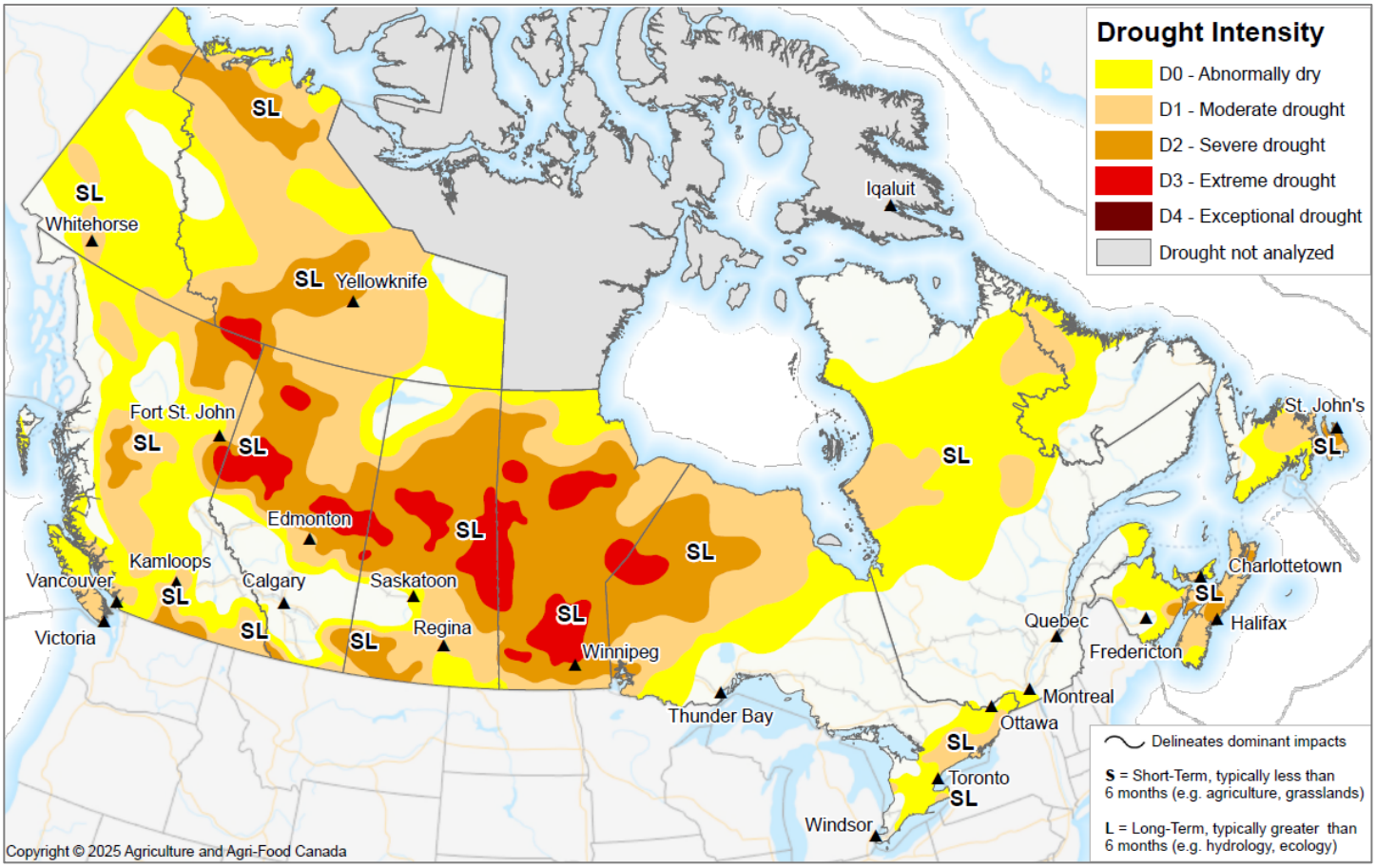
Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of July 31, 2025



Through July, most of Canada recorded below- to well below-average precipitation driving both the spread and intensification of drought across the country. In British Columbia, persistent rainfall deficits and dwindling stream flows exacerbated dry conditions. The northern and central Prairies saw exceptionally low precipitation, rapidly deepening drought in those regions. Meanwhile, southern and eastern Ontario received hot, dry conditions that expanded existing dry and drought areas. Atlantic Canada's July rainfall deficits resulted in the expansion and increased severity of drought. Only Southern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan saw significant improvement with well above-normal precipitation which began to replenish soil moisture and improve surface water supplies, delivering much-needed respite from the drought conditions.

