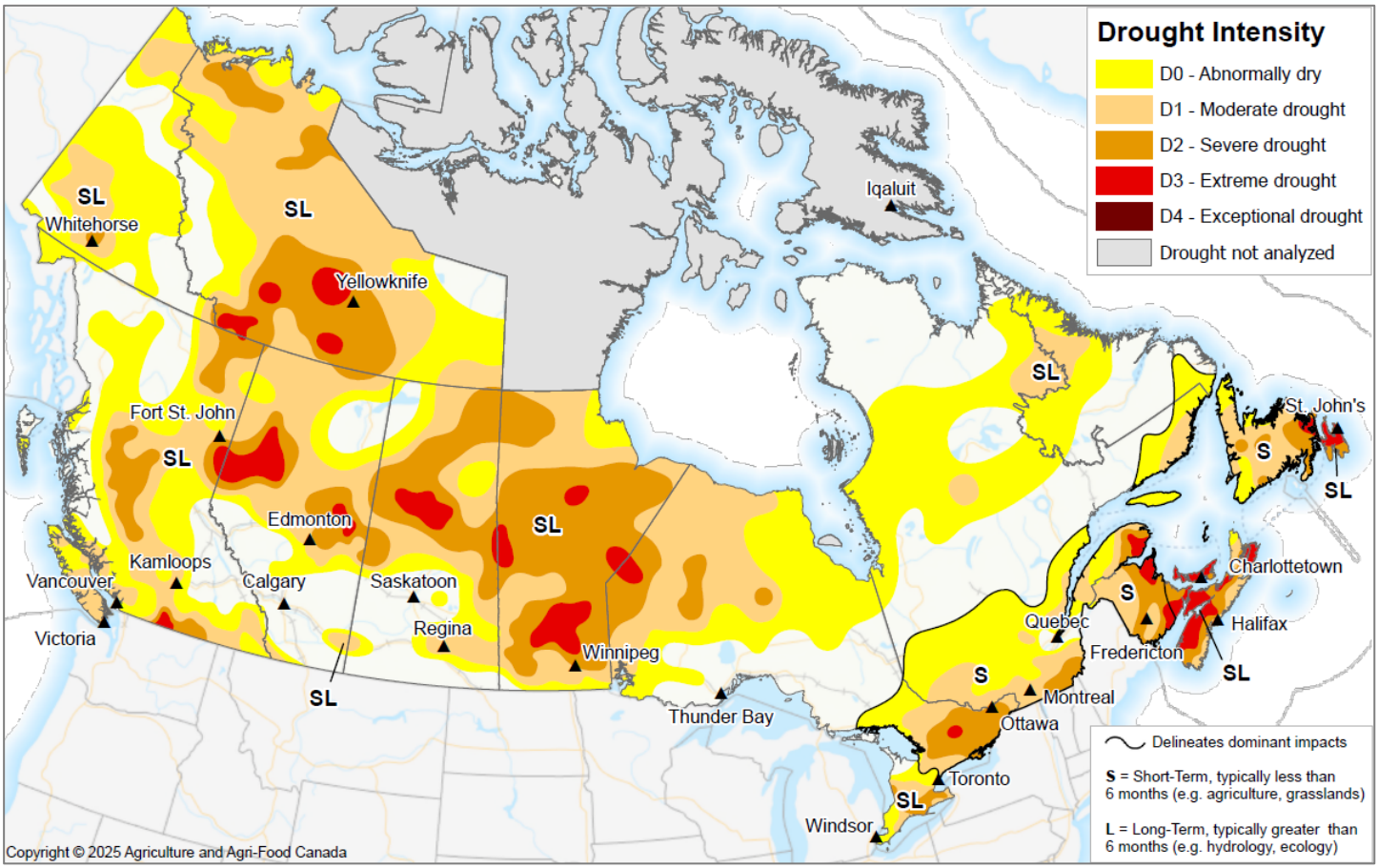
Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of August 31, 2025



In August drought conditions generally improved in Western Canada and worsened in Eastern Canada. British Columbia, saw a mix of improvements and worsening drought with northern regions receiving much needed rainfall, while central regions continued to receive below-normal precipitation. Southern portions of the Prairie region saw significant improvement with widespread storm events providing well above-normal precipitation. Northern regions of the prairies generally saw moderate improvement, however significant regions of Severe (D2) to Extreme Drought (D3) remain. Dry conditions dominated Eastern Canada with southern regions of Ontario and Quebec and much of the Atlantic region receiving well below-normal August precipitation, substantially increasing the severity and extent of the drought.

