

Moisture Situation Update – October 5, 2011

Forecast from SRD's Fire Weather section

Thanks to Alice OU:

- A system moving into southern Alberta today is expected to bring upwards of 25 to 45 mm of precipitation over the next two days, to many areas west of Highway 2 and south of Calgary. North of Calgary, extending up as far as Edson, precipitation accumulations are expected to be in the 15 to 25 mm range. The Peace Region is not expected to see significant accumulations associated with this air mass.
- Starting Friday morning, a second system will begin to move into the province from the northwest, bringing cool wet weather to much of the Peace Region, with total precipitation accumulations of less than 5 mm expected.
- For the beginning of next week, expect to see generally cooler temperatures province wide, accompanied by localized light shower activity.

Frost areas August 15 to October 5, 2011 1100 hrs-see map

- Few areas have escaped freezing temperatures, with the worst frost seen east of Highway 2, through the central parts of the Province.
- However, much of the southern , and west central parts of the province and also parts of the Peace Region have only seen light frosts with many areas not dipping too far below -2C

Perspective:

1. Roughly 6-8 years out of 10, most areas north of Hwy. 1 will see temperatures dip below -2C by Oct 5th.
2. Across southern Alberta this generally happens about 5 out of 10 years.
3. Given the planting and growing delays over the growing season, we got lucky this year with respect to frost!

Precipitation since September 28, as of October 5, 2011 - 1100 hrs -see map

- Over the past week, most areas have seen upwards of 5 mm. In some cases enough to delay harvest, but not enough to recharge soil moisture reserves.

Additional Maps can be found at <http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app116/quick.jsp>.

Near-real-time hourly station data can be viewed/downloaded at

<http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app116/stationview.jsp>.

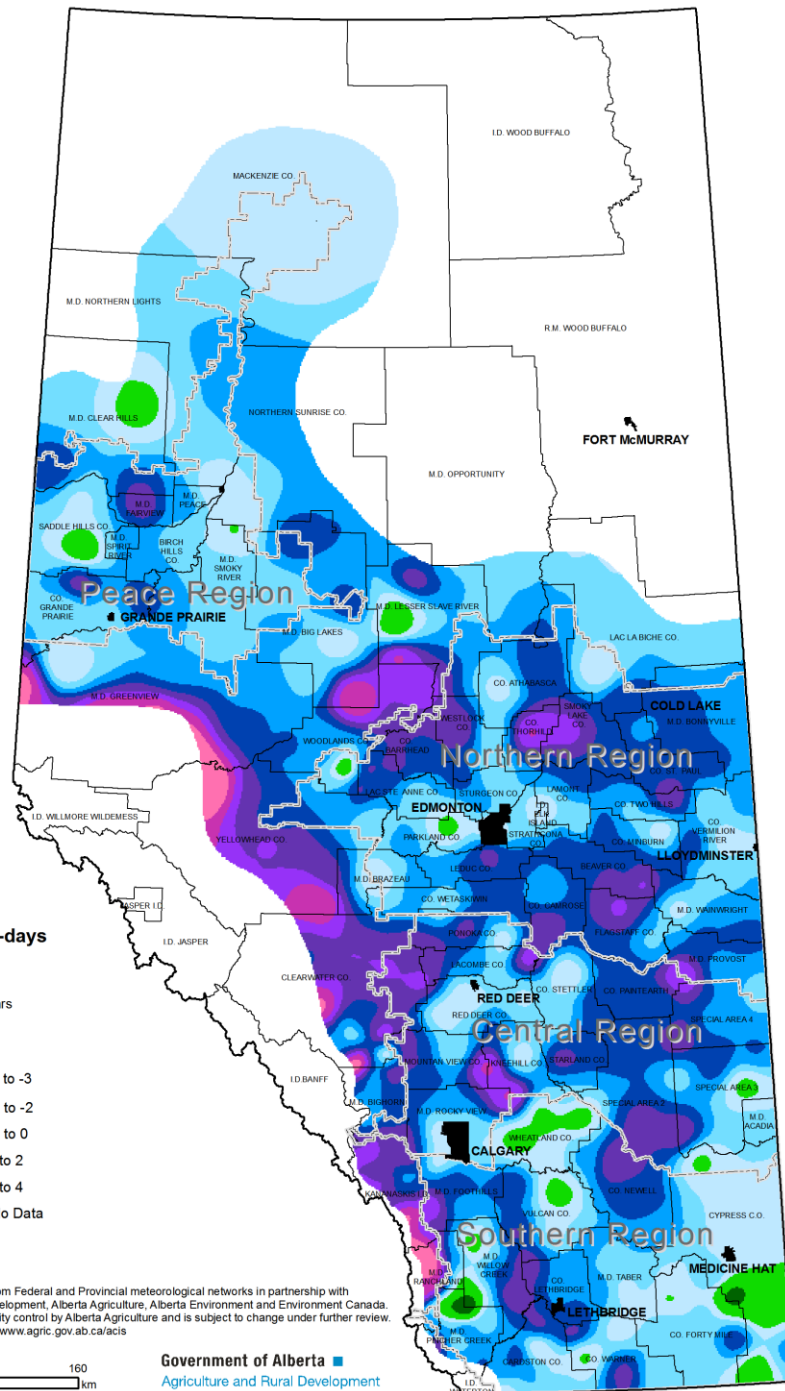
Note: Data has about a two hour lag and is displayed in MST (add one hour for daylight savings time)

