between 40 to 60 percent of normal moisture in the same time frame. Longer-term moisture deficits also persisted in this same area, as much of southern Alberta only received 40 to 60 percent of normal precipitation in the last year. Short to very short surface soil moisture conditions were reported across southern Alberta leading to several impacts including limited available surface water or runoff leading to pumping water and pasture delays, dugouts drying up and streamflows reported at very low levels this spring. There were also reports of crops not getting planted at all given the lack of moisture. As a result of the significant moisture shortage and concerning impacts felt across the area, Extreme Drought (D3) was expanded across southern Alberta, further west and south towards the Rockies and the U.S. border. A pocket of D3 was also added around Canmore and Banff and another D3 pocket expanded from Airdrie towards Red Deer. This area will be monitored for potential development of Exceptional Drought (D4) in the coming months, especially if dry conditions persist.

Much of southwestern Saskatchewan continued to report drought conditions, but mostly due to longer-term impacts; short-term precipitation appeared to improve conditions slightly this month. Rural Municipalities in the extreme southwestern corner of the province reported devastated pastures as well as concerns for further cattle reductions due to a lack of available feed. However, remaining areas of southwestern Saskatchewan received near- to slightly above-normal moisture this month, which helped to improve drought conditions slightly. Extreme Drought (D3) was removed at Swift Current and Severe Drought (D2) was also reduced. Nonetheless, these areas remain vulnerable to hay land and pasture condition degradation due to long-term moisture deficits – without significant moisture in the next two weeks, these areas could be under severe stress.

Northern Saskatchewan recorded a fairly dry May with both Key Lake and La Ronge coming in with stats in the top 10 driest recorded. A pocket of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions was added to this region given the shorter-term moisture deficits. However, despite this and an increased fire risk, longer-term moisture conditions remained adequate due to above-normal precipitation from the previous winter season.

Eastern parts of the Prairies experienced significant moisture in the last few months, including the month of May. Much of southern Manitoba felt the brunt of this moisture, but southeastern Saskatchewan was significantly impacted this month as well. Nearly the entire eastern half of the Prairies received Extremely High to Exceptionally High precipitation in the last three months – roughly 150 to more than 200 percent of normal moisture since March, especially across southern Manitoba. However, this moisture shifted slightly more into eastern Saskatchewan, where much of the heavier precipitation fell this month. Some areas along the border between Saskatchewan and Manitoba received between 65 to 85 mm more precipitation than normal this month, and greater than 85 mm above normal in parts of southern Manitoba. Yorkton, Saskatchewan reported its wettest May ever while Estevan, Saskatchewan had its 6th wettest May on record. As a result of this considerable moisture, there were reports of cattle showing signs of feet ailments from standing in deep mud, as well as limited or no access to fields for seeding. Additional impacts include soil erosion from the rapid, heavy run-off, overflowing dugouts and sloughs as well as challenges to harvesting wild hay if wet conditions persist.

At the end of the month, nineteen percent of the Prairie Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Extreme Drought (D1 to D3), including forty-four percent of the region's agricultural landscape.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Conditions across Central Canada in May remained variable, but with little concern for drought development. Northern areas of the region reported more moisture this month while southern Ontario received slightly less than normal moisture. Southern Quebec received near- to above-normal moisture in May. Much of southcentral Canada also experienced a significant wind and storm event this month, leading to infrastructure damage but limited impacts reported to agriculture. Nearly the entire region also experienced temperatures above normal this month, upwards of 2 to 3 degrees above normal across southern Quebec and central Ontario.

Although long-term moisture is not an issue in southern Ontario, pockets of shorter-term moisture deficits emerged, specifically around Toronto and northward towards Bracebridge. These areas reported Moderately Low precipitation in the last 3 months, equating to roughly 60 to 85 percent of normal moisture; this led to the emergence of two Abnormally Dry (D0) pockets in the area. Extreme southern Ontario was omitted from any drought or Abnormally Dry (D0) designation due to reports of optimal to surplus moisture.

Most other portions of the Central region reported near- to above-normal moisture this month: northwestern Ontario as well as much of Quebec reported 115 to more than 200 percent of normal precipitation. Streamflow was also reported at Well Above Normal to Record High levels in northwestern Ontario after several months of significant rain fell.

At the end of the month, only one percent of the Central Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0), including seven percent of the region's agricultural landscape. There was no drought reported in the region this month.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

After months of significant moisture across Atlantic Canada, southern New Brunswick and much of Nova Scotia reported Moderately Low to Very Low precipitation this month. Many of these areas received less than 40 percent of the average May precipitation, approximately 35 mm instead of the usual 95 mm. This moisture deficit also carried into the 60-day precipitation amounts, but less so in the 90-day products. As such, a pocket of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions emerged around the Minas Basin, north of Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Precipitation across remaining areas of the region reported as near- to slightly above- or below-normal this month. Portions of northern New Brunswick recorded 115 to 150 percent of normal moisture throughout May, while parts of Newfoundland received between 40 to 85 percent of normal precipitation. No drought or Abnormally Dry (D0) pockets were placed in these areas this month, but parts of Newfoundland will be monitored if dry conditions persist.

At the end of the month, only one percent of the Atlantic Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0), including seven percent of the region's agricultural landscape. There was no drought reported in the region this month.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions expanded throughout much of the Northwest Territories and northern parts of the Yukon Territory, while southern areas continued to receive adequate precipitation. Moderately Low to Very Low precipitation amounts were reported in the last two to three months around Great Bear Lake and towards Fort Good Hope, NWT. Old Crow, Yukon also reported only 26 percent of normal moisture this month. As such, Abnormally Dry (D0) areas in both the Northwest Territories and the Yukon were expanded to reflect these moisture deficits.

Southern portions of the region remained drought-free as stations reported Moderately High to Exceptionally High precipitation in May.

Fourteen percent of the Northern Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0).

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, represented by the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food (2022).

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