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 70% of the country's agricultural landscape.

Pacific Region (BC)

British Columbia experienced a generally warmer and drier than normal August conditions. Temperatures were up to 5°C above normal east of Kamloops. While through much of August temperatures were close to normal, two heat events, August 10-12, and a prolonged event from August 22 to the end of the month resulted the province seeing above- to well above-normal monthly temperatures. Although the Lower Mainland saw over 200% of normal precipitation, largely as a result of a pacific frontal system mid-month, most other regions in the province saw below-to well below-normal monthly precipitation. Southcentral, southeastern and the central Interior of British Columbia received 40 to 60% of normal precipitation, with the southern Okanagan and Peace region received less than 40%. Although southern Vancouver Island received near-normal rainfall (85 to 115%) the rest of the island, was drier.

Drought conditions eased in the southeast, with a reduction in Moderate Drought (D1) and the removal of Severe Drought (D2). However, growing precipitation deficits, high temperatures, and low streamflow lead to the development of Extreme Drought (D3) the southern Okanagan and Similkameen basins. Conditions in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island were mostly stable, though a new Moderate Drought (D1) emerged in northern Vancouver Island. In Central areas drought conditions worsened with Severe Drought (D2) conditions expanding having received only 60 to 85% of normal monthly precipitation resulting in increased wildfire activity. In the north drought conditions showed improvements. The Peace Region experienced slight reductions in Severe (D2) and Extreme Drought (D3) conditions with above-normal precipitation through August. Wildfire activity in the Peace region has reduced, with many fires now being held or under control. Similarly, the northeastern corner of the province saw slight reductions in Severe (D2) and Extreme Drought (D3) conditions. Northwest British Columbia saw further improvements in drought conditions, resulting in the removal of Moderate Drought (D1) pockets.

At the end of the month, 71% of the Pacific Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Extreme Drought (D1 to D3), including 89% of the region's agricultural landscape.

Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)

Many areas of the Prairie Region received significant August rainfall, local intense storm activity, especially in the south and widespread rains, mainly affecting northern areas.

Temperatures during August fluctuated significantly, ranging from much colder than normal to extremely warm. The last week of August was extremely warm with temperatures reaching above 30°C, breaking daily records at numerous locations. These conditions brought relief from the ongoing drought, with monthly precipitation totals above 150% of normal in northern and eastern Alberta, central and southwestern Saskatchewan, and the southern Interlake region in Manitoba. Overall, significant drought improvement through southern portion of the region and minor improvements through northern areas.

Precipitation across Alberta varied substantially in August, with the west central region receiving less than 60% of average monthly precipitation, while central and eastern areas received 115% to more than 150% of average monthly precipitation due to of a series of slow-moving thunderstorms. The storm on August 20th brought high winds, downbursts and significant hail. Substantial precipitation resulted in significant drought improvements in the southeast, replenishing soil moisture, increasing reservoir and dugout levels, and recharging groundwater. Only a small pocket of Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) conditions remained around Medicine Hat at the end of the month. Central and east-central Alberta saw substantial reductions in Severe (D2) and Extreme Drought (D3) this month, but significant drought conditions persists. Drought related impacts such as reduced surface water supplies, soil moisture deficits, poor crop development and feed shortages have been worsened by heat stress and inadequate moisture. While timely rainfall has helped to ease conditions and support late-season growth, it was too late to salvage many field crops. The Peace Region continued to report the worst drought conditions in the province, despite a mid-month storm system that brought much-needed moisture. Producers have had to relocate livestock due to a lack of surface water supply, poor pasture and feed production, worsened by grasshopper infestations. These impacts, combined with ongoing lack of rainfall across much of the area, resulted in a slight expansion of Extreme Drought (D3) northward.

