

## Moisture Situation Update – July 10, 2016

### Synopsis

Alberta's moisture situation shifted dramatically in mid-May, following a long dry winter and a warm dry spring. Since that time most of the province has received at least adequate moisture, with a large swath of land stretching from the Special Areas, well up into the Peace Region receiving well above 1 in 12-year precipitation accumulations (**see map 1**). Within this large area some locals have experienced 60-day accumulations this great on average less than once in 50-years with total amounts recorded in excess of 300 mm (**see map 2**). Undoubtedly low soil moisture reserves ahead of this wet period helped attenuate excessive moisture concerns to some extent. However, in some areas, many are hoping for the skies to clear so that field operations may resume.

Despite the generally wet conditions, soil moisture reserves remain well below average throughout some parts of the province (**see map 3**). Of particular note is a large area stretching from just north of Olds, down as far south as Lethbridge. Here the dry winter, early spring and dry start to spring, resulted in a significant depletion of deep soil moisture reserves. While most of Alberta has seen above average moisture since mid May, this area has received below average rainfall since that time (**see map 1**). In fact, some lands through Vulcan County and the M.D. of Taber have only seen 80 mm of moisture since the start of the growing season (**see map 4**), in comparison to the long term average of 155 mm.

### Forecast from the Fire Weather Section (special thanks to Paul Kruger)

Over the next several days, most of the province is expected to receive moisture as wide spread unsettled conditions prevail, giving rise to showers and thunderstorms. Given the nature of this type of weather it's difficult to predict total local accumulations. However, the systems are generally going to be slow moving and capable of producing localized heavy amounts of rain and in some cases hail.

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

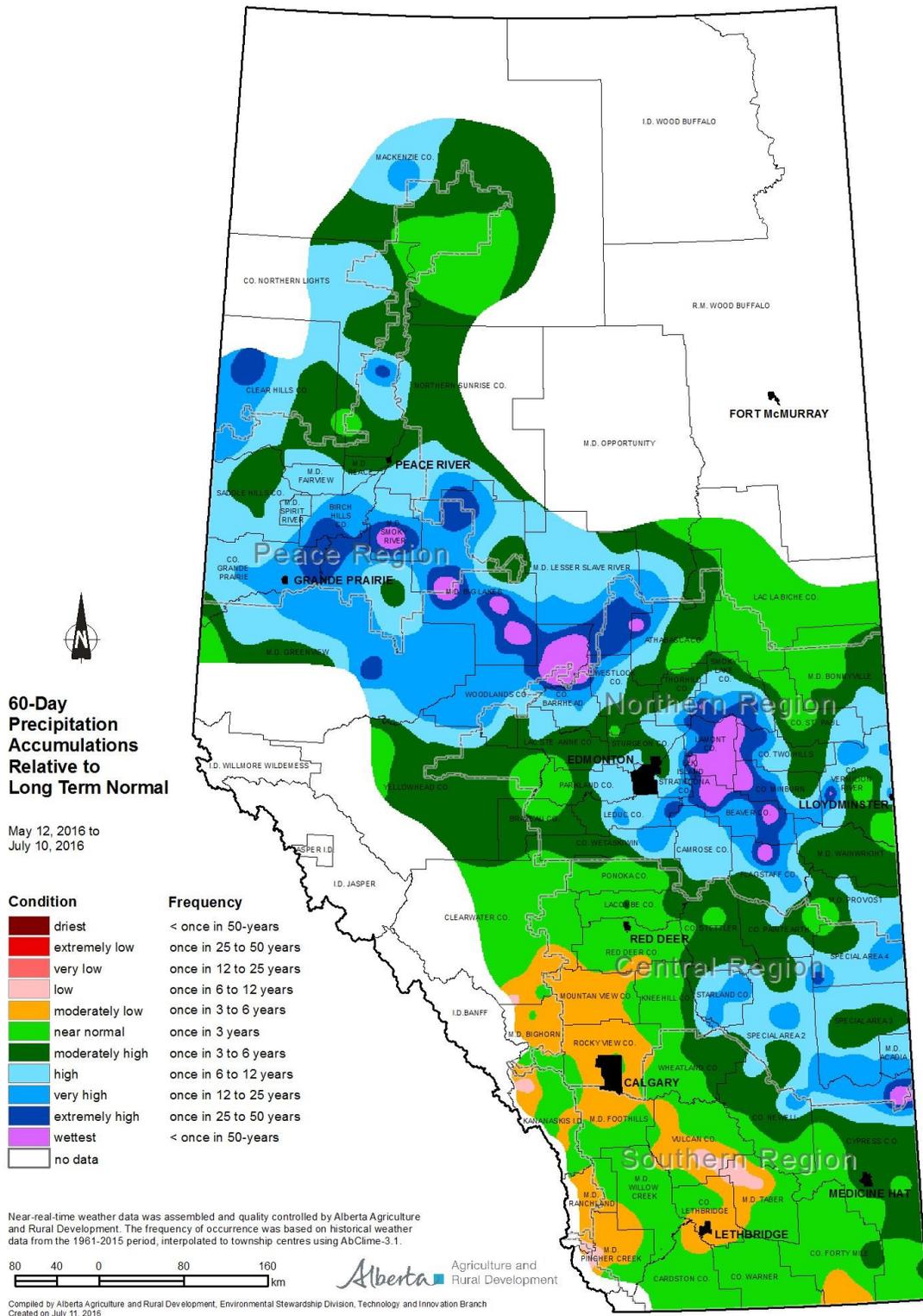
**Near-real-time hourly station** data can be viewed/downloaded at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations)