Ralph Wright

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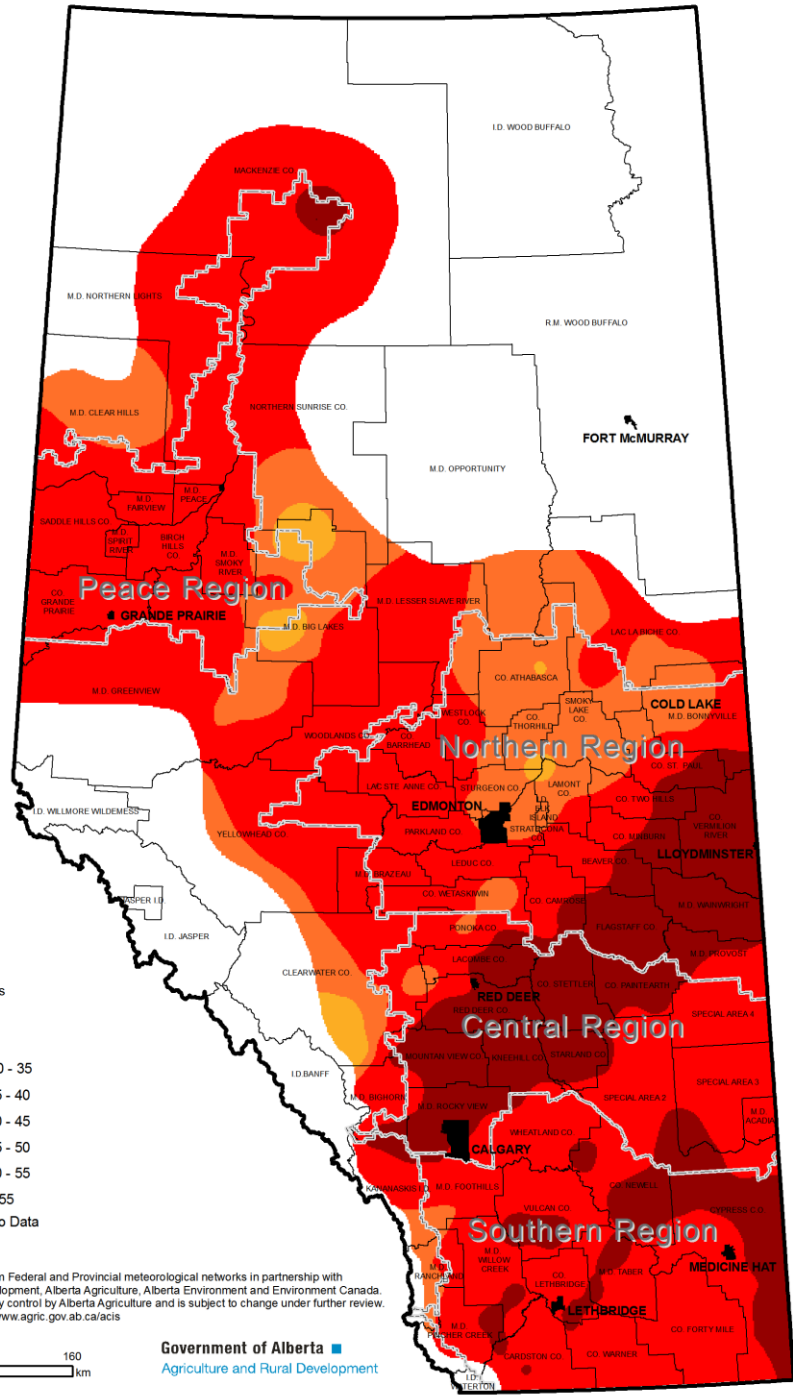
Head, Agrometeorology Applications and Modelling Section, ARD

The October 4, 2011 U.S. Drought Monitor <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/> map is also attached for interest. Exceptionally dry conditions currently cover most of Texas, significant parts of Oklahoma, Kansas and New Mexico.



