

Moisture Situation Update – May 8, 2017

Synopsis

Since the beginning of May, warm and relatively dry weather has prevailed, particularly throughout much of central Alberta and across most of the Peace Region (**see map 1**). Areas north-west of Edmonton, which have been exceptionally wet, received upwards of 10 mm of rain, slowing down the drying process; however, with the warm weather of late, each day about 4-6 mm of water is evaporated from a wet surface, meaning that net “dry down” is occurring.

Soil moisture reserves are still well above normal for this time of year across most of the province, from about Red Deer to the central Peace Region (**see map 2**). A large area from about Wetaskiwin, and north into the central Peace Region is estimated to have reserves this high, on average less than once in 25-years. Continued warm dry weather is needed in these areas to allow the land to dry further, as spring agricultural operations intensify. In contrast, dry conditions are still persisting across the northern tip of the Peace Region, with current soil moisture reserves at less than one in 6-year lows. In addition, this area has been subjected to several years of below normal precipitation, with the 5-year accumulations being only about 70% of normal. This translates to a net deficit of about 700 mm of water. Here, deficits this large are estimated to occur, on average, less than once in 25-years (**see map 3**)

As the weekend approaches, wet weather is expected to return too much of the west-half of the province, including lands as far south as the US border, all the way up to the northern Peace Region. The areas in and around the Swan Hills, stretching over into the Edson area and along the eastern slopes of the Rockies may see upwards of 20-30 mm with localized areas possibly receiving up to 50 mm. Across the east-half of the province, drying conditions are expected to prevail.

Additional maps can be found at www.agriculture.alberta.ca/maps

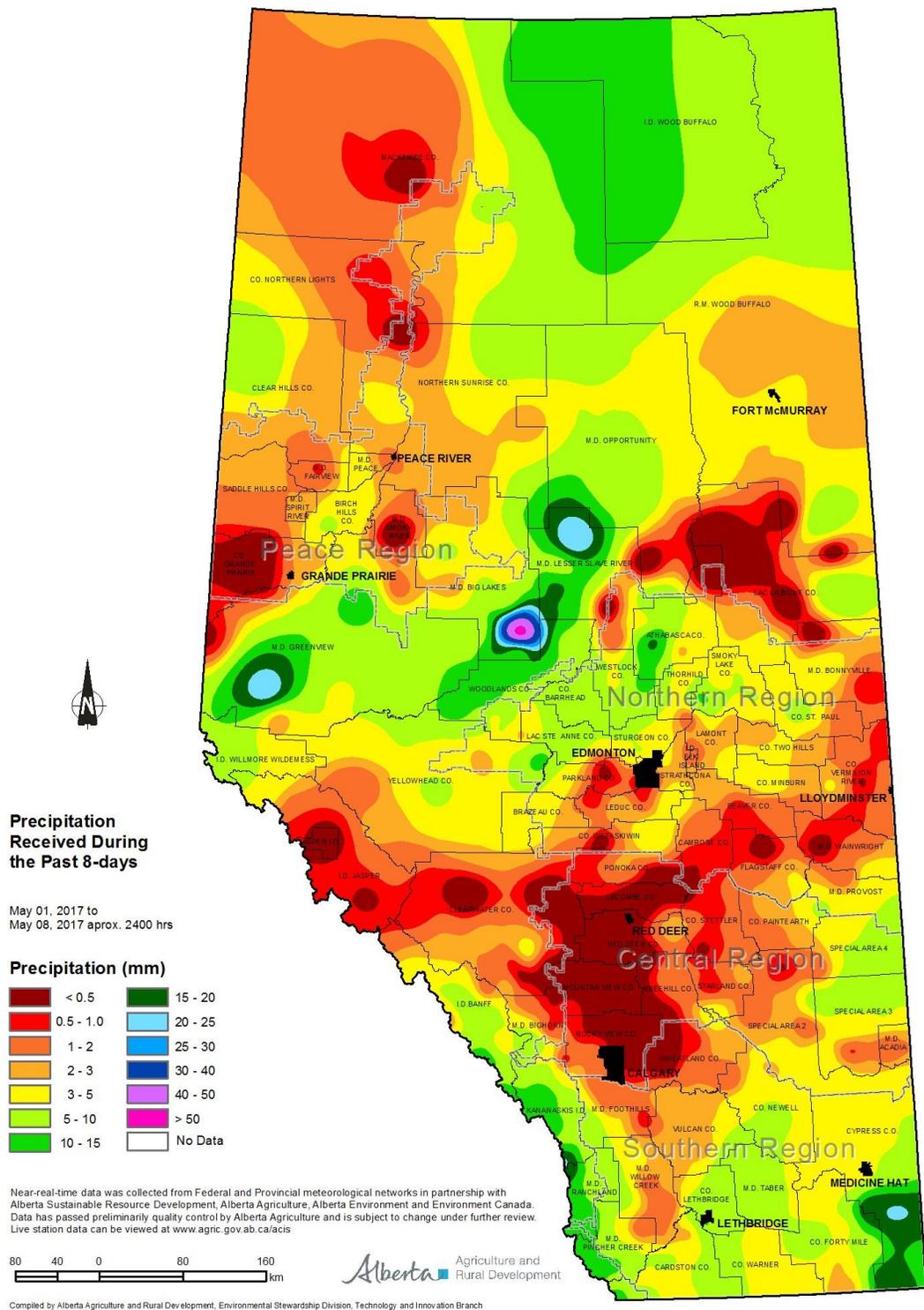
Near-real-time hourly station data can be viewed/downloaded at www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations

Note: Data has about a two hour lag and is displayed in MST.

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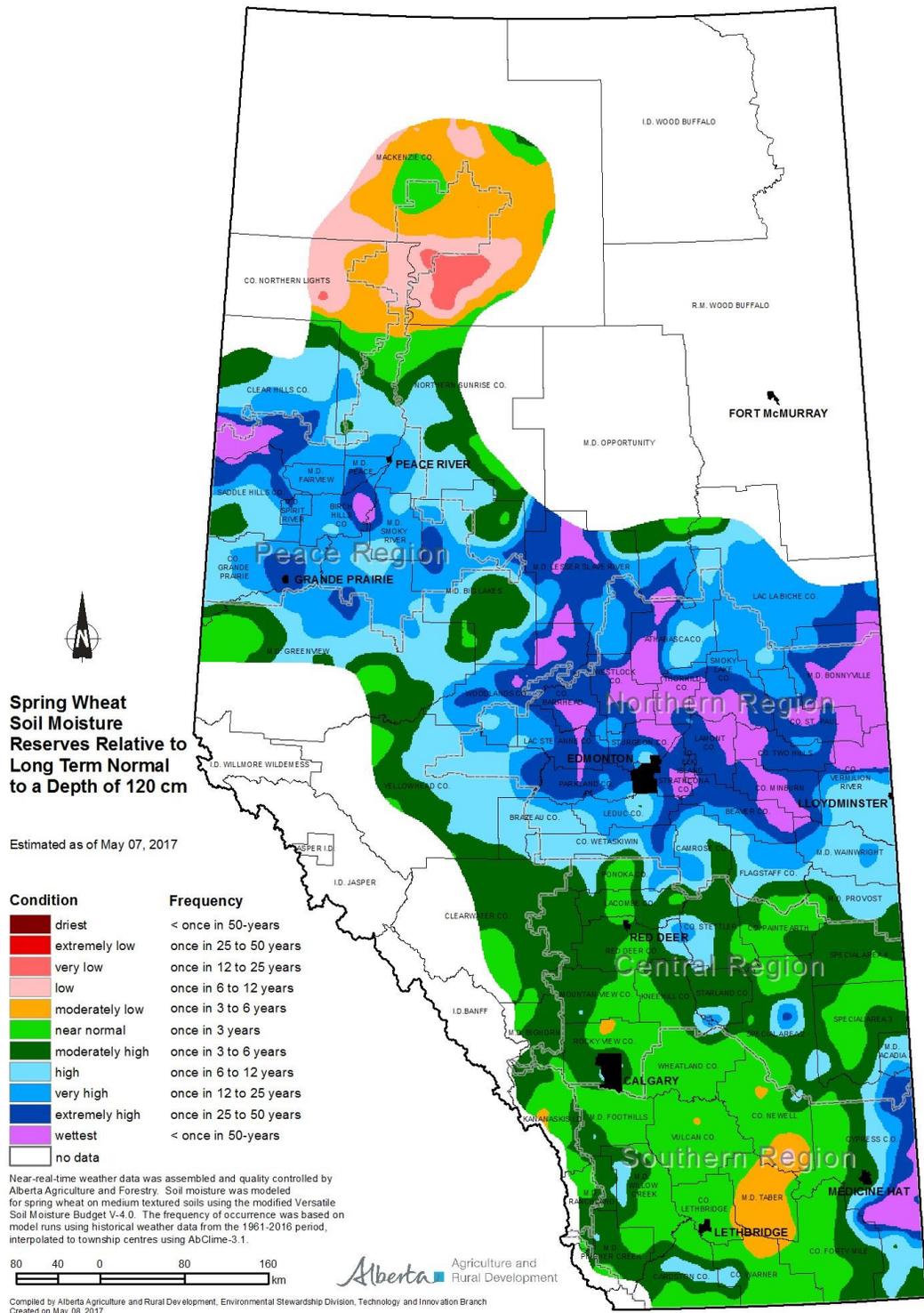
Map 1