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

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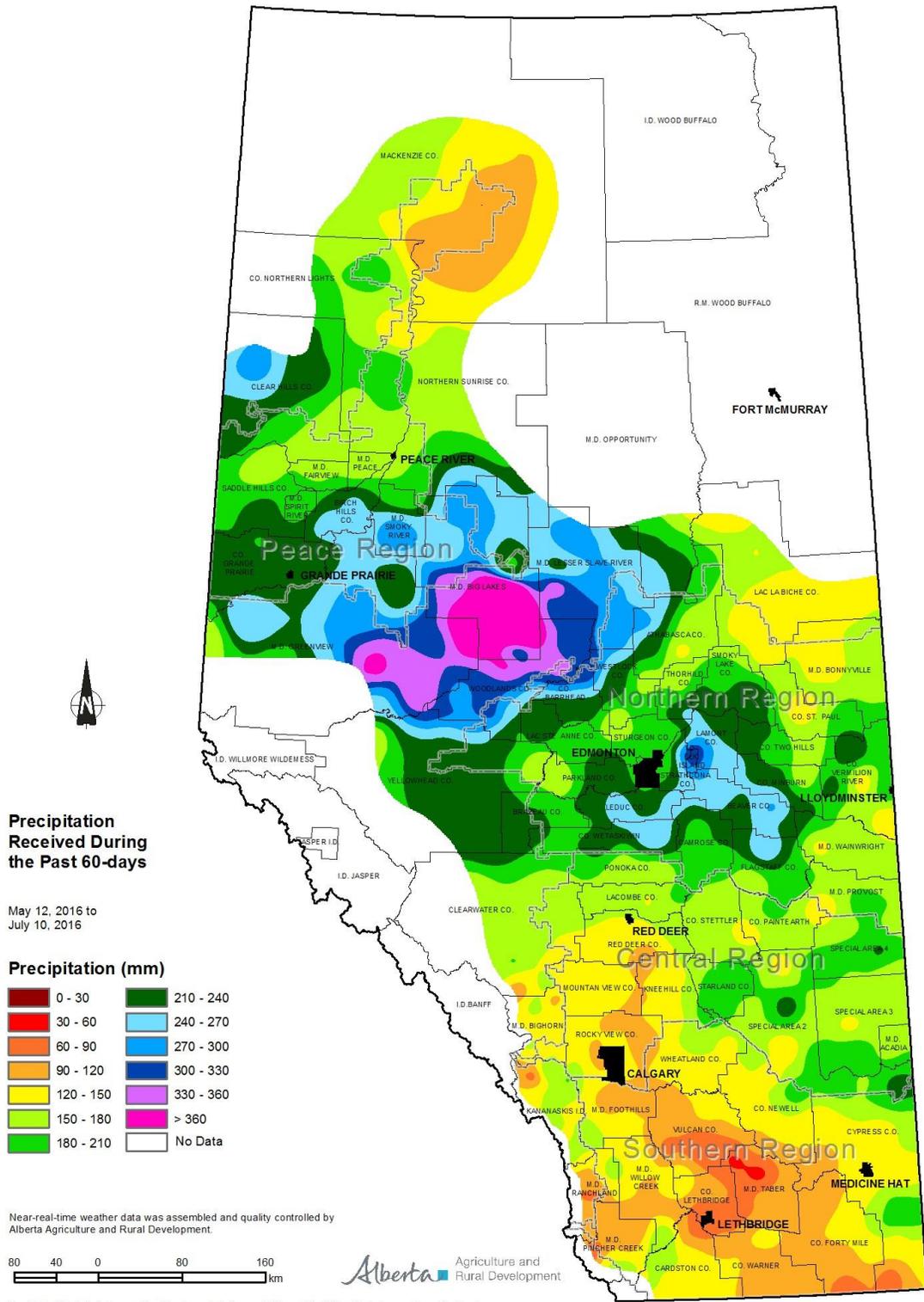
## Map 1



