

## Moisture Situation Update – April 10, 2017

### Synopsis

Soil moisture reserves are generally well above normal across most of the province. In fact, much of the north-half of the province is estimated to have reserves this high, on average, less than once in 12-25 years (**see map 1**). In these areas this situation is largely due to a wet fall, that began with heavy rains in late August, followed by another round of very wet weather during the last few days of September and then, a cooler and wetter than normal October (**see map 2**). Since mid-August, and as of April 10, 2017, many of these areas have seen well over 240 mm of precipitation, with some lands receiving upwards of 300 mm or rainfall (**see map 3**). This was despite a relatively dry winter (**see map 4**).

While most areas have benefited from near normal to above normal moisture over the past year, some drier areas do remain. This includes the northern tip of the Peace Region where some areas have recorded between 250 and 300 mm of moisture, compared to a normal in the 380 to 400 mm range (**see map 5**). This follows several years of drier than normal conditions, resulting in a long term moisture deficit. To a lesser extent, parts of central-southern Alberta are drier than normal, with areas around Champion receiving just over 300 mm over the past year, compared to a normal of 400 mm.

### Perspective

Those areas that currently have more than adequate moisture as a result of an unusually wet fall will benefit from a warm, dry spring. While so far, April is well on its way to having above average moisture, there is still plenty of time ahead of spring seeding to dry out the land. On average, first half of May tends to be relatively dry across most of the province, with the exception of south-western Alberta and across the foothills up as far as Grande Cache. Looking further out, during most years in Alberta, adequate soil moisture is critical for supplying crop water demands through the typical short duration dry spells that often punctuate most growing seasons.

**Additional maps can be found at** [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/maps](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/maps)

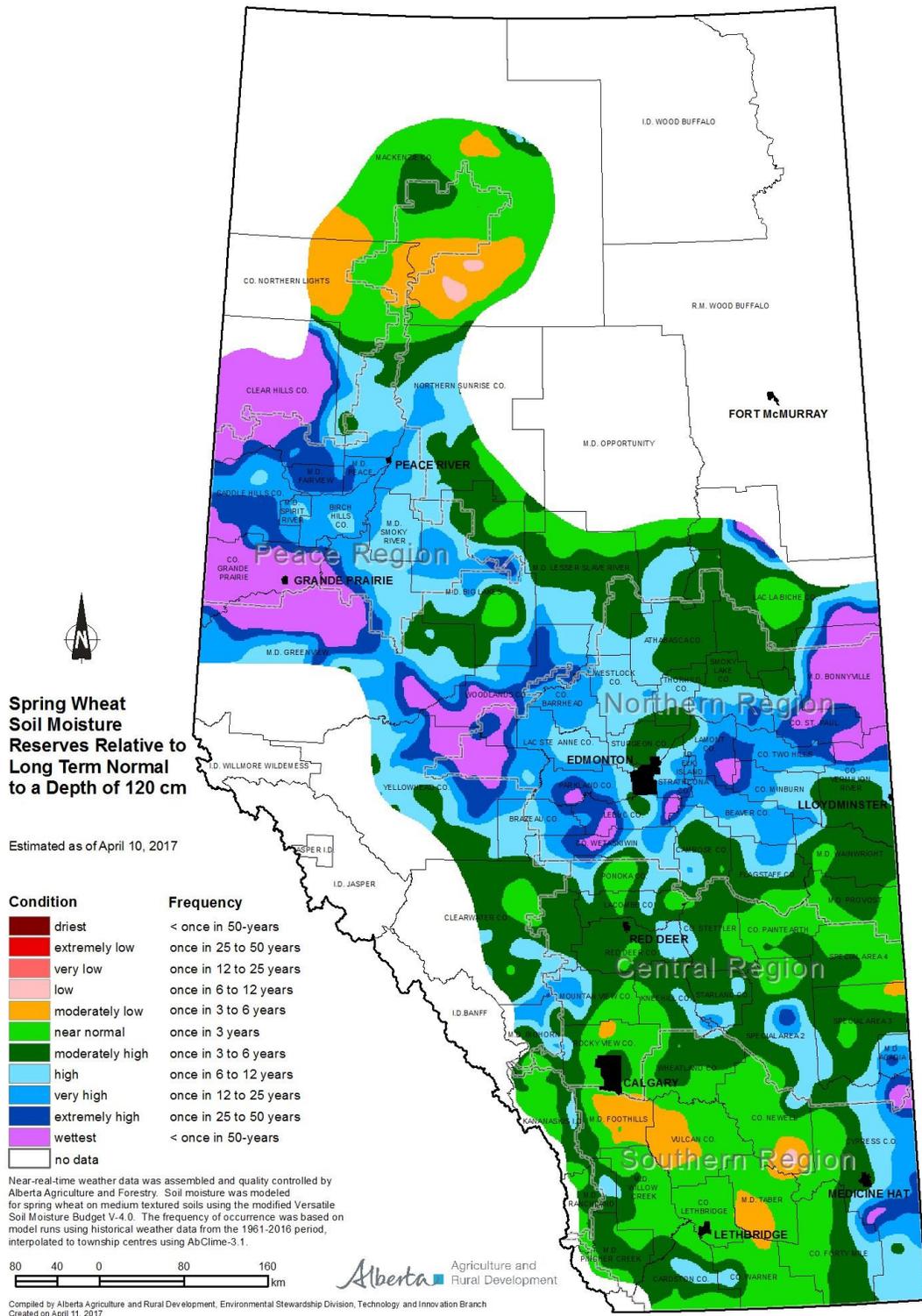
**Near-real-time hourly station** data can be viewed/downloaded at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations)

