

Water Availability and Drought Conditions Report

JULY 2026

1. Executive Summary

This Water Availability and Drought Conditions Report provides an update on conditions throughout Manitoba for July 2026.

- Precipitation conditions over the past month, three-month, and twelve-month periods are as follows:
 - In July, Manitoba generally experienced moderately to extremely dry precipitation conditions, except areas near Brandon, south of Alonsa, and the northern regions that received normal to moderately above-normal precipitation. Shellmouth Basin received much below-normal precipitation over the past month. The northern portion of Souris River Basin received near-normal precipitation over the past month.
 - Over the past three months, from May to July, most parts of Manitoba experienced normal to extremely wet conditions. Areas north of the Pas, areas near Island Lake, and most portions of the Red River Basin in the USA experienced moderately to extremely dry precipitation conditions over the past three months.
 - Over the past 12 months, most parts of the province generally received normal to extremely above-normal precipitation except areas near Island Lake, areas east of Lake Winnipeg, areas north of Lynn Lake, and downstream portion of Fisher River Basin that experienced moderately to extremely dry conditions. Most parts of Winnipeg River Basin experienced moderately dry to extremely dry conditions for all short-term, mid-term, and long-term periods.
- As of July 31, water levels in rivers and lakes across Manitoba generally ranged from normal conditions, between the 25th and 75th percentiles, to much-above normal conditions, above the 90th percentile. Gauges at Whiteshell River and Icelandic River recorded below-normal levels, between the 10th and 25th percentiles.
- As of July 30, most groundwater levels in southern Manitoba and the Interlake region were in the normal range, between 25th and 75th historical percentiles, except one gauge in southeast Manitoba that shows below-normal level, between 10th and 25th historical percentiles.
- As of June 30, the Canadian Drought Monitor classified conditions of areas near the provincial border in the north as abnormally dry (D0). Abnormally dry condition was also reported in the southeast corner of Manitoba for the end of June.
- There are currently no concerns over reservoir water supplies. Provincial water supply reservoirs are either near or exceeding full supply level for the month of July due to significant rainfall contributions in June.

- Manitoba Agriculture's soil moisture map for July 26 indicates mostly optimal to wet conditions across southern Manitoba at depths of 0 to 120 cm. Areas near Moosehorn, Treherne, Prawda, Forrest, Dominion City, and Gardenton are showing dry to very dry conditions for July. Dugout levels are reported as good throughout the region.
- As of July 31, the Manitoba Wildfire Service reports high to a very high level of fire danger in the Interlake and areas east of Lake Winnipeg. The rest of Manitoba is showing moderate to low fire danger. Refer to the fire and travel restriction maps found at: www.gov.mb.ca/conservation_fire/Restrictions/index.html. Visit www.manitoba.ca/wildfire/burn_conditions.html to view current burning restrictions.
- Environment and Climate Change Canada's seasonal forecast for August-September-October predicts 50 to 80 percent likelihood of above-normal temperatures for most parts of Manitoba. The seasonal forecast, however, shows no significant trend for below-normal, near-normal, or above-normal precipitation for the next three months.

2. Drought Indicators

2-1. *Precipitation Indicator*

Precipitation is assessed to determine the severity of meteorological dryness and is an indirect measurement of agricultural dryness.

Three precipitation indicators are calculated for Nelson-Churchill River Basin, which contributes to Manitoba waters, to represent short-term (one month; Figure 1), medium-term (three months; Figure 2) and long-term (12 months; Figure 3) conditions. The indicators compare current monthly precipitation totals to historical data to calculate the historical percentile of precipitation that occurred over the past one, three or twelve months. Historical percentiles are derived from 46 years of data (1980–2025) obtained from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Any gaps in recent observed precipitation records are supplemented using High-Resolution Deterministic Precipitation Analysis (HRDPA) data.

Due to large distances between meteorological stations in northern Manitoba, the interpolated contours in this region are based on limited observations and should be interpreted with caution.

Manitoba Drought Monitor - Environment and Climate Change (ECC)
Historical Percentile of Precipitation from 2026-07-01 to 2026-07-31