At the end of the month, 71% of the country was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or Moderate to Extreme Drought (D1 to D3), including 71% of the country's agricultural landscape.

Pacific Region (BC)

British Columbia received below-normal precipitation and generally seasonal temperatures. Precipitation deficits continued across most regions, except for southeastern regions and parts of the Central Coast. Precipitation deficits deepened, resulting in worsening drought across Vancouver Island, the southern and central Interior, and segments of the Peace region. Most of the southern regions of the province saw less than 60% of normal precipitation, except for parts of the Kootenay region where areas received 50 to 125mm of precipitation. South-central areas had monthly temperature anomalies of greater than 5 degrees Celsius, while parts of the coast and the Peace Region saw cooler temperatures.

Southern British Columbia saw below-normal precipitation, with southern Vancouver Island and the southern Okanagan, receiving less than 40% of normal precipitation. Parts of southern Vancouver Island faced over 15 consecutive days with less than 5 mm of daily rainfall. Poor stream flows have been recorded throughout Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland including the Cowichan River, leading to fishery closures. Widespread precipitation deficits and low stream flows caused drought conditions to expand across the southern half of Vancouver Island, the South Coast, and the Lower Mainland, where pockets of Moderate (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) emerged. Central British Columbia also saw expanding drought, with a pocket of Severe Drought (D2) forming in the central Interior. Watersheds like the Salmon River and Nicola Basin showed signs of stress, including record-low groundwater levels and water restrictions in communities like Falkland in the Shuswap region. Northern British Columbia remained dry, with much of the region receiving under 60% of normal precipitation in July. Most areas saw persistent drought, with a pocket of Extreme Drought (D3) emerging in the Northeast along the border with the Northwest Territories. In the Peace Region, some rainfall led to a slight pullback of Severe Drought (D2) near Fort St. John and eased wildfire intensity. However, drought conditions expanded around Dawson Creek, where the Kiskatinaw River, its only water source, neared record-low levels, prompting water restrictions and water availability concerns.

At the end of the month, 76% of the Pacific Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Extreme Drought (D1 to D3), including 91% of the region's agricultural landscape.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Drought continued to affect large portions of the Prairies in July, with the Peace River region, areas north of the Highway 16 corridor in Alberta and Western Saskatchewan, north-central Saskatchewan, and much of central and northern Manitoba among the driest regions. Precipitation was highly variable: southern Alberta and parts of southwestern Saskatchewan received over 150% of normal precipitation, while northern agricultural and forested areas across all three provinces remained dry. Some areas such as La Ronge, North Battleford, and Prince Albert in Saskatchewan and The Pas and Thompson in Manitoba received less than 25% of normal monthly precipitation. Central Saskatchewan, east-central Alberta, and Manitoba's Interlake saw less than 40% of normal precipitation, with some Interlake areas receiving under 30 mm this month. Temperatures were generally cooler than normal, especially in Manitoba's Interlake region, where temperatures were greater than 5 degrees Celsius below normal due to much colder nighttime temperatures. The cooler temperatures reduced evaporation and water loss reducing the impacts of the extensive drought conditions across the region. The region saw significant drought improvement in southern Alberta and parts of southwestern Saskatchewan as result of well above-normal precipitation. Despite some localized improvements, widespread moisture deficits persisted across much of the northern Prairie agricultural regions and much of Manitoba, which led to the expansion of Abnormally Dry (D0) to Severe Drought (D2) conditions and the emergence of several pockets of Extreme Drought (D3) conditions.