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

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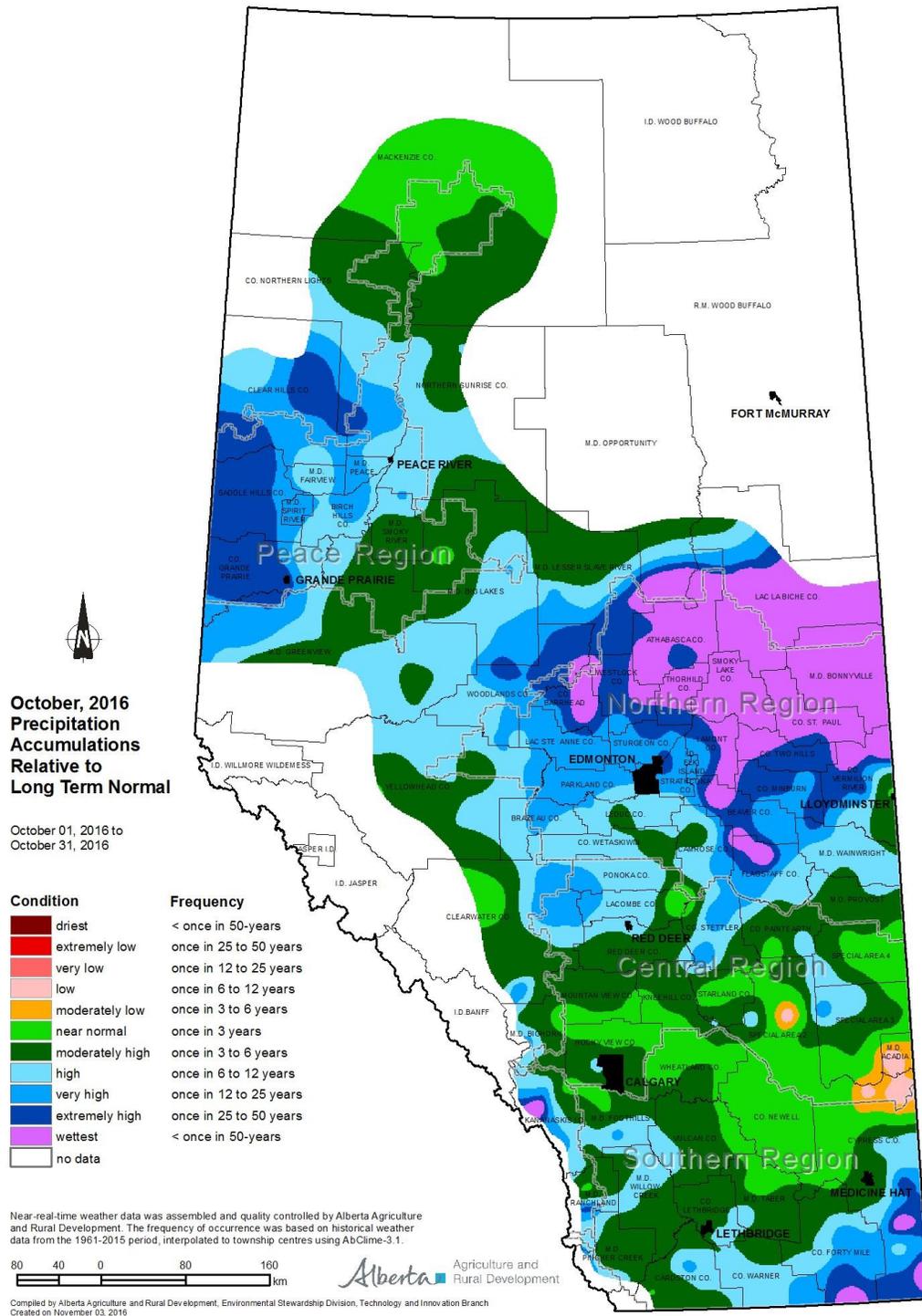
## Map 1