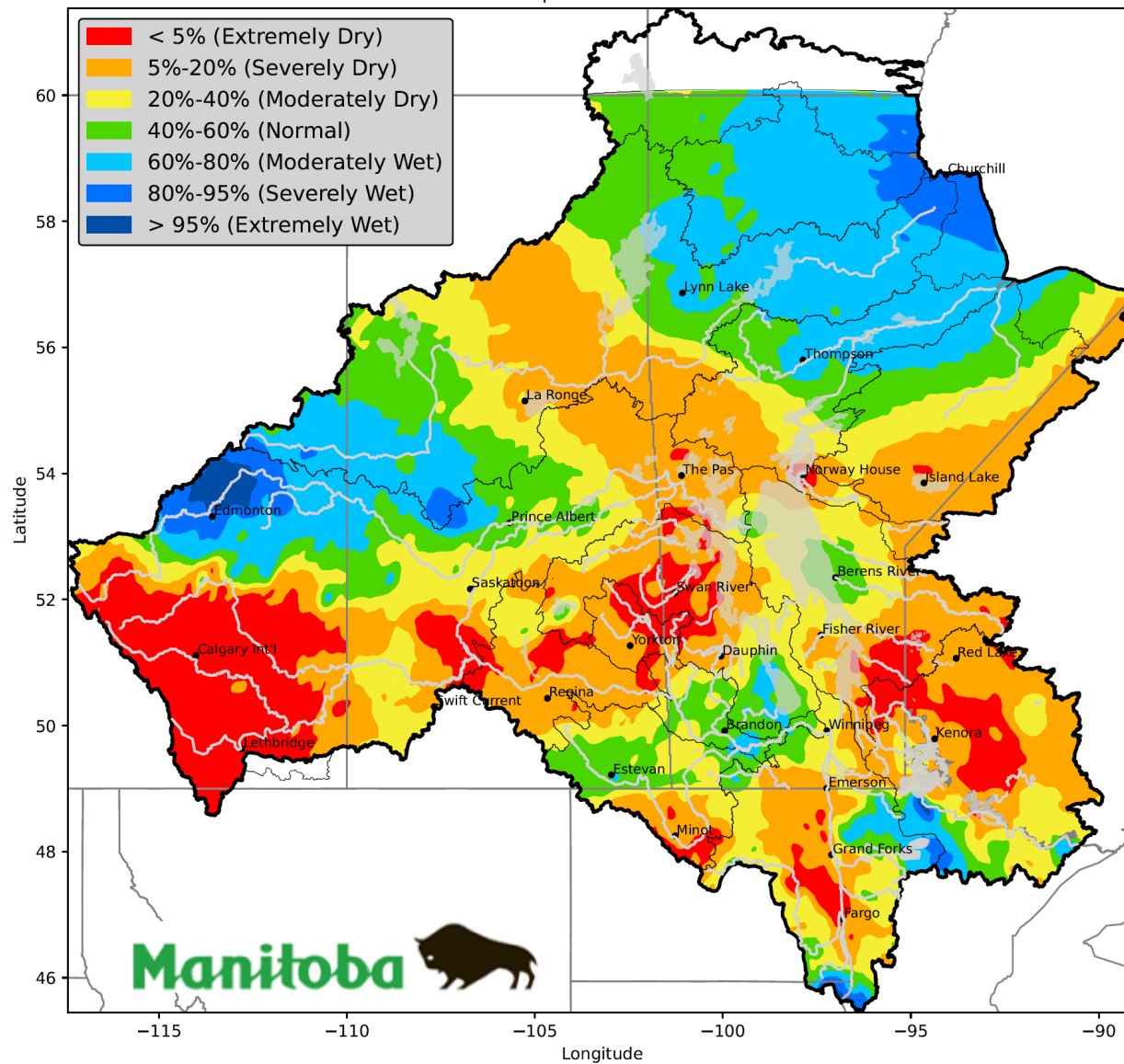


Figure 1: One month (short-term) historical percentile of precipitation indicator.

Manitoba Drought Monitor - Environment and Climate Change (ECC)
 Historical Percentile of Precipitation from 2026-05-01 to 2026-07-31

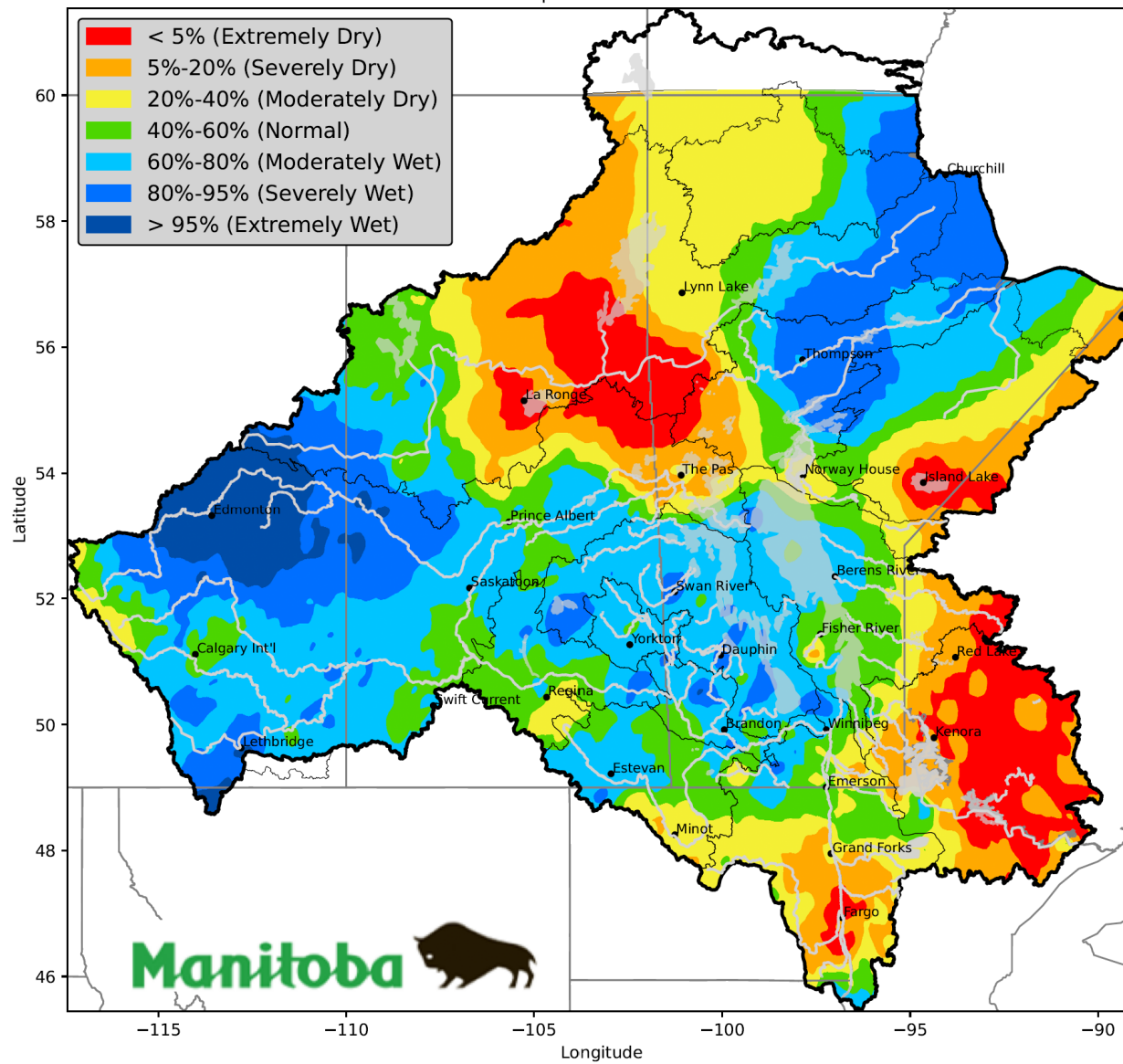


Figure 2: Three month (medium-term) historical percentile of precipitation indicator.