Alberta saw varied weather conditions through July. Southern Alberta experienced significant rainfall, with many areas receiving over 150% of their normal monthly precipitation totals. Parts of the southwest saw over 100 mm, and some areas near Calgary exceeded 150 mm of precipitation. These rainfall events brought relief to drought affected areas in southwestern regions, leading to improved conditions and reductions of Abnormally Dry (D0), Moderate (D1) and Severe drought D2), and the removal of the Extreme Drought (D3) region. Despite substantial monthly precipitation through southeastern Alberta, drought conditions persisted with only minor improvements. Long term drought conditions and severe impacts to agriculture and water resources in southeastern Alberta warranted retaining portions of the Moderate (D1) and Severe (D2). Central Alberta saw drought expansion, with Abnormally Dry (D0) to Severe Drought (D2) areas increasing and an area of Extreme Drought (D3) emerging in the northern portion of the east-central region. The region saw exceptionally low rainfall, areas around Cold Lake and Fort McMurray received less than 40% of normal monthly precipitation. Several municipalities, including the M.D. of Bonnyville and the County of Two Hills, reported deteriorating crop and pasture conditions, leading to the declarations of Agricultural Disaster. Similarly, in northern Alberta, drought conditions worsened due to below-normal precipitation, especially in the Peace Region, where a large Extreme Drought (D3) pocket emerged. Several

municipalities, including the County of Grande Prairie and the M.D. of Greenview, declared agricultural disaster due to extreme drought conditions and significant grasshopper infestations, which have resulted in poor crop, hay and pasture production. Poor feed production has resulted in significant concerns for winter feed availability resulting in some producers to begin reducing their cattle herds.

Saskatchewan saw cooler temperatures in July and highly variable precipitation. While much of the province received 85 to over 200% of normal rainfall, central and northern areas remained very dry, with some regions receiving less than 40% of normal rainfall. The southwest saw over 150% of normal precipitation and resulted in moderate drought improvement including the removal of the Extreme Drought (D3) classification. However, Moderate (D1) and Severe (D2) remain as early season high temperatures and long-term precipitation deficits resulted in severe impacts. Following multiple years of drought, it will take time and more favorable conditions for soil moisture, pastures, surface water supplies and ground water to recover. Several Rural Municipalities have declared Agriculture Disasters due to crop failures, hay shortages, lack of water supplies and early livestock sales. Hay yields were significantly reduced, and numerous dryland fields were left unharvested. Drought intensified across central and northern Saskatchewan, with several large Extreme Drought (D3) pockets emerging in the west and central regions and expanding along the border with Manitoba. As of the end of July, Severe Drought (D2) or Extreme Drought (D3) encompassed the majority of the northern half of the province. Drought conditions have resulted in water levels dropping in lakes around Prince Albert, prompting warnings of potential water system shutdowns.

Much of Manitoba continued to receive below-normal precipitation through July, with only the southernmost regions of the province recording normal to above-normal precipitation. Manitoba saw cooler temperatures, especially in the Interlake region, where temperatures were up to 5 degrees Celsius below normal. Northern agricultural areas received less than 60% of normal precipitation, with parts of the Interlake and the western Parkland region recording under 40% of normal monthly precipitation. Although scattered rainfall brought brief relief for some regions, it was inconsistent and offered limited recovery, with crops and pastures continuing to show significant signs of drought stress including severely stunted crops, and well below-normal hay production. As a result, drought conditions worsened across most of the province with some regions degrading by multiple drought classes. In the southern and central regions, dugout water levels remained low, and water quality concerns increased. Southern Manitoba saw an expansion of Abnormally Dry (D0) to Severe Drought (D2) areas and the development of Extreme Drought (D3) regions north of Brandon and throughout the Interlake region. Several rural municipalities declared Agricultural Disasters due to poor forage production, stunted crops, anticipated poor crop yields, declining water quality, and limited

pasture growth. In central Manitoba, drought intensified with the emergence of an Extreme Drought (D3) pocket in the west-central area and broader Severe Drought (D2) expansion. Northern Manitoba also saw worsening conditions, with Abnormally Dry (D0) to Severe Drought (D2) areas growing and two new Extreme Drought (D3) pockets added. Many crops in the north were shorter than usual, with significant damage reported due to the ongoing dry conditions.

