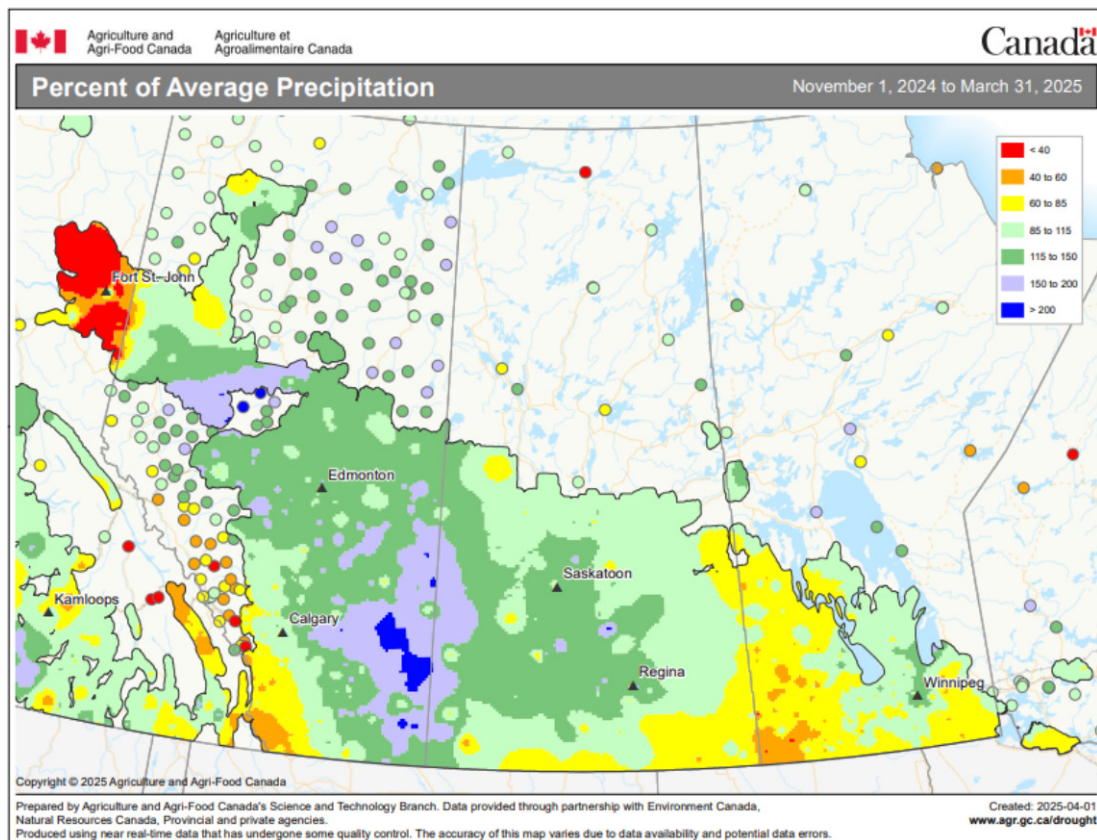


Canadian Prairies Planting Outlook Better Than Recent Years

By Andrew Owen

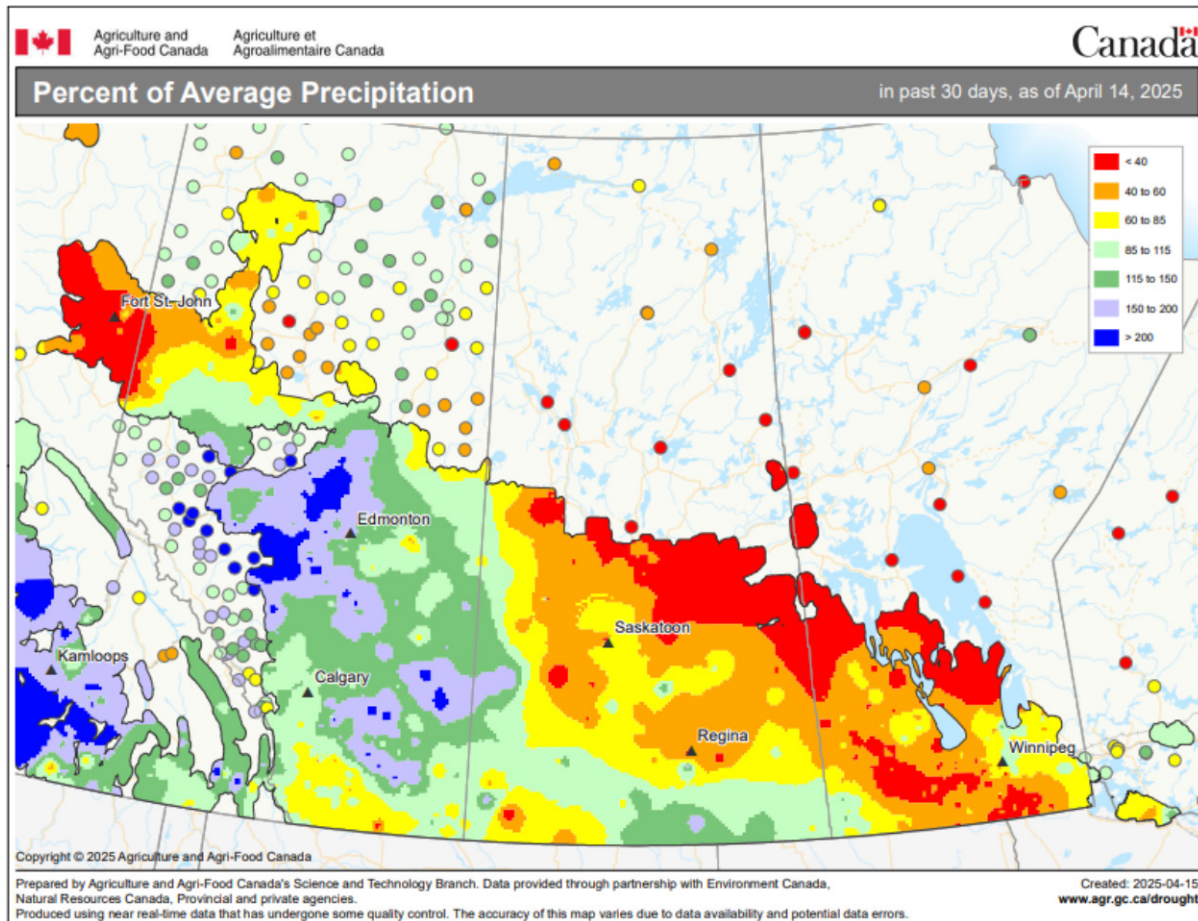
Kansas City, April 16 (World Weather Inc.) – Early season planting may already be under way in a few fields in southwestern parts of the Canadian Prairies where it has been warm for a while. *Most of the planting of 2025 crops will occur in May and early June and the moisture profile for the Prairies is better than that of recent years. There are still several production areas that were abnormally dry or in a moderate drought at the end of March with little change since then. There is need for at least some periodic precipitation in the drier areas of the Prairies to bolster soil moisture for better planting and early establishment potentials.* The weather pattern will be relatively active for at least the next seven days. Resulting precipitation will be mostly light and is not expected to significantly improve the moisture profile. The need for timely precipitation will persist later this month into early May to support ideal favorable planting and emergence conditions.

Precipitation varied across the Canadian Prairies over the winter season. From November 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025, a large section of Alberta (outside the southwest corner) and the western two-thirds of Saskatchewan received near to above normal precipitation. These areas received 85% to 200% of normal precipitation with wetter pockets in southeastern Alberta. Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan received near to below normal precipitation during this time. The British Columbia section of Peace River country in the northeast corner of the province was much drier than usual.



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In the more recent 30-day period ending April 14, Manitoba, a large section of Saskatchewan (outside the extreme western and southern production areas) and portions of northwestern and extreme southern Alberta and northeastern British Columbia were drier or much drier than normal. Several production areas received less than 40% of normal precipitation. Other areas in Alberta and Saskatchewan received near to above normal precipitation with portions of central Alberta getting more than double normal precipitation.



Manitoba and the eastern two-thirds of Saskatchewan generally received near or below normal precipitation for the 30-day period ending April 14. Alberta and western Saskatchewan received near to slightly above normal precipitation.