Manitoba Drought Monitor - Environment and Climate Change (ECC)
 Historical Percentile of Precipitation from 2025-08-01 to 2026-07-31

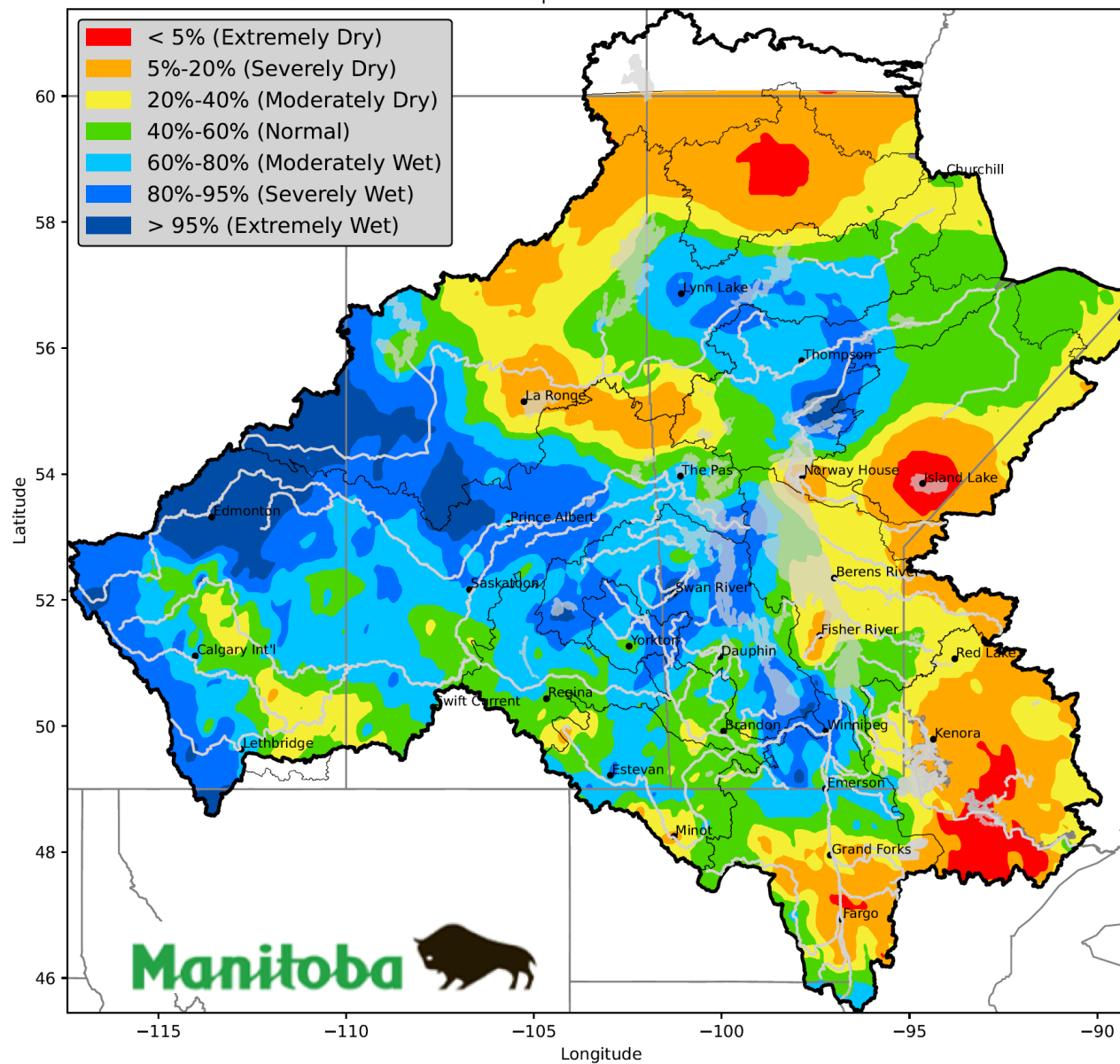


Figure 3: Twelve month (long-term) historical percentile of precipitation indicator.

2-2. Streamflow & Lake Level Indicator

The streamflow and lake level indicator is based on average daily flows and levels compared to historical values for that particular day.

This indicator is used to determine the severity of hydrological dryness in a watershed and is summarized on Figure 4, representing hydrological conditions for July 31. Except for Whiteshell River and Icelandic River, which are showing below-normal flow condition, all other locations shown in Figure 4 are experiencing normal to much-above-normal conditions.

Streamflow and lake level percentile plots for all the rivers and lakes included on Figure 4 are available on the [Manitoba Drought Monitor website](#) under the *Drought Indicator Map* tab.

