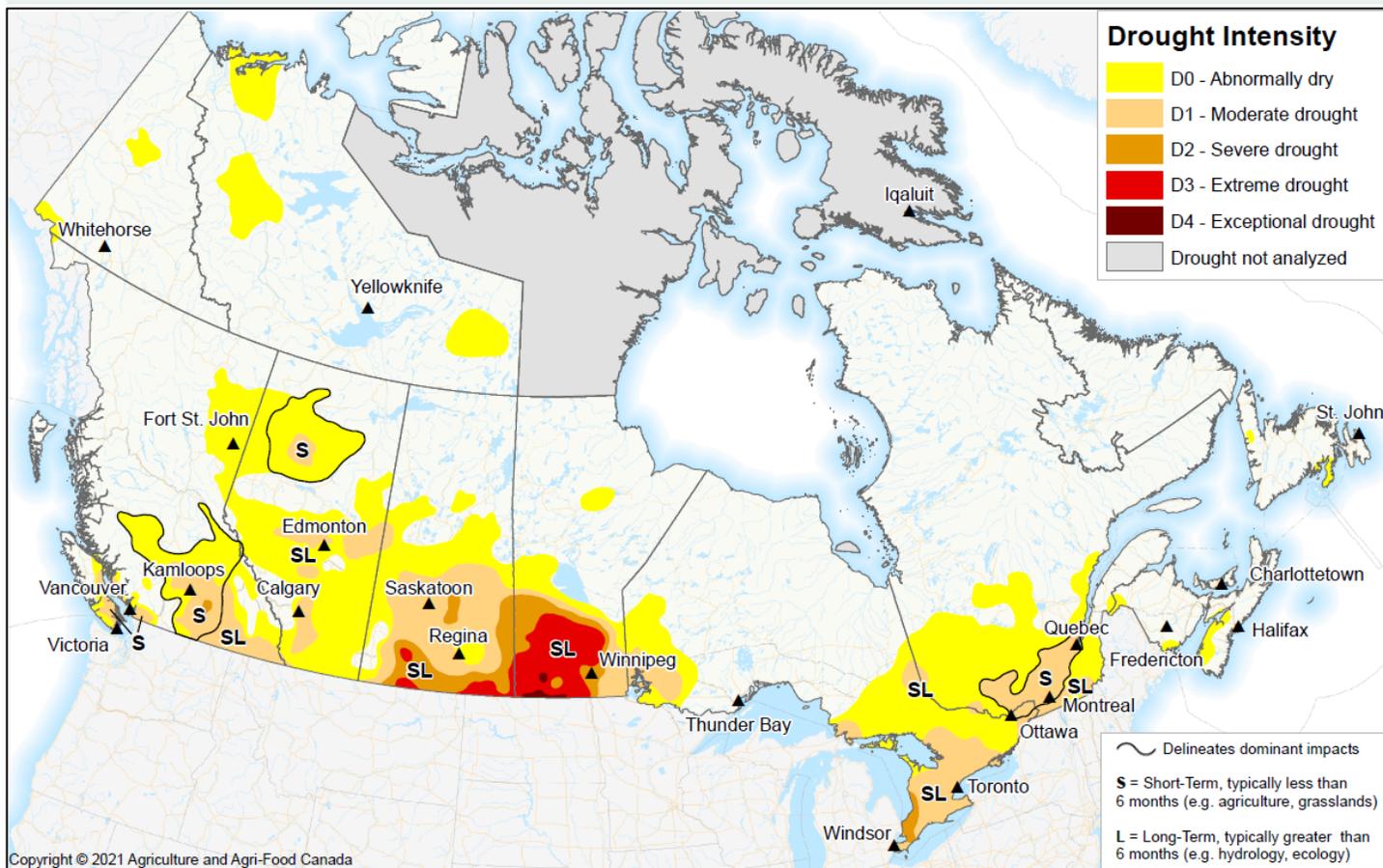


Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of May 31, 2021



Canada continued to receive below-normal precipitation, causing an increase to drought conditions across the country. However, significant precipitation through southern Saskatchewan and parts of Alberta provided relief to drought conditions in the Prairie Region. At the end of the month, Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate to Exceptional Drought (D1-D4) conditions affected twenty-seven percent of the National landscape. Eighty-five percent of the agricultural extent was affected by dry and drought conditions with the most significant concerns persisting in southern Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

In the British Columbia, drought conditions expanded across Vancouver Island and throughout the Interior, while improvements were observed in the north. Producers across the Prairies



were grateful for precipitation; however, they unfortunately lacked the amounts needed to compensate for Severe to Extreme Drought (D2-D3) conditions in most regions. Throughout Ontario and Quebec, low amounts of precipitation intensified drought conditions, particularly in the southern parts of Ontario and Quebec. Areas within Atlantic Canada also received below-normal precipitation through the month of May, contributing to the expansion of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions through New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The Northern Region observed normal to above-normal precipitation and temperatures which resulted in improvement of dry conditions.