Visit [weatherdata.ca](http://weatherdata.ca) for additional maps and meteorological data

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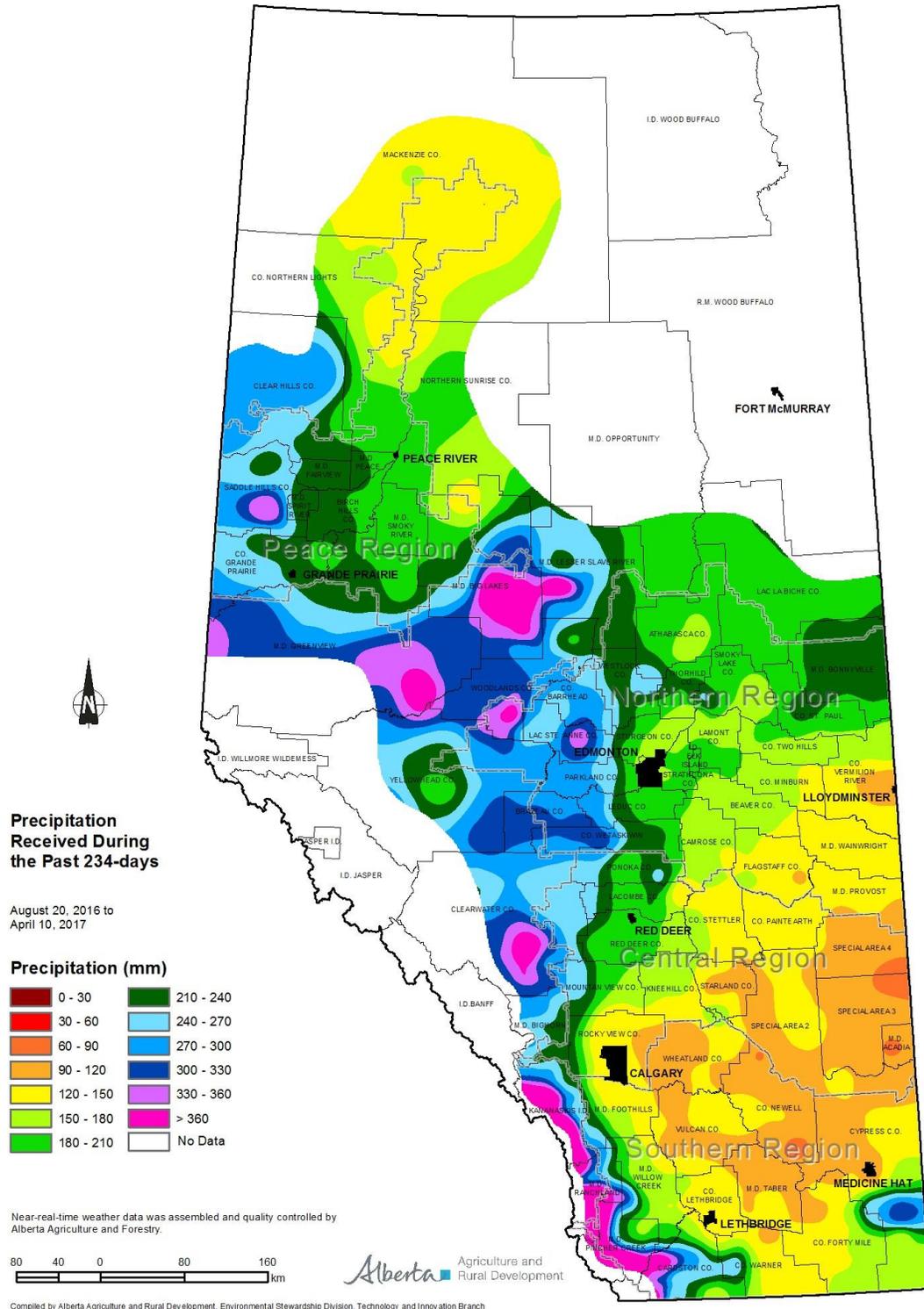
## Map 2