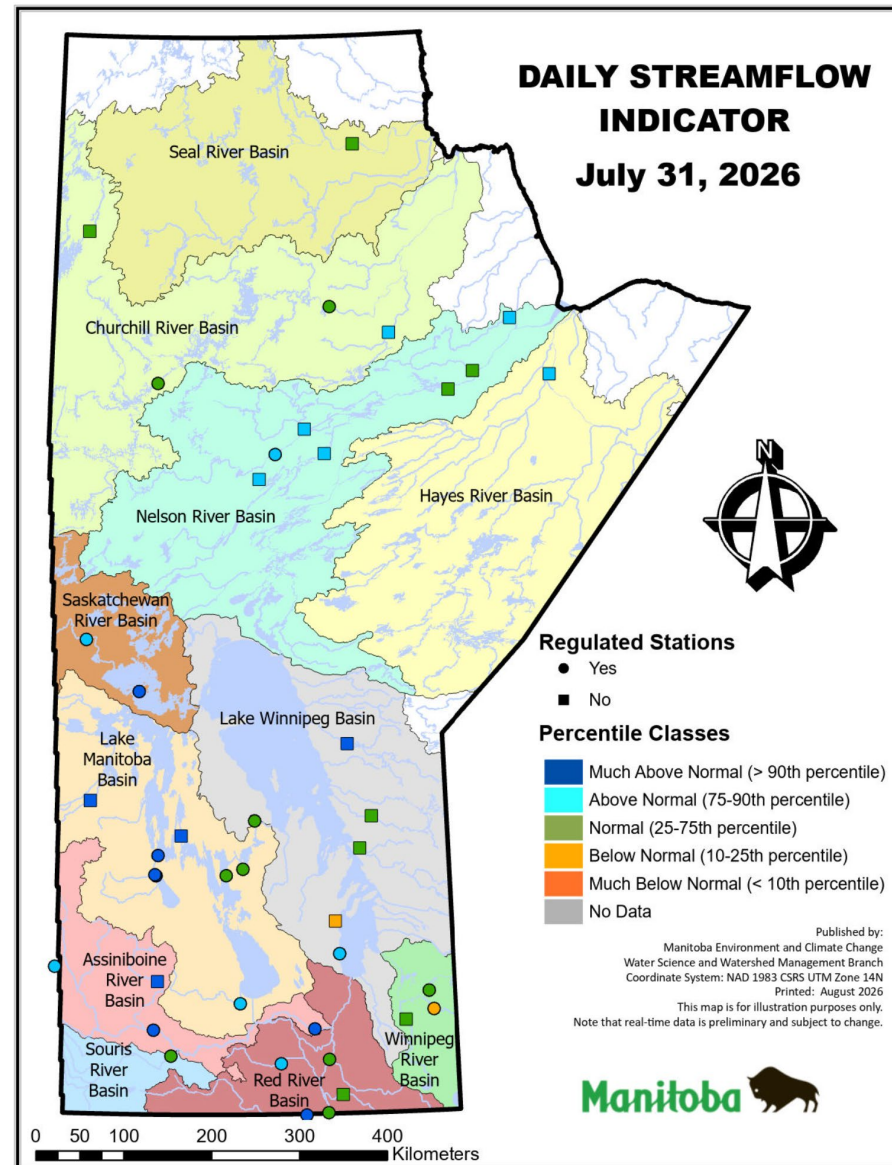


Figure 4: Daily streamflow and lake level indicator for July 31.

2-3. Groundwater Indicator

Groundwater level indicator is based on average daily levels compared to historical values for that day.

This indicator is used to monitor the impact of meteorological and hydrological dryness on the aquifers in the province and is summarized in Figure 5, representing the groundwater conditions for July 30. All aquifers in southern Manitoba and the Interlake region are showing near-normal groundwater levels, except the gauge in the southeast that shows below-normal groundwater level.

In general, groundwater level responses to precipitation fluctuations lag considerably behind surface water responses, so even prolonged periods of below-normal precipitation may not have a significant negative impact on groundwater levels.

Groundwater level percentile plots for all the aquifers included on Figure 5 are available on the [Manitoba Drought Monitor website](#) under the [Drought Indicator Map](#) tab.