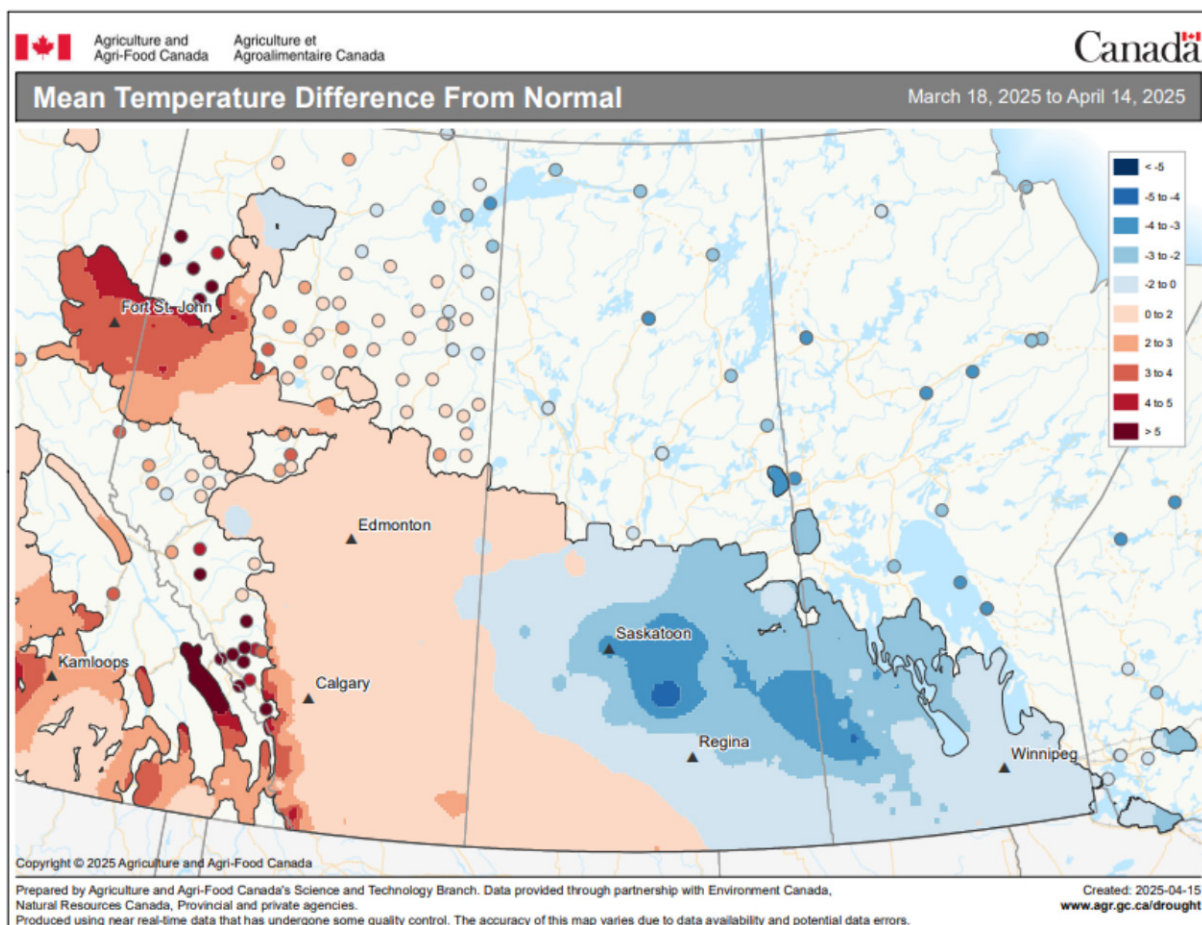
Despite periods of precipitation in recent weeks, several areas in southern and western Manitoba; southern, eastern and northern Saskatchewan, southwestern and northwestern Alberta, and northeastern British Columbia were abnormally dry or in a moderate drought as of March 31. Other production areas in the Prairies were generally drought-free. While many areas were struggling with dryness, the overall moisture profile is much better than that of recent years. Several areas were struggling with more significant drought heading into the planting season in the past few years, most notably in southern and east-central Alberta and some areas in west-central and southwestern Saskatchewan. There is still a need for timely precipitation across the Prairies in the coming weeks as the planting season nears. Dryness has started to intensify in the driest

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areas of Manitoba and Saskatchewan and additional drying could impact early-season planting.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

An active weather pattern is slated for the Prairies through the middle of next week. A disturbance and associated frontal boundary will initially generate mostly light and erratic precipitation today and Thursday. The next disturbance will bring precipitation to northwestern Alberta, northeastern British Columbia, and a few neighboring locations late Friday before the next round of erratic precipitation occurs over the weekend and early next week. Spotty precipitation will potentially persist Tuesday as well. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.25 to 1.00 inch with pockets in southern Saskatchewan and northern Alberta that only receive trace amounts to 0.25 inch of moisture. The Prairies will again have several opportunities for precipitation April 24 – 30 as disturbances continue tracking near or into the region. Light to moderate amounts of moisture are expected.