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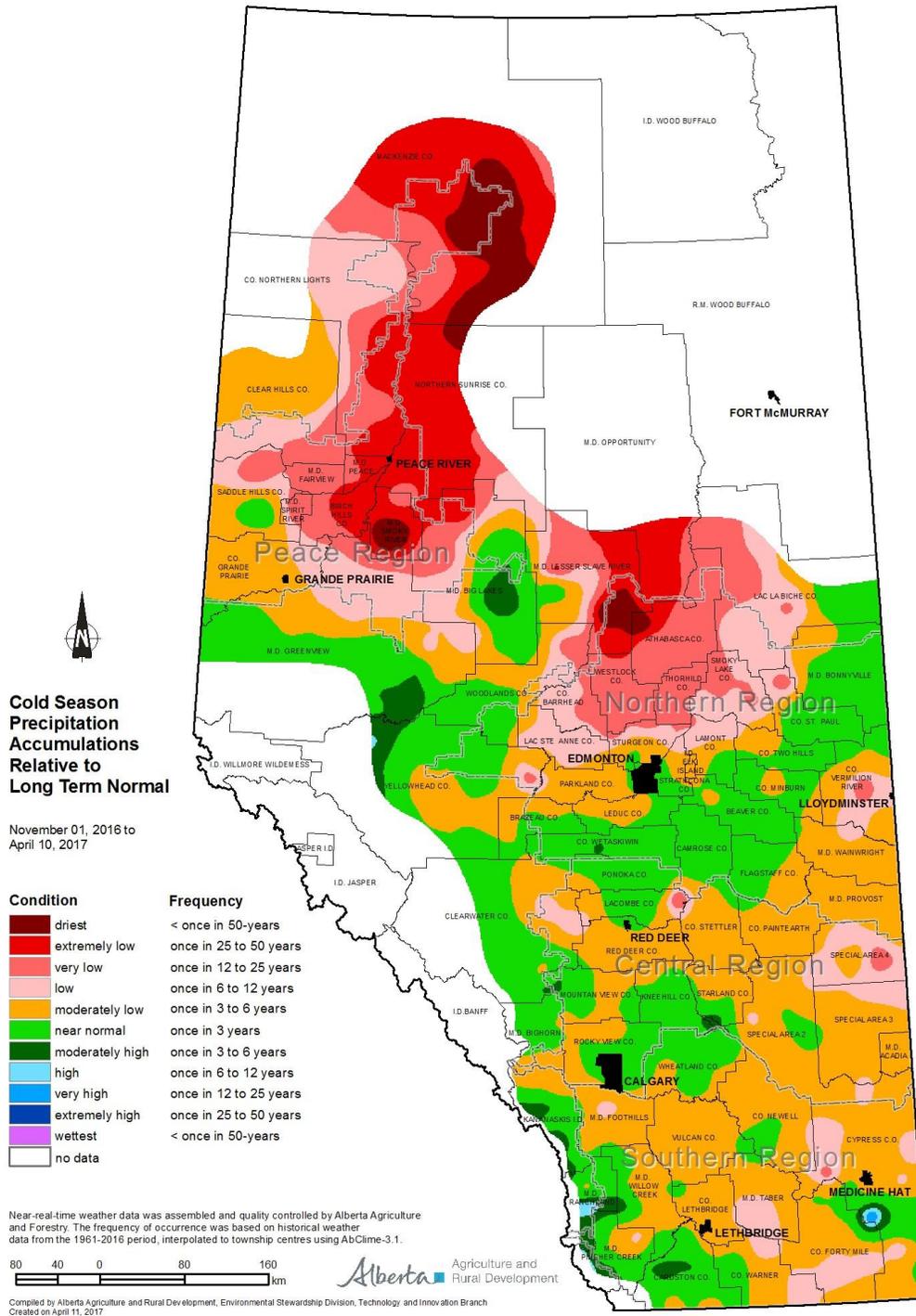
## Map 3