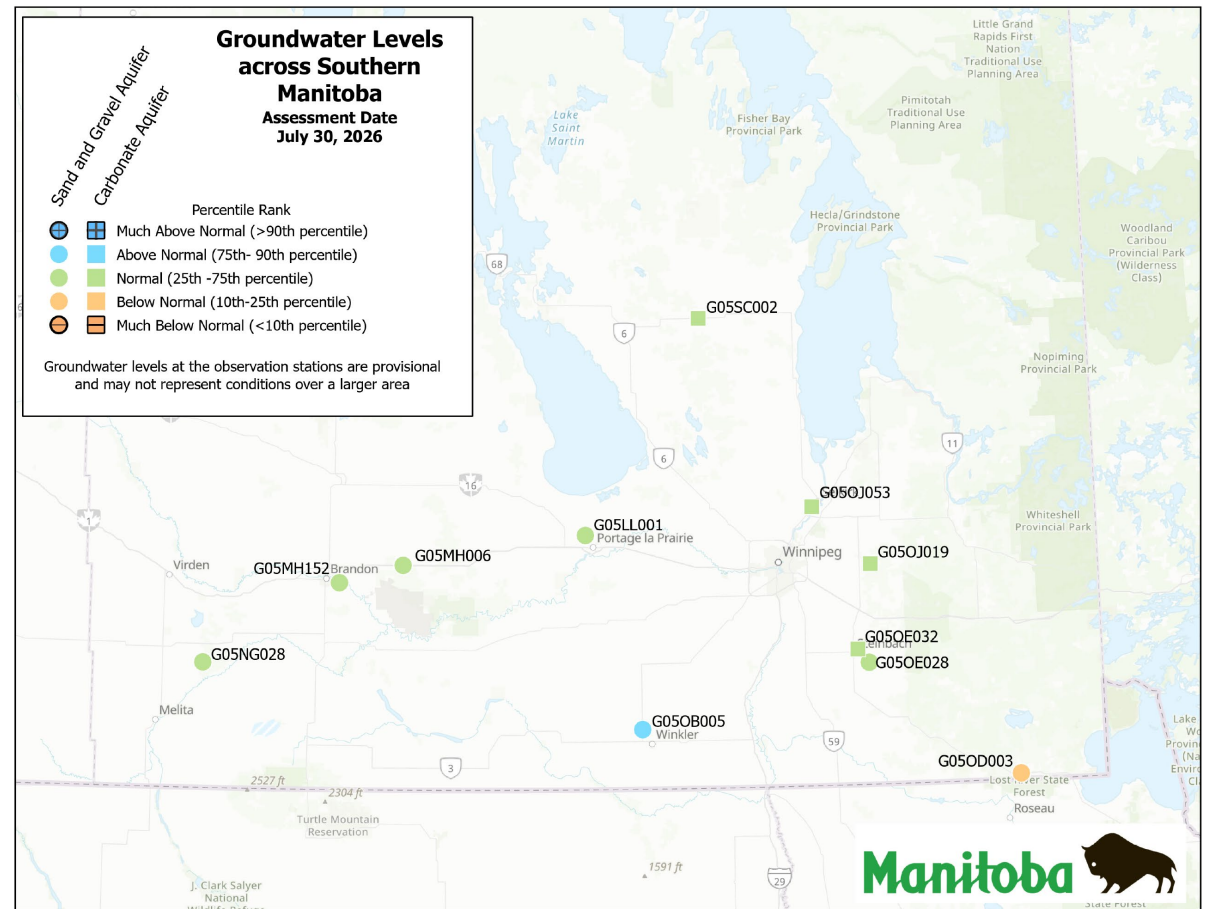


Figure 5: Groundwater indicator on July 30 for select groundwater monitoring sites.

2-4. Canada and United States Drought Monitors

The Canadian Drought Monitor and the United States Drought Monitor map the extent and intensity of drought conditions across Canada and the continental United States.

Drought Monitor assessments are based on a suite of drought indicators, impacts data and local reports as interpreted by federal, provincial/state and academic scientists.

The Canadian and United States Drought Monitor maps use the following classification system:

- D0 (Abnormally Dry) – represents an event that occurs every three to five years;
- D1 (Moderate Drought) – five to 10 year event;
- D2 (Severe Drought) – 10 to 20 year event;
- D3 (Extreme Drought) – 20 to 50 year event;
- D4 (Exceptional Drought) – 50+ year event.

Additionally, the map indicates the duration of drought as either short-term (S; less than six months) or long-term (L; more than six months) (Figure 6).

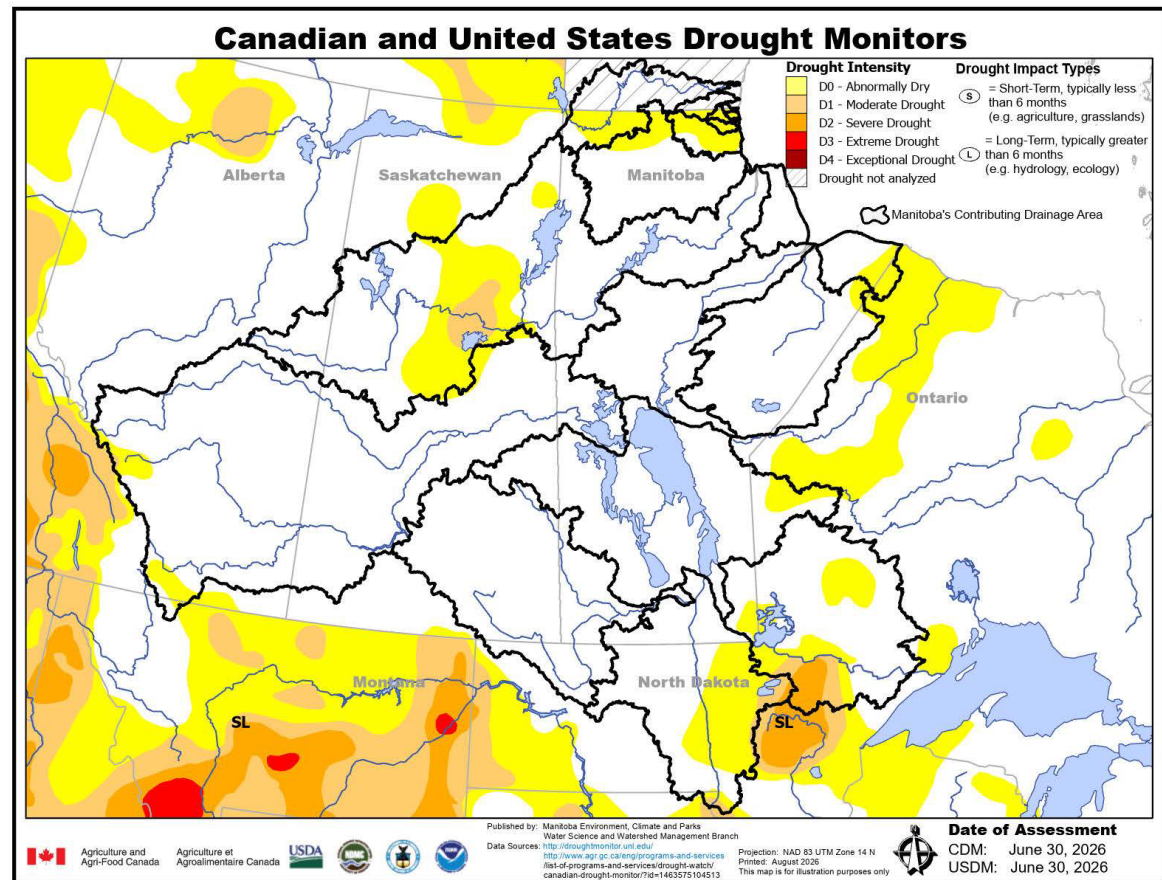


Figure 6: Canadian and United States Drought Monitors' classification of short-term (S) and long-term (L) drought conditions assessed as of June 30.

3. Water Availability

3-1. Reservoir Conditions

Table 1: Water Supply Reservoir Levels and Storages – July 31 (Southern and Western Manitoba).