Much of Saskatchewan received above-normal rainfall in August, with the southwest recording more than 200% of normal precipitation. In early August, an intense low-pressure system generated heavy rains to central Saskatchewan stretching from the Alberta border through Prince Albert and to Hudson’s Bay. This storm event brought more than 50 mm of precipitation to a large region of the province, with Prince Albert recording the largest amount at 79 mm. The rainfall significantly improved drought conditions, leaving most of southwestern and east central Saskatchewan drought-free, apart from a small pocket of Moderate Drought (D1) remaining in the extreme southwest. August precipitation also improved pasture and feed supplies, but crop losses remained largely irreversible, with some producers continuing to reduce herds due to lingering water and forage shortages. Moderate (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) also improved in south central areas and the southeast, although some impacts persist

including low dugout levels, reduced hay yields and feed shortages. Moderate Drought (D1) persists in the Regina and Moose Jaw region with these climate stations recording 48 and 51% of normal August precipitation. Central Saskatchewan saw improvements to Severe (D2) and Extreme Drought (D3) after receiving more than 150% of normal precipitation in August, though more precipitation is needed to fully alleviate drought conditions in the region. Further north, a pocket of Extreme (D3) drought from Buffalo Narrows to La Ronge persists due to long-term precipitation deficits. Moderate (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) also expanded in extreme northeastern Saskatchewan due to long-term drought conditions.

Precipitation was generally near normal to above normal across Manitoba and temperatures were near normal. The exception are drier pockets in the Interlake region and south-central Manitoba, which received 60 to 85% of average precipitation. Areas west of Winnipeg received intense precipitation in late August, resulting in the region recording over 200% of normal. As a result of above-normal rainfall in southern Manitoba, Abnormally Dry (D0) to Severe Drought (D2) conditions were reduced slightly, and Extreme Drought (D3) conditions in the west were removed and eastern areas also saw improvement. While south-central areas received normal to above-normal rainfall, this was insufficient to fully offset previous precipitation deficits, and drought-related impacts such as poor forage production, limited pasture growth and stunted crops remain. Central Manitoba also saw reductions in Severe (D2) and Extreme Drought (D3) conditions. Notable improvements occurred in west-central Manitoba along the Saskatchewan-Manitoba border, where large areas previously classified as Extreme Drought (D3) were removed. However, a pocket of Extreme Drought (D3) remained from Flinn Flon to The Pas. Crops and pastures continued to show signs of stress, and surface water availability remains limited. Northern Manitoba experienced similar improvements, with reductions in Severe (D2) and Extreme Drought (D3) conditions including the reduction of a large Extreme Drought (D3) pocket surrounding Thompson.

At the end of the month, 78% of the Prairie Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Extreme Drought (D1 to D3), including 59% of the region's agricultural landscape.

Central Region (ON, QC)

Overall temperatures across the Central Region were near normal in August. However temperatures fluctuated from extremely hot early August to cooler than normal later in the month. In the second week of August several maximum temperature records were set including at Cornwall with a high of 36°C. Precipitation varied considerably, with much of northwestern Ontario and northern Quebec receiving 60 to 120% of normal rainfall. In contrast, southern Ontario and southern Quebec were drier, receiving only 40 to 85% and 40 to 60% of normal

precipitation, respectively. Bancroft and southeastern Quebec, particularly around Sherbrooke, experienced the driest conditions this month, with recorded precipitation at less than 40% of normal.

Northwestern Ontario received scattered precipitation, improving drought conditions. Moderate (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) were widely reduced, and most Extreme Drought (D3) pockets were removed, except for a small area near the Ontario–Manitoba border. In contrast, drought intensified in southern Ontario, with expansions of Moderate (D1) and Severe Drought (D2), and the emergence of two new Extreme Drought (D3) pockets around Simcoe County and the Municipality of Highlands East. Limited rainfall in July and August caused moderate agricultural impacts in Eastern Ontario, including delayed harvests, reduced yields, crop losses, stunted crops, and reduced surface water supplies. Multiple conservation authorities issued low water advisories. Hot and dry conditions also elevated fire risk to extreme levels in several rural municipalities. Drought conditions improved in northern Quebec. Large areas of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions were removed, as was a Moderate Drought (D1) pocket east of James Bay due to near-normal precipitation this month. Drought developed in southern Quebec, with Abnormally Dry (D0) to Severe Drought (D2) conditions emerging. The southeastern, near Sherbrooke, experienced the most severe deficits, with rainfall below 40% of normal.