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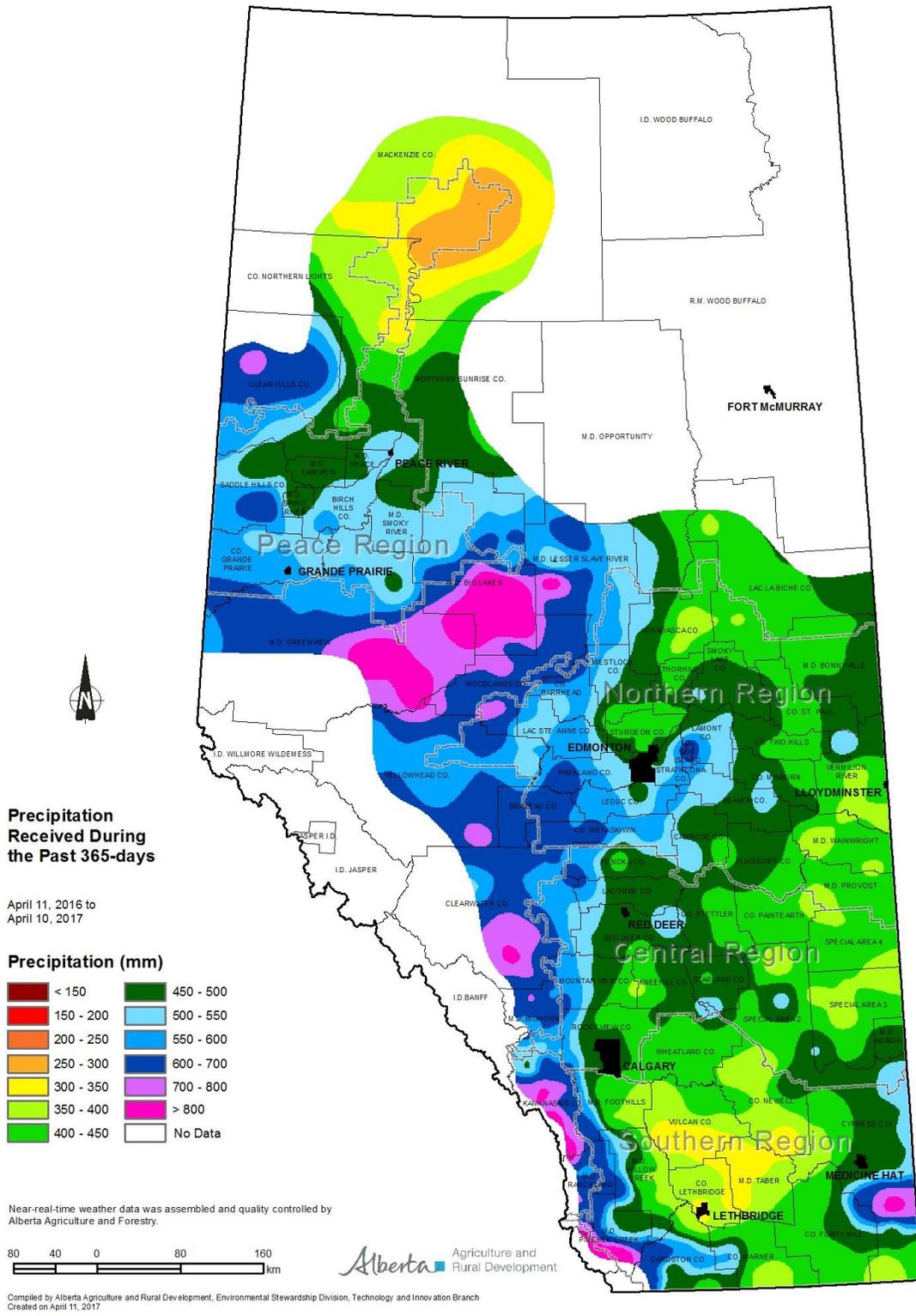
## Map 4



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## Map 5



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