Water Supply Reservoir Levels and Storages - July 31, 2026								
Lake or Reservoir	Community Supplied	Target Level (feet)	Latest Observed Level (feet)	Observed date	Supply Status (Recent - Target) (feet)	Storage at Target Level (acre-feet)	Storage at Observed Level (acre-feet)	Supply Status (observed storage/target storage) (%)
Lake of the Prairies (Shellmouth)* ¹	Brandon, Portage, Cartier Regional Water Co-op	1,402.5	1411.45	July 31, 2026	+8.95	300,000	436,192	145%
Lake Wahtopanah (Rivers)*	Rivers	1,536.0	1537.56	July 31, 2026	+1.56	24,500	28,000	114%
Minnewasta (Morden)*	Morden	1,082.0	1081.50	July 31, 2026	-0.50	3,150	3,066	97%
Stephenfield*	Carman, Pembina Valley Water Co-op	972.0	972.27	July 31, 2026	+0.27	3,810	3,939	103%
Vermilion*	Dauphin	1,274.0	1274.39	July 31, 2026	+0.39	2,600	2,691	103%
Goudney (Pilot Mound)*		1,482.0	1482.35	July 31, 2026	+0.35	450	468	104%
Jackson Lake*		1,174.0	1173.52	July 31, 2026	-0.48	2,990	2,869	96%
Manitou (Mary Jane)*		1,537.0	1536.94	July 31, 2026	-0.06	1,150	1,145	100%
Turtlehead (Deloraine)*	Deloraine	1,772.0	1771.88	July 31, 2026	-0.12	1,400	1,394	100%
Lake Irwin*		1,178.0	1178.12	July 31, 2026	+0.12	3,800	3,878	102%
Minnedosa* ¹		1,681.5	1682.10	July 31, 2026	+0.60	1,558	1,715	110%
Boissevain*	Boissevain	1,697.0	1698.46	July 31, 2026	+1.46	505	628	124%
Elgin*		1,532.0	1532.30	July 31, 2026	+0.30	520	541	104%
St. Malo*		840.0	840.29	July 31, 2026	+0.29	1,770	1,818	103%
Kenton Reservoir		1,448.0	1447.85	July 31, 2026	-0.15	600	589	98%
Killarney Lake		1,615.0	1615.74	July 31, 2026	+0.74	7,360	7,701	105%
¹ Summer target level and storage								
* Real-time water level gauge								

3-2. On-Farm Water Supply

On-farm water supply updates from Manitoba Agriculture's Crop Report (July 28) are as follows:

- Most agricultural regions are showing optimal to wet soil moisture conditions at 0-120 cm depths. Dry to very dry soil moisture pockets are emerging near Moosehorn, Treherne, Prawda, Forrest, Dominion City, and Gardenton.
- Dugout levels are reported as good and water supplies remain adequate.

3-3. Soil Moisture

A regional representation of soil moisture conditions for the top 120 cm relative to the field capacity is shown on Figure 7.

The colours on the map represent measured soil moisture values from automated instruments at sites across Manitoba. Qualitative range (very dry to very wet) is based on the amount of current soil moisture relative to field capacity. Field Capacity is defined as the maximum amount of moisture the soil can hold when drainage due to gravity stops.

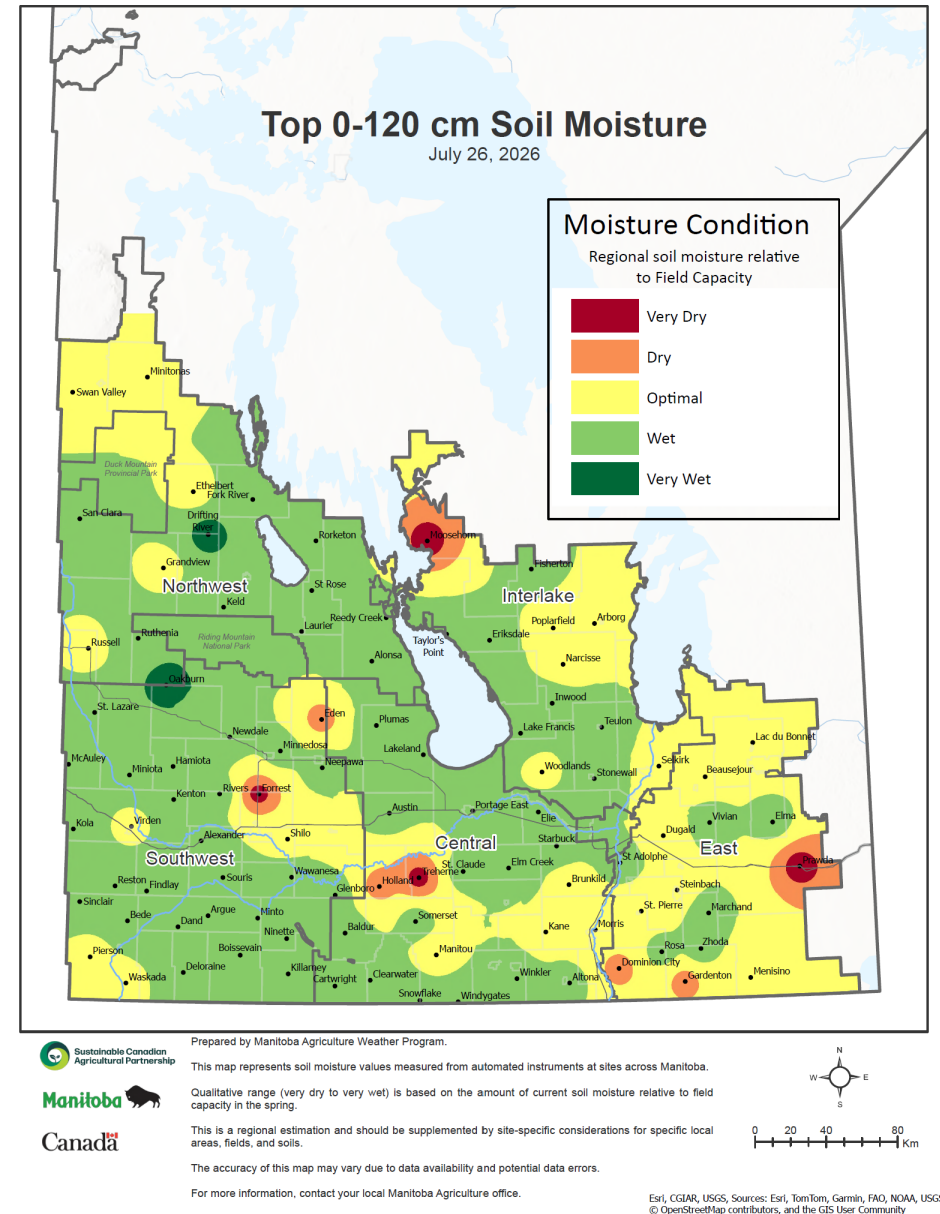


Figure 7: Manitoba Agriculture's July 26 mapping of soil moisture conditions in the top 0 – 120 cm.