Near-real-time data was collected from Federal and Provincial meteorological networks in partnership with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Alberta Agriculture, Alberta Environment and Environment Canada. Data has passed preliminary quality control by Alberta Agriculture and is subject to change under further review. Live station data can be viewed at www.agric.gov.ab.ca/acs

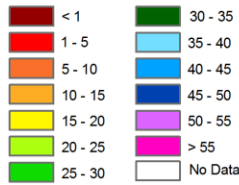
Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Environmental Stewardship Division, Technology and Innovation Branch
Map created on October 05, 2011



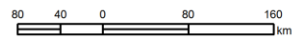
Precipitation Received During the Past 7.46-days

September 28, 2011 to October 05, 2011 approx. 1100 hrs

Precipitation (mm)



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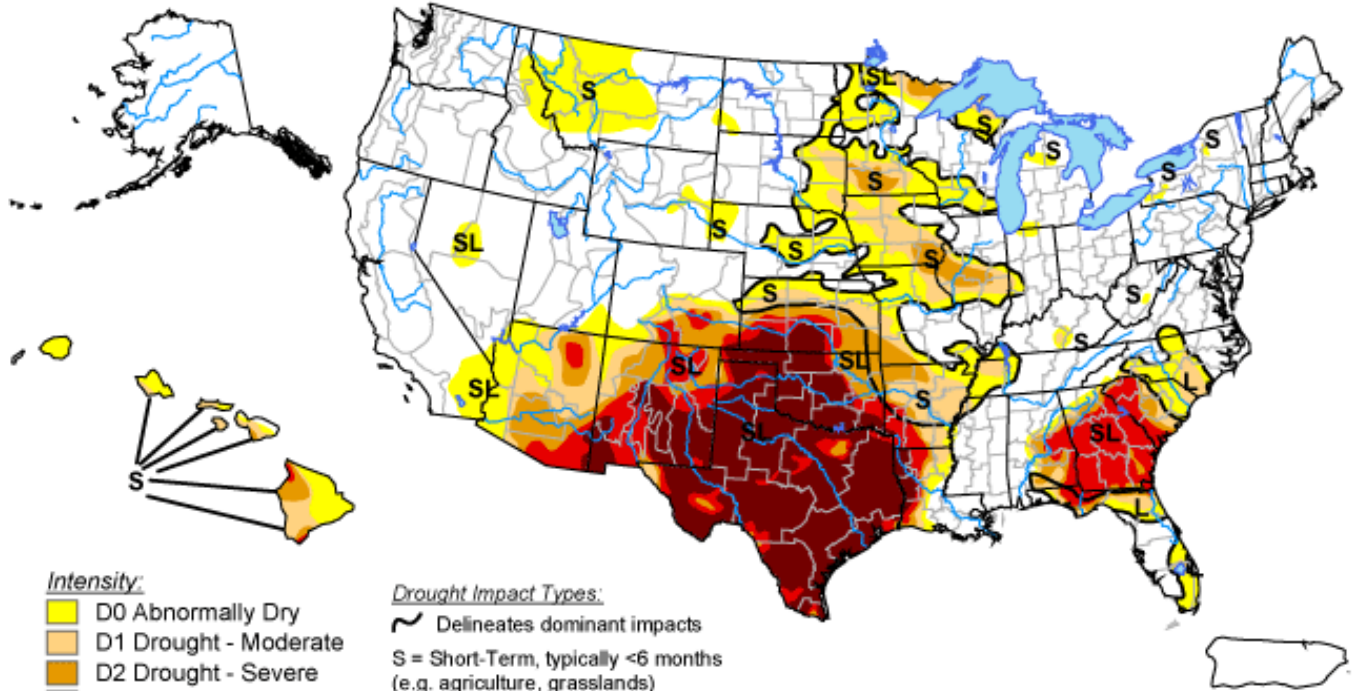


Government of Alberta
Agriculture and Rural Development






Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Environmental Stewardship Division, Technology and Innovation Branch
Map created on October 05, 2011

U.S. Drought Monitor


October 4, 2011
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

-  D0 Abnormally Dry
-  D1 Drought - Moderate
-  D2 Drought - Severe
-  D3 Drought - Extreme
-  D4 Drought - Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:

-  Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically <6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically >6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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



Released Thursday, October 6, 2011
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