

Moisture Situation Update – July 19, 2016

Synopsis

The last moisture situation report (current as of July 10, 2016), identified a growing need for immediate moisture across a large area stretching from just north of Olds, down almost as far south as Lethbridge. Fortunately, since that time significant rains have fallen across most of this area (see map 1), with many stations south of Red Deer and down through Calgary, High River, Strathmore and almost as far southeast as Brooks, recording 80 to 120 mm of rain. Even the driest areas in and around Vulcan County and the through the M.D of Taber generally received upwards of 30-40 mm over the past 10-days. In fact, much of this rain fell within the past 5-days (see map 2), which should be helpful since we appear to be approaching a stretch of warm, dry weather in the days ahead.

With recent rains, most of the provinces agricultural areas have now, to date, seen at least near normal amounts of precipitation since the start of the Growing season (see map 3). Warm weather and adequate moisture have provided favorable growing conditions across most of the provinces agricultural areas. Looking back over the past 30 days, some areas in need of moisture do exist in and around the Hawk Hills (north of Manning) in the Peace Region, as well as in a few other small areas scattered widely through the province. Some of these areas have seen barely 20 mm over the past 30 days and rain would be welcome here. In stark contrast, excessive moisture may well be a problem for some lands through central Alberta and elsewhere that have seen well over 160 mm in this time same time frame. Currently, the greatest 30-day precipitation totals (231 mm) have been recorded at the Cabin lake AGCM station, some 50 km north east of Dinosaur Provincial Park.

Forecast from AF's fire weather section

For those areas north of Whitecourt, including the extreme northern Peace Region, a cold front will continue to bring unsettled conditions over the next several days. Areas south of Edmonton should expect to see drier conditions develop and persist, allowing some moderate drying, which is important for those areas that have seen significant rains of late. However, there is adequate surface moisture across most of these areas that may fuel the development of local thunderstorms in the days ahead.

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

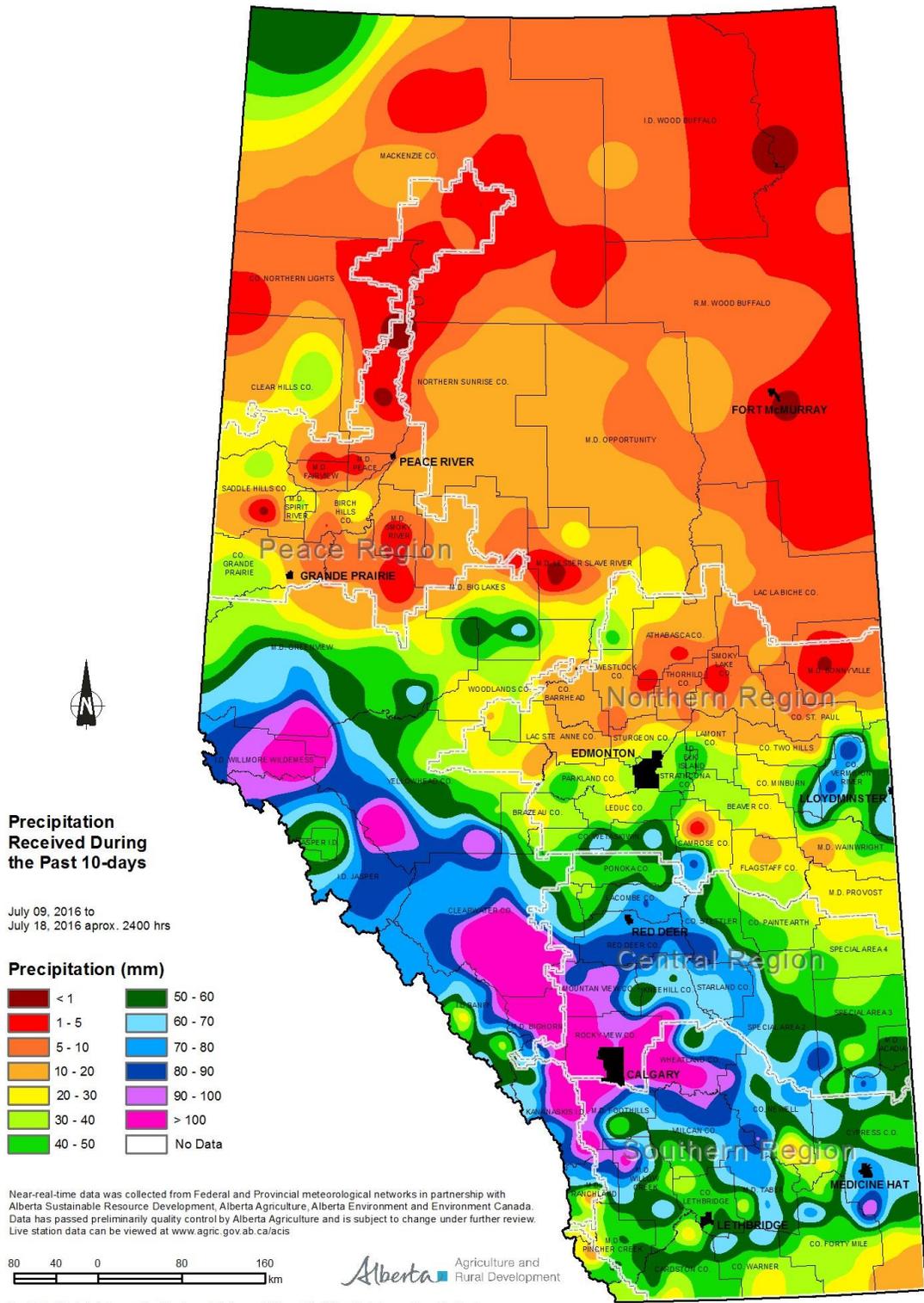
Near-real-time hourly station data can be viewed/downloaded at www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations