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

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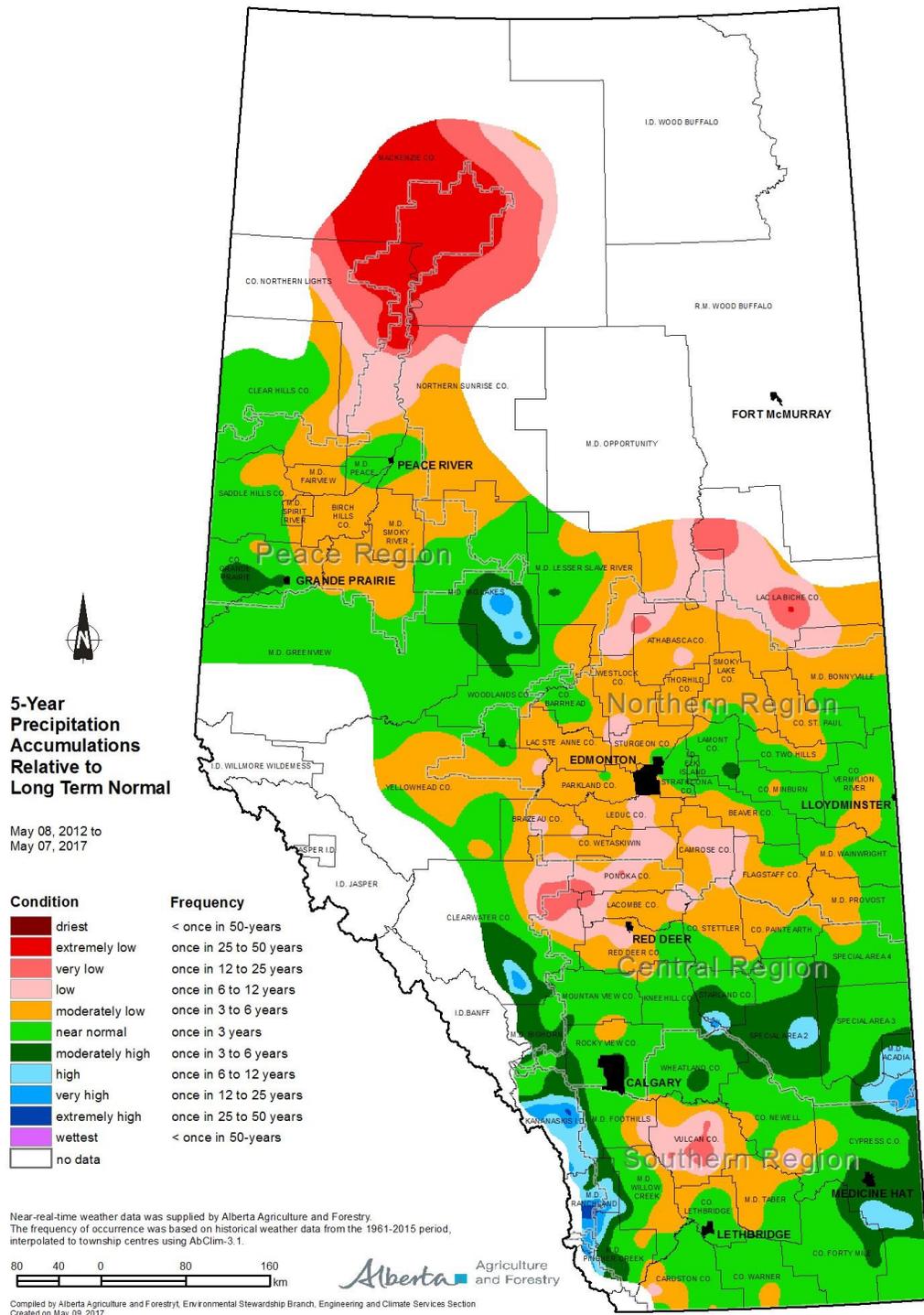
Map 2



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Map 3



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