At the end of the month, 88% of the Prairie Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Extreme Drought (D1 to D3), including 81% of the region's agricultural landscape.

Central Region (ON, QC)

In July, the Central Region experienced normal to slightly above-normal monthly mean temperatures. Despite near-normal monthly mean temperatures, the region experienced significantly warm days, resulting in heat stress in some crops. Northwestern Ontario remained notably dry, with pockets receiving less than 40% of normal precipitation resulting in continued worsening drought conditions. Severe Drought (D2) areas expanded, and a new Extreme Drought (D3) pocket emerged near the Manitoba border. Southern portions of Ontario and Quebec generally received less than 85% of normal precipitation, with portions of eastern Ontario received below 40% of normal monthly precipitation. Dry conditions through July resulted in saw continued expansion of Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) conditions and new Moderate Drought (D1) pockets added around Niagara Falls. Southern Quebec saw limited changes to drought conditions, though Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions persisted near Montreal due to lingering short-term dryness. In northern Quebec, Abnormally Dry (D0) areas expanded, and two new Moderate Drought (D1) pockets formed in the northeast due to short term drought conditions.

At the end of the month, 53% of the Central Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Extreme Drought (D1 to D3), including 34% of the region's agricultural landscape.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

In July, the Atlantic Region received below-normal precipitation with large portions of Nova Scotia receiving below 40% of normal monthly precipitation. Large portions of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island received less than 60% of monthly normal precipitation. The Atlantic Region experienced normal to slightly above-normal temperatures.

Drought conditions worsened across the region with Moderate (D1) and Severe (D2) drought areas expanding in eastern Newfoundland due to record-low groundwater levels, dry wells

agricultural stress due to extremely low soil moisture. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions expanded, and a new Moderate Drought (D1) region emerged in Northern Labrador. Nova Scotia experienced the expansion of Abnormally Dry (D0) to Moderate Drought (D1) conditions and the emergence of three Severe Drought (D2) areas due to growing short term precipitation deficits and low soil moisture around the Annapolis Valley and near Truro. The region has not received substantial rain needed to recharge wetlands, streams and lakes. Producers in the driest regions of the province are reporting that surface water supplies and shallow wells have dried up. Many municipalities have implemented voluntary water conservation measures. Drought conditions intensified across New Brunswick with the emergence of Abnormally Dry (D0) to Severe Drought (D2) conditions. Similarly, on Prince Edward Island Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions emerged across the entire island with an area of Moderate Drought (D1) forming in the west.

At the end of the month, 56% of the Atlantic Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Severe Drought (D2), including 83% of the region's agricultural landscape.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

In July, the Northern Region experienced a mix of temperature and precipitation patterns. Across the Yukon, temperatures were generally near to above normal, while in the Northwest Territories (NWT) temperatures were cooler. Precipitation was variable, with southern Yukon remaining exceptionally dry. Although scattered rainfall occurred in the NWT, it was insufficient to relieve persistently low water levels and stream flows, particularly in major river systems like the Mackenzie, Liard, and Slave.

Drought conditions evolved differently across the two territories. In the Yukon, dryness intensified, particularly in the southern and northern regions. Abnormally Dry (D0) areas expanded in both the southern and northern parts of the territory, with a new Moderate Drought (D1) pocket added in the southwest and Severe Drought (D2) added in the north. Despite a return to near-average water level conditions in some regions by early July and the lifting of wildfire-related evacuation alerts around Dawson City, several areas, such as the Southern Lakes and Aishihik region, remained below average due to earlier low snowpack and a cool, dry start to summer. In the Northwest Territories, drought intensity and extent increased. Abnormally Dry (D1) and Moderate Drought (D1) expanded in the north, with a new Severe Drought (D2) pocket extending along the NWT-Yukon border. In the south, minor adjustments were made to the Severe Drought (D2) area, and a new Extreme Drought (D3) pocket was added near the border with British Columbia. Widespread low water levels persisted across major lakes and rivers, including the Mackenzie, Liard, and Great Slave Lake. Great Bear Lake

recorded its lowest water level for this time of year, and flow rates on the Great Bear River remained below normal.

At the end of the month, 79% of the Northern Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Extreme Drought (D1 to D3).