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

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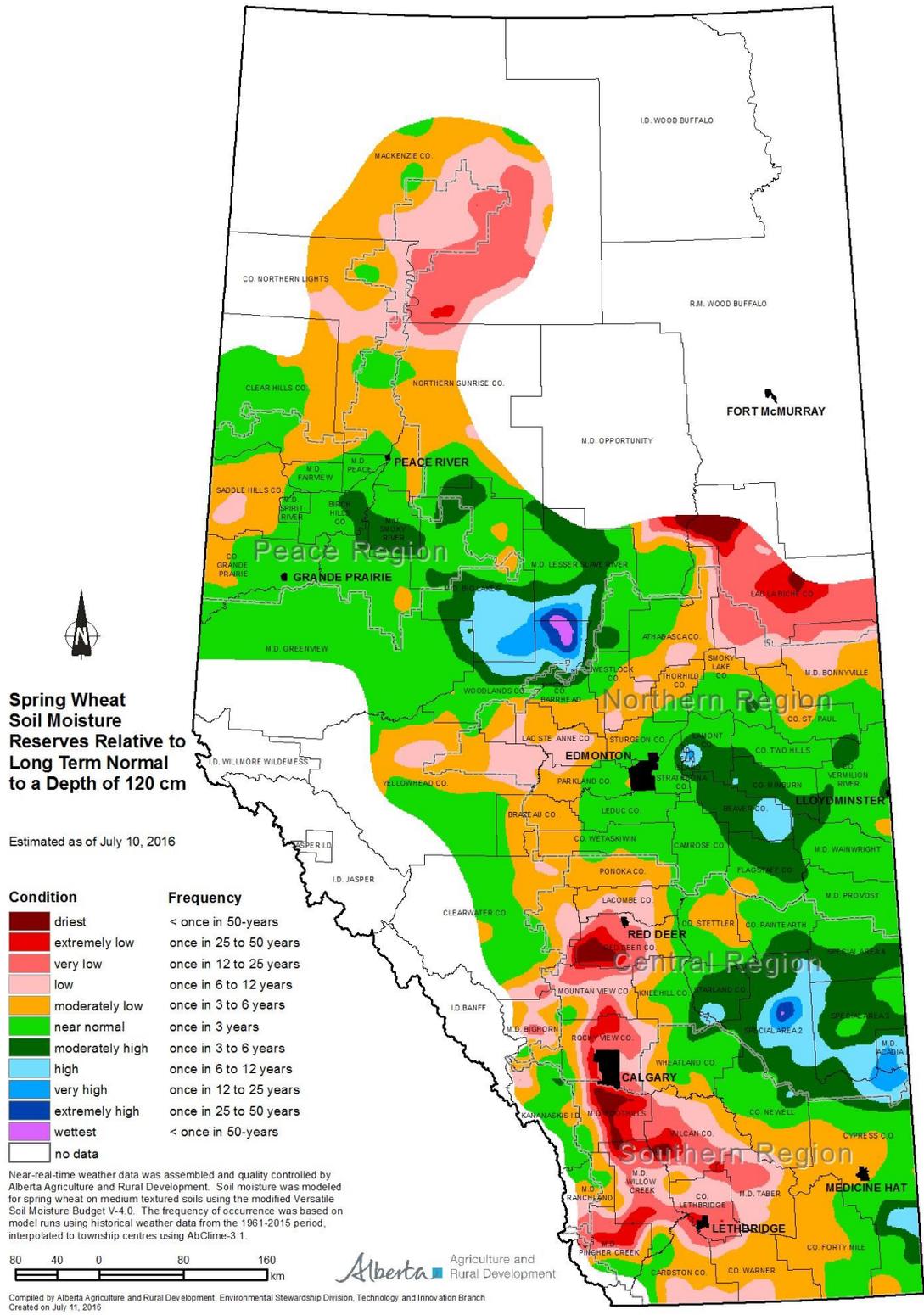
## Map 2