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

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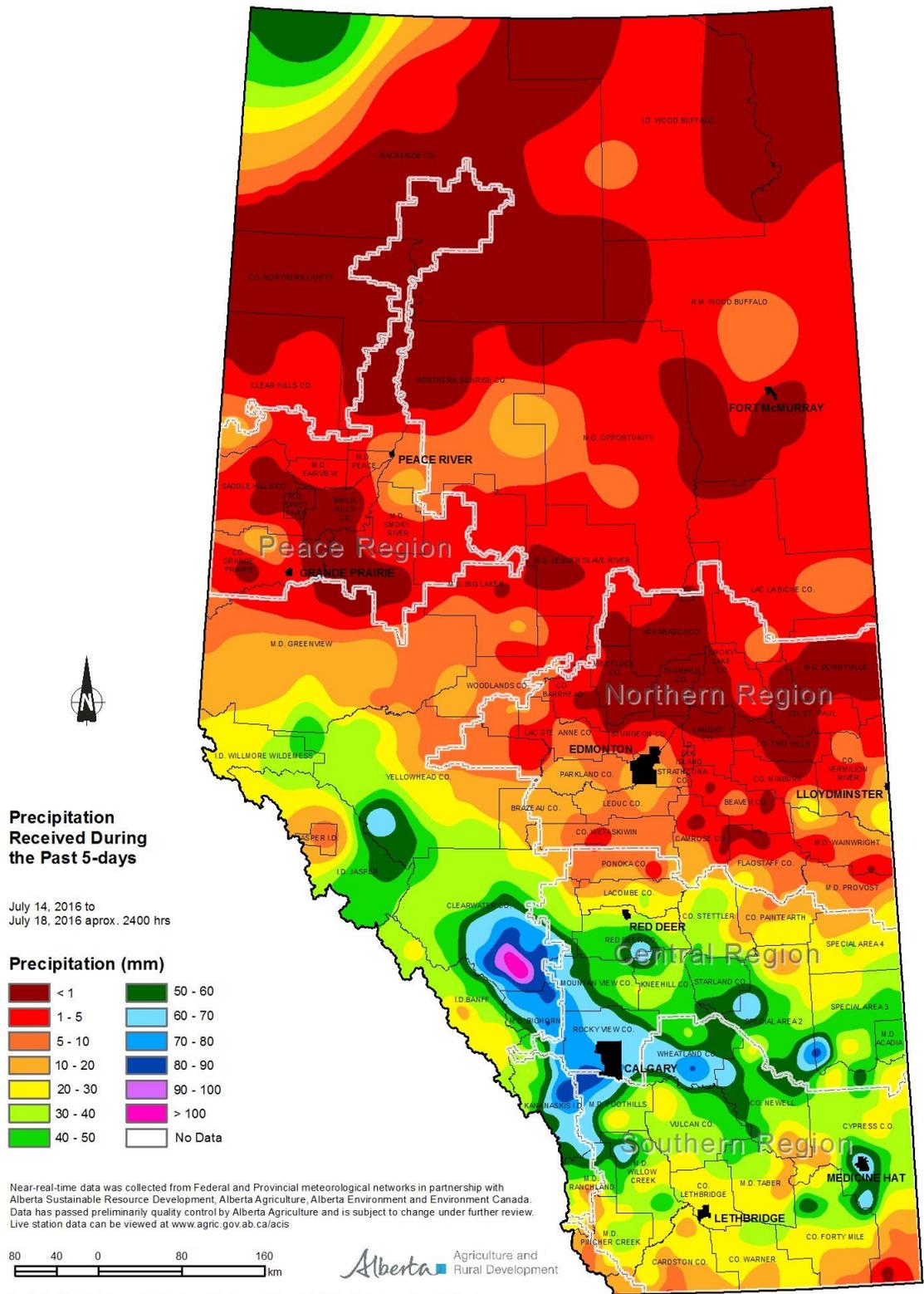
Map 1



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

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