

Moisture Situation Update – July 15, 2018

Synopsis:

Since the beginning of July, precipitation has been highly variable across the province, ranging from less than 5 mm throughout parts of southern Alberta, to well over 100 mm through parts of the north-west and southern Peace Region (**see Map 1**). Luscar Creek, located about 40 km south-east of Hinton, recorded the greatest amount (184 mm), with nearly 150 mm of this falling during a 48-hour period beginning on July 2nd. Most, but not all, agricultural areas between the town of Peace River and Red Deer received at least 30 mm which has generally been adequate to sustain crop growth. In contrast, southern Alberta along with parts of the extreme northern Peace Region has been dry, with large areas receiving less than 20 mm.

Following a warmer and dryer than normal May, about 60% of the Province's agricultural areas have seen at least near normal precipitation accumulations throughout June and the first half of July (**see map 2**). Lands with below normal accumulations (at least one in 6-year lows), lie widely scattered between the Yellowhead Highway and the US Border. The majority of these areas lie south of the TransCanada Highway. Moisture is needed now as plant water demands peak during the long day light hours and warm temperatures of Alberta's mid-summer season.

Forecast from AF's fire weather section:

Over the next three to four days, expect to see conditions cool off as a series of disturbances moves across the Province, replacing a weak but warm high-pressure ridge that is currently bringing in dry conditions. By Wednesday, the first disturbance will bring unstable conditions over most of the western half of the Province, with upwards of 10 mm of rain expected along the foothills between Grande Cache and the US Border, as well as parts of the northern-most Peace Region. This may bring in some much needed relief to the extreme western parts of Southern Alberta.

On Thursday, the second disturbance will move in from the south-west, bringing showers and thundershowers concentrated along the foothills between Beaverlodge and the US Border, but perhaps extending further east in the central plains, and possibly through some parts of southern Alberta. Generally speaking, accumulations will be light with less than 10 mm expected, but greater localized amounts are possible, associated with thunderstorms.

By the weekend, a third system will bring wide spread rain across much of the Peace Region with upwards of 75 mm of precipitation is possible.

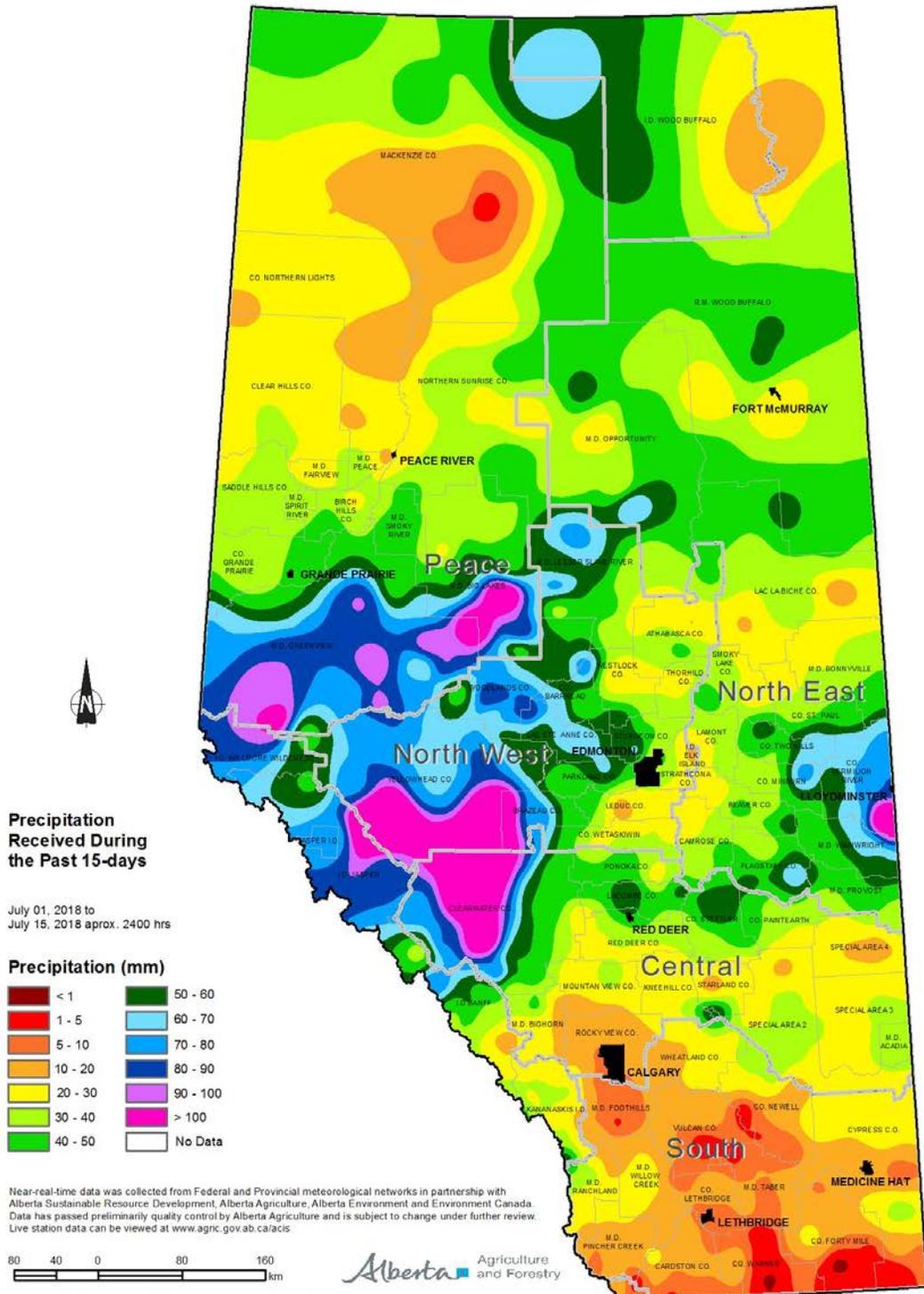
Near-real-time hourly station data can be viewed/downloaded at www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations

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

Ralph Wright
Manager, Agro-meteorological Applications and Modelling Section
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Phone: 780-446-6831

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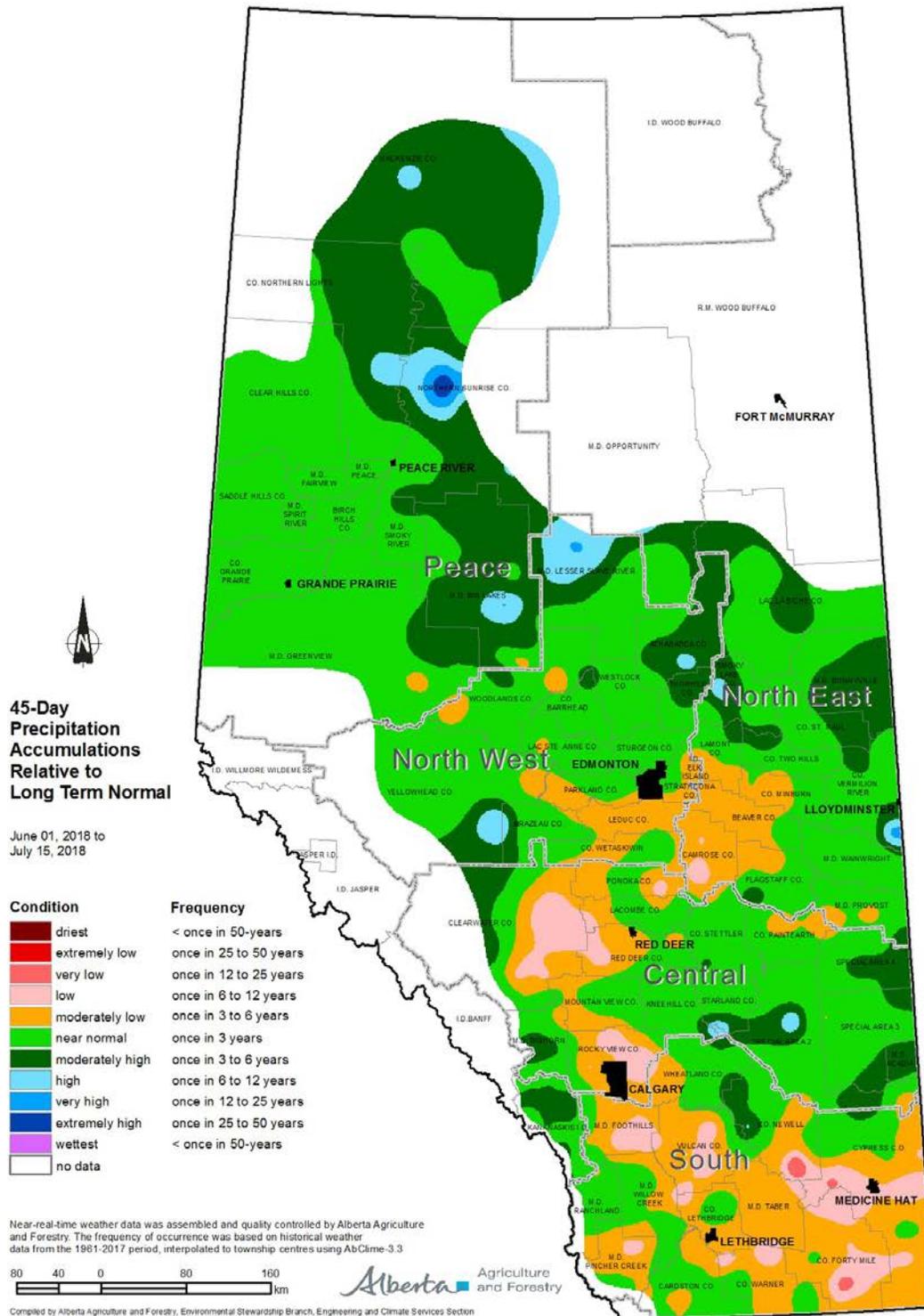
Map 1



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

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Map 2



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