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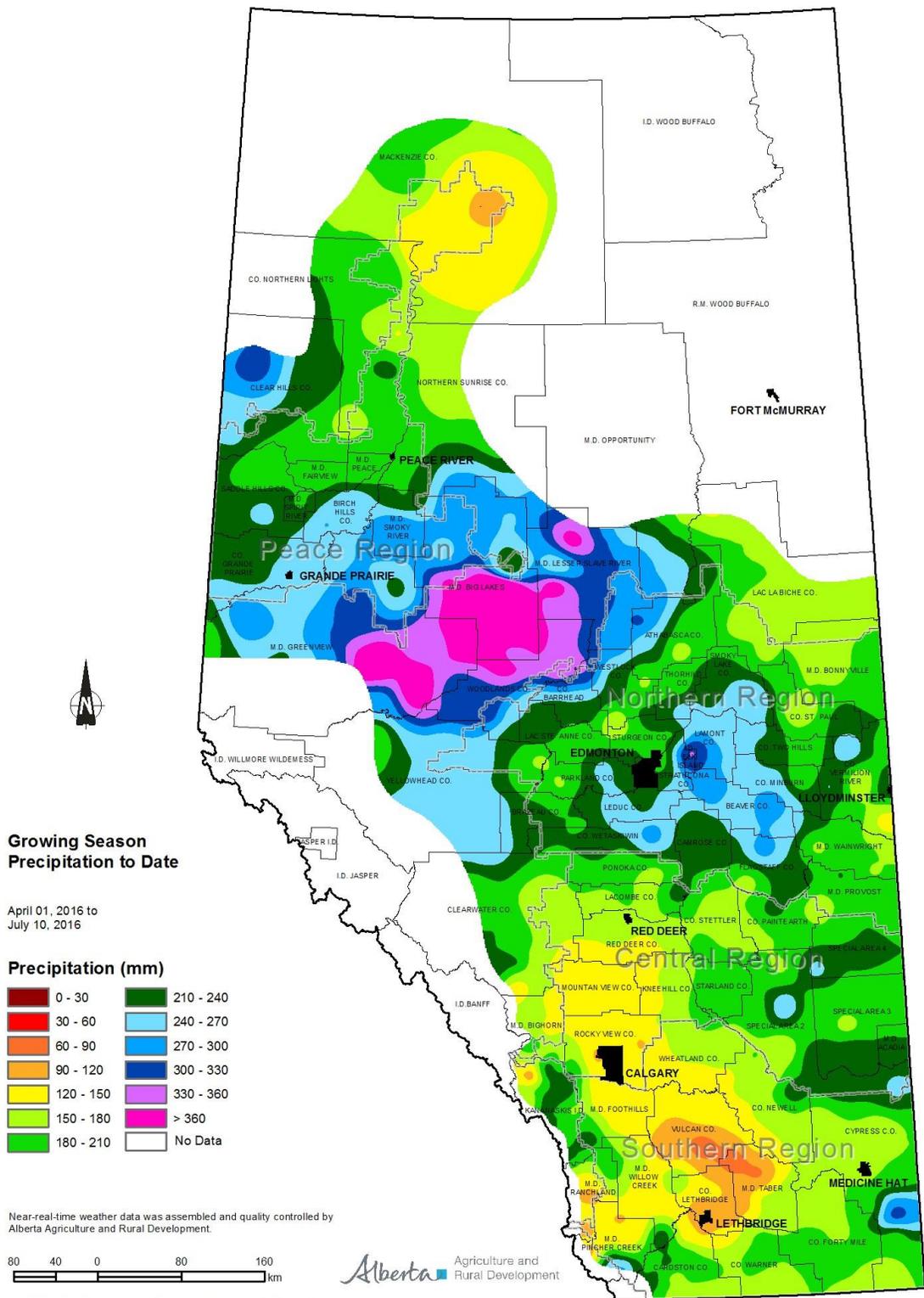
## Map 3



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## Map 4



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