4. Wildfires

As of July 31, the Manitoba Wildfire Service report low to moderate fire danger across Manitoba, except the Interlake and areas east of Lake Winnipeg that show high to very high fire danger.

Figure 8 shows the map of Canada fire weather index. Fire weather index represents the expected intensity of a fire spreading through a coniferous forest, including the likely flame size. It is commonly used to assess how difficult a fire may be to control, with higher values indicating greater fire intensity and larger flames.

Refer to the fire and travel restriction maps found at:

www.gov.mb.ca/conservation_fire/Restrictions/index.html.

Several municipalities continue to implement burning restrictions. Visit

www.manitoba.ca/wildfire/burn_conditions.html to view current burning restrictions.

For further information on the Manitoba Wildfire Service, situation updates, restrictions and other important wildfire links, go to www.gov.mb.ca/wildfire or follow the Manitoba government on X (formerly Twitter) at <https://x.com/mbgov>.

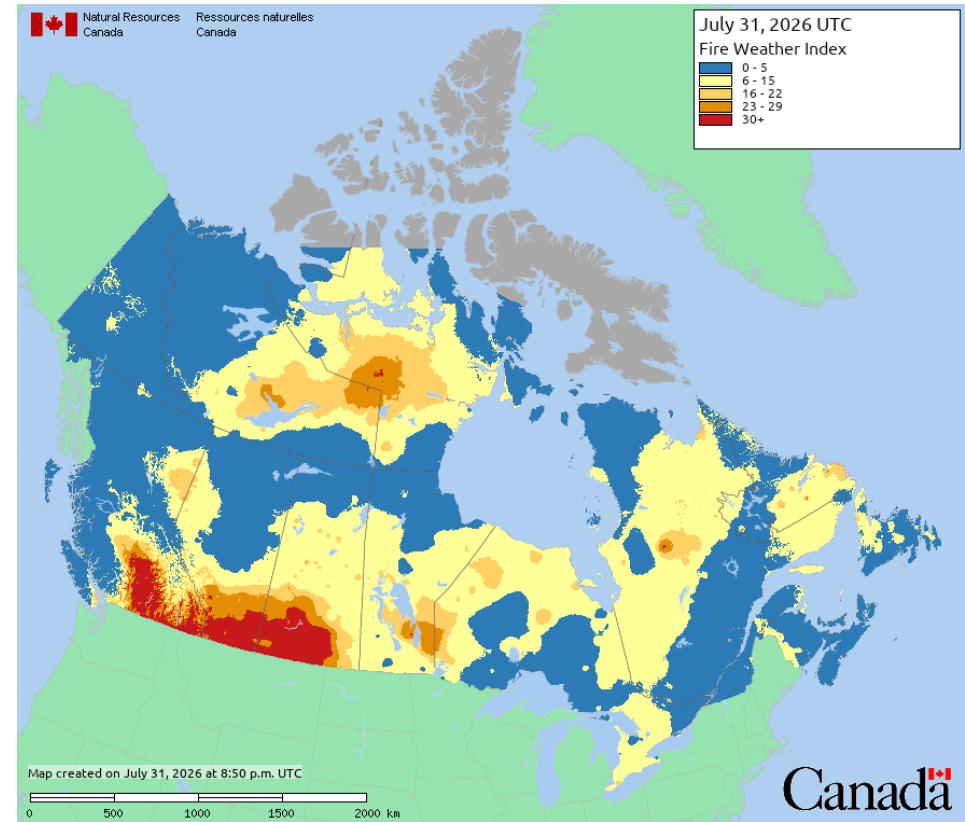


Figure 8: Fire Weather Index mapping by Natural Resources Canada.

5. Impacts due to Dry Conditions

There have been no significant impacts due to dry conditions in July.

6. Future Weather

Environment and Climate Change Canada's seasonal forecast for the next three months, August to October, indicates 50 to 80 percent likelihood of above-normal temperatures across most of Manitoba (Figure 9). Seasonal precipitation forecast during the same period indicates no clear and strong signal toward below-normal, normal, or above-normal precipitation (Figure 10).

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration indicates that El Niño conditions are currently present. El Niño continues and will strengthen through the end of the year, with a 97% chance it will persist through early spring 2027. During an El Niño condition, it will be more likely to get milder-than-normal winter, with a tendency toward less severe cold outbreaks and potentially lower snowpack.