At the end of the month, 61% of the Central Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Extreme Drought (D1 to D3), including 84% of the region's agricultural landscape.

Atlantic Region (NS, NB, PE, NL)

Dry conditions dominated much of the Atlantic Region in August, with much of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and southwestern Nova Scotia receiving below 25% of normal precipitation with several locations recording one of their top 5 driest Augusts on record. Parts of the Annapolis Valley had their driest August on record at under 15 mm. Charlottetown had its third driest August, while Saint John had its fourth driest August. Fredericton, Moncton, and Summerside areas had their fifth driest August on record. Fire bans and restrictions on land use, water conservation, and water delivery were established to reduce impacts. Temperatures across the region were generally near seasonal averages, though a mid-month heat event broke multiple day and monthly temperatures across the Maritimes exacerbating drought conditions. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the hot and dry weather at the start of the month aided in the spread of drought in the province. The Northern Peninsula and parts of Labrador were particularly dry with less than 25% of normal precipitation in some areas.

In New Brunswick, drought expanded provincewide, with Severe Drought (D2) intensifying in the east and new Extreme Drought (D3) areas emerging. Low water conditions prompted industrial restrictions in forested areas, while below-normal rivers and reservoirs continue to raise concerns over water supply. On Prince Edward Island, drought intensified rapidly, with the entire province now in Extreme Drought (D3), a 2 to 3 drought class jump from July. Surface water supplies are stressed, with restrictions in place on streams such as Southwest Brook and the Montague River when flows fall below minimums. In Nova Scotia, drought persisted as the dominant weather story for the third consecutive month, with most western areas of the province receiving less than 25% of normal precipitation. Extreme Drought (D3) emerged across the western region; additionally, two pockets of D3 emerged near Pictou/New Glasgow, and at the province's northeast tip. Water shortages affected municipalities and groundwater-reliant residents, leading to conservation notices and mandatory restrictions in several communities. Crop losses have been reported as irrigation ponds and wells dry up. Halifax Water urged voluntary conservation as reservoirs remain well below normal. In Newfoundland and Labrador, drought worsened in eastern Newfoundland with the expansion of Severe (D2) and emergence of Extreme Drought (D3) conditions, while southern Labrador remained Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate Drought (D1). On the Avalon Peninsula, wildfires forced evacuations near St. John's, and the town of Sunnyside declared a state of emergency after reservoirs ran dry, requiring manual pumping to maintain supply.

At the end of the month, 72% of the Atlantic Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Extreme Drought (D1 to D3), including 100% of the region's agricultural landscape.

Northern Region (YT, NT)

In August, temperatures across the Yukon and Northwest Territories were near normal, with slightly warmer conditions observed in southwest Yukon. Precipitation was below normal in southwestern Yukon, while most other parts of the territory experienced normal to above-normal rainfall. In the Northwest Territories, southern areas received below-normal precipitation, whereas central and northern areas recorded near-normal rainfall. At the end of the month, in the southern parts of the Northwest Territories, very warm and dry weather intensified drought and wildfire activity.

In the Yukon, drought conditions improved in the southeast, with the removal of Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) conditions. In contrast, southwest Yukon saw a slight expansion of Moderate Drought (D1) due to continued dry conditions. Minimal changes occurred in northern Yukon, with a slight reduction in Abnormally Dry (D0) areas. These changes reflect localized variations in precipitation, with southwest Yukon remaining vulnerable to short-

term moisture deficits. In the Northwest Territories, northernmost regions saw a reduction in Severe Drought (D2) as precipitation returned to near-normal levels. In the southern parts of the territory, however, Moderate (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) areas expanded, reflecting continued dry conditions and low soil moisture levels. Elsewhere in northern portions of the region, drought conditions were largely unchanged.

At the end of the month, 74% of the Northern Region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate to Extreme Drought (D1 to D3).