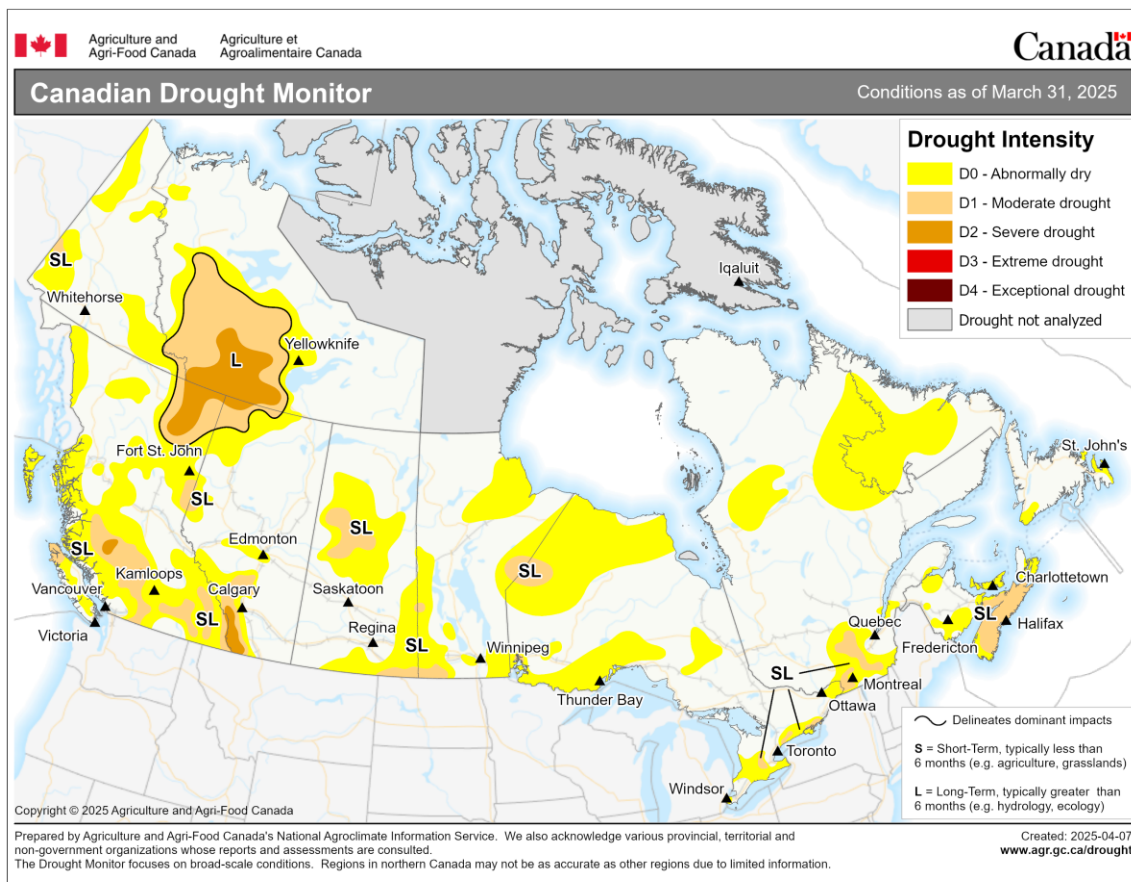
Periods of heavy snow will occur near the Rocky Mountains in west-central and southwestern Alberta through early next week, though the greatest amount of snow will occur outside crop country. The main production areas in the Prairies will otherwise see

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precipitation fall as a mixture of rain and snow in the coming days. New snow accumulations will be relatively light and are not expected to remain on the ground for an extended period of time.

The temperature profile will fluctuate between above and below normal across the Prairies through the middle of next week. Daytime temperatures will often peak to the 40s and 50s Fahrenheit with portions of Alberta and Saskatchewan occasionally warming to the 60s. Low temperatures will be in the 20s and 30s. Temperatures will continue to fluctuate between below and above normal April 24 – 30 due to an active jet stream.

The waves of precipitation through the end of the month will either marginally bolster soil moisture or keep soil moisture near current levels in a large section of the Prairies. Areas that are abnormally dry or in a moderate drought will likely not receive enough precipitation to fix the dryness. The lack of significant daytime heating will limit early-season planting. The need for timely precipitation will persist into May in order to support ideal planting prospects.



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