Pacific (BC)

Conditions continued to deteriorate across southern British Columbia throughout the month. Short- and long-term precipitation deficits across Vancouver Island caused the formation of a large pocket of Moderate Drought (D1) along the eastern coast of the island from Campbell River to Victoria, which reported the driest year on record, receiving only 30 percent of normal precipitation through the spring season. On the Mainland, D1 conditions spread eastward from the coast to encompass Vancouver, which reported their second driest year on record, receiving 35 percent of normal precipitation through the spring season. The southcentral area observed sufficient snowpack at upper elevations which allowed streamflow to remain normal. However, lower than average precipitation, reported as 75 to 100 percent below-normal, led to the degradation of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions which expanded north along the coastal region. Below-average precipitation through the past 90 days and higher than average temperatures caused an expansion of Moderate Drought (D1) conditions to stretch north from the Okanagan valley, where Kamloops had recorded its second driest year on record since March, receiving only 18 percent of normal precipitation. Within the southcentral area, a small pocket of Severe Drought (D2) formed around Vernon and Kelowna, both of which reported their driest year on record since March as well. While the southern portion of the province saw degrading conditions, the northern portion observed above-average precipitation over the last 90 days which was cause for improvement. At the end of the month, twenty-nine percent of the Pacific Region was Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate Drought (D1), including sixty-seven percent of the agricultural region.

Prairies (AB, SK, MB)

Significant precipitation through the month of May relieved drought conditions across parts of the Prairies, while other areas remained significantly dry. This precipitation improved soil moisture conditions for the short-term, decreasing the area of Moderate (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) in central Alberta and east along the Alberta-Saskatchewan border. In

northwestern Saskatchewan, a large pocket of Severe Drought (D2) was removed due to 50 to 75 mm of precipitation through the past 30 days, accounting for 115 to 150 percent of normal precipitation for the area. A pocket of Moderate Drought (D1) in the southeastern corner of the province also significantly improved; this led to a reduction to Moderate and Severe Drought (D1 to D2) surrounding Regina given 25 to 45 percent above-average precipitation in the month of May. Conditions along the western Saskatchewan-U.S. border remained much the same, except for a swath south of Regina, which saw the removal of Extreme Drought (D3) given the recent precipitation. Although Saskatchewan saw improved drought conditions, water supply and water quality are still a concern in many regions. Precipitation through the month provided much needed moisture for pastures to green up, however, spring dryness delayed progress significantly.

Long-term impacts, including poor water supply from the 2020 growing season, continued to impact drought across the agricultural areas of Saskatchewan. A pocket of Extreme Drought (D3) emerged surrounding Swift Current, recorded as the second driest May in over 100 years. In the central region of the province, two Moderate Drought (D2) pockets were combined. Further north, Moderate Drought (D2) conditions were expanded to include the Prince Albert region due to below-average precipitation over the last 90 days. In Manitoba, the lack of Spring precipitation caused drought conditions to worsen. Severe Drought (D3) expanded north towards the Interlake Region from the U.S.-Manitoba border as a result of exceptionally low precipitation values measured against historic data for the agricultural year. This continued lack of moisture also led to the addition of two Exceptional Drought (D4) pockets to form in the southwest corner of the province. Fifty-seven percent of the Prairie region was classified as either Abnormally Dry (D0), in Moderate Drought (D1), Severe Drought (D2), Extreme Drought (D3) or Exceptional Drought (D4) by the end of the month; this included ninety-two percent of the agricultural landscape. Regionally, eighty-five percent of Alberta's agricultural landscape was classified as being dry or in drought, ninety-six percent of Saskatchewan's agricultural landscape was classified as being dry or in drought, and nearly one hundred percent of Manitoba's agricultural landscape was classified as being Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate – Exceptional Drought (D1-D4).

Central (ON, QC)

Conditions across much of Ontario and Quebec worsened throughout the month of May as precipitation continued to elude much of the region. Dry conditions in northwestern Ontario expanded slightly, while Moderate Drought (D1) conditions were concentrated from the Manitoba-Ontario border as a result of exceptionally low precipitation levels compared to historic averages. Conditions continued to degrade along the southern borders of Ontario and

Quebec, leading to the expansion of Moderate Drought (D1). Lower than average precipitation reported at less than 110 mm fell in this area during the growing season thus far, causing Moderate Drought (D1) conditions to expand east along the Ontario-U.S. border, and north reaching further into Quebec surrounding Quebec City and Ottawa, the latter of which reported the driest May in over 100 years. A pocket of Severe Drought (D2) in southern Ontario was also expanded as precipitation was reported at the Extremely to Exceptionally Low Percentile in the last 6 months. Twenty-three percent of the Central region remained Abnormally Dry (D0) or in Moderate Drought (D1); this included eighty-eight percent of the regions agricultural landscape.

Atlantic (NB, NS, PEI, NL)

Much of the Atlantic Region remained unchanged for the month of May. Minor changes were made to Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions in Nova Scotia, where precipitation was 60 to 85 percent below-average along the western coast. A pocket of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions emerged through the northern portion of New Brunswick due to precipitation reporting at nearly 50 mm lower than average. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions in Newfoundland were slightly altered as moisture in the region was spotty. Dry conditions were mostly relieved along the western coast and southern interior, but a new Abnormally Dry (D0) pocket formed on a southern peninsula of the island. Four percent of the Atlantic region was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0); this accounted for approximately thirteen percent of the regions agricultural landscape.

Northern (YT, NWT)

Minor changes were seen to the expanse of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions in the Northern region for the month of April. Increased precipitation led to a minimal decrease in D0 conditions along the Yukon-Northwest Territories border, with sporadic precipitation measuring up to 80 mm in the last 30 days. Although the southwest corner of the Yukon Territory received moderate precipitation through the month of May, it was not enough to make up for deficits seen over the past 60 days, where Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions formed. In the southeast corner of the Northwest Territories, Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions also formed due to low soil moisture levels and the area observing 25 to 75 percent below-average precipitation through the last 60 days. Nine percent of the Northern region remained Abnormally Dry (D0) for the month of May.

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