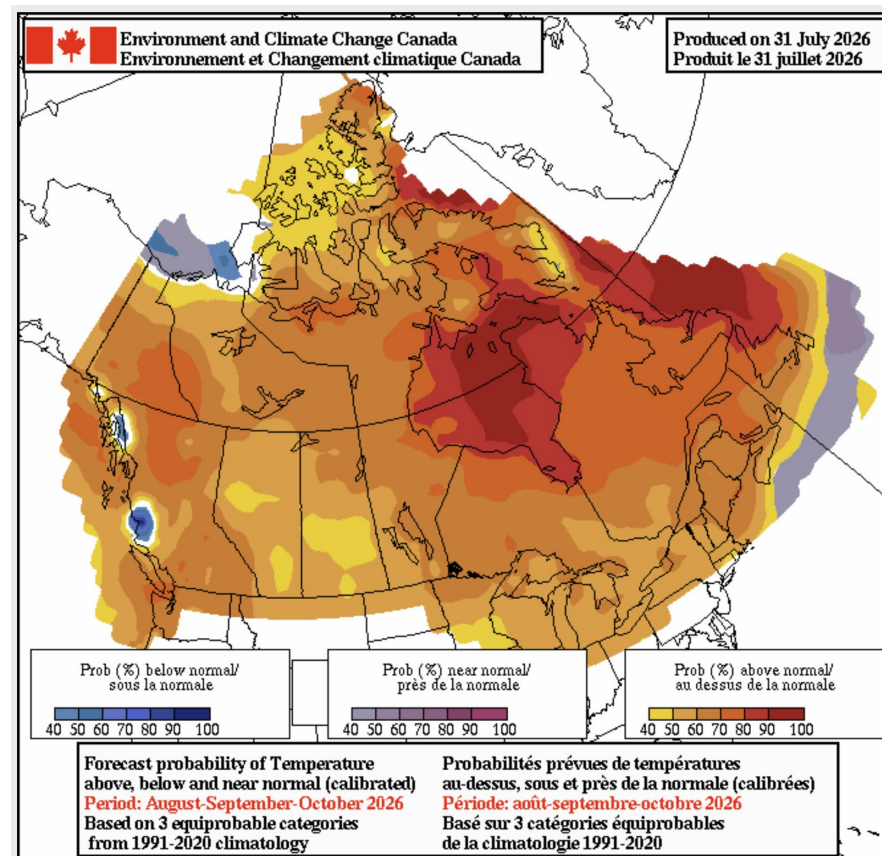


Figure 9: Environment and Climate Change Canada's forecast probability of temperature for next three months (August-September-October)

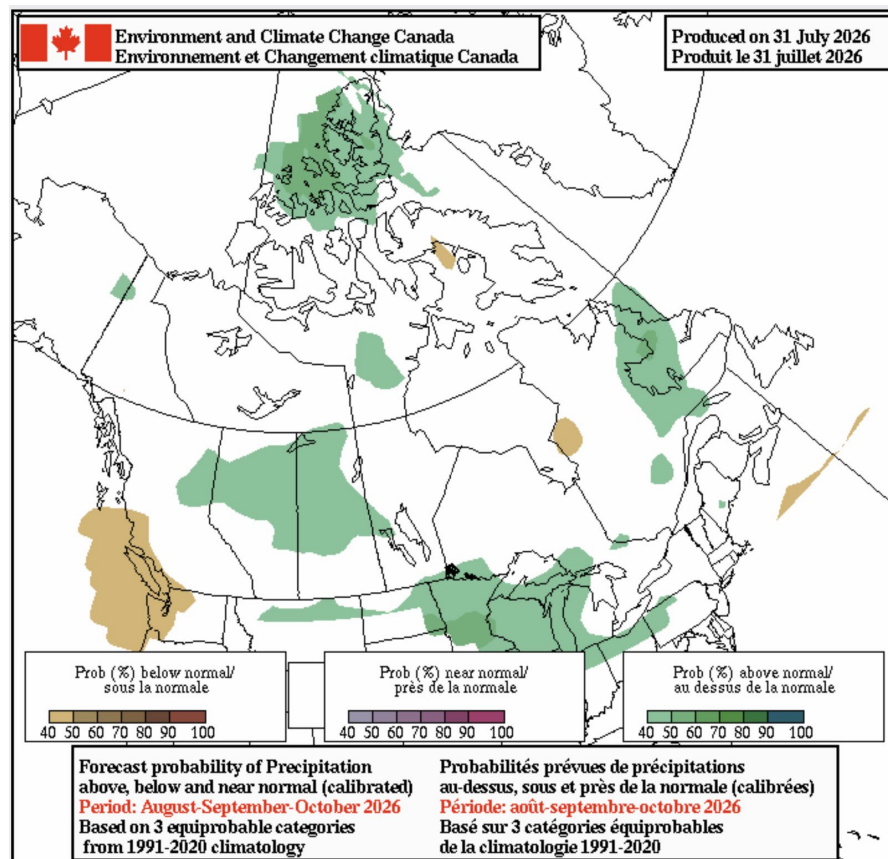


Figure 10: Environment and Climate Change Canada's forecast probability of precipitation for next three months (August-September-October)

Past reports, drought mapping and other information and resources are available on the [Manitoba Drought Monitor](#) website.

For further information, or to request information in an accessible version, please contact:

Shahram Sahraei, Ph.D., P.Eng.
Senior Water Supply Engineer, Surface Water Management Section
Water Science and Watershed Management Branch
Environment and Climate Change
Box 14, 14 Fultz Blvd.
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3Y 0L6
E-mail: shahram.sahraei@gov.mb.ca
Ph: (431) 277-9194

7. Acknowledgements

This report was prepared with information from the following sources which are gratefully acknowledged:

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure:

Hydrologic Forecast Centre:

<https://www.manitoba.ca/floodinfo/>

Manitoba Wildfire Service:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/fire>

Manitoba Agriculture:

Crop Reports:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/seasonal-reports/crop-report-archive/index.html>

Topsoil moisture conditions:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/weather-conditions-and-reports.html>

Environment and Climate Change Canada:

Flow and lake level information:

http://www.wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/index_e.html

Seasonal forecast probability of temperature and precipitation:

<https://climate-scenarios.canada.ca/?page=cansips-prob>

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada:

Canadian drought monitor:

<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agriculture-and-environment/drought-watch-and-agroclimate/canadian-drought-monitor>

Natural Resources Canada:

Canada wildland fire information system:

<https://cwffis.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/en/>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration:

United States drought monitor:

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

El Niño and La Niña information:

<https://www.weather.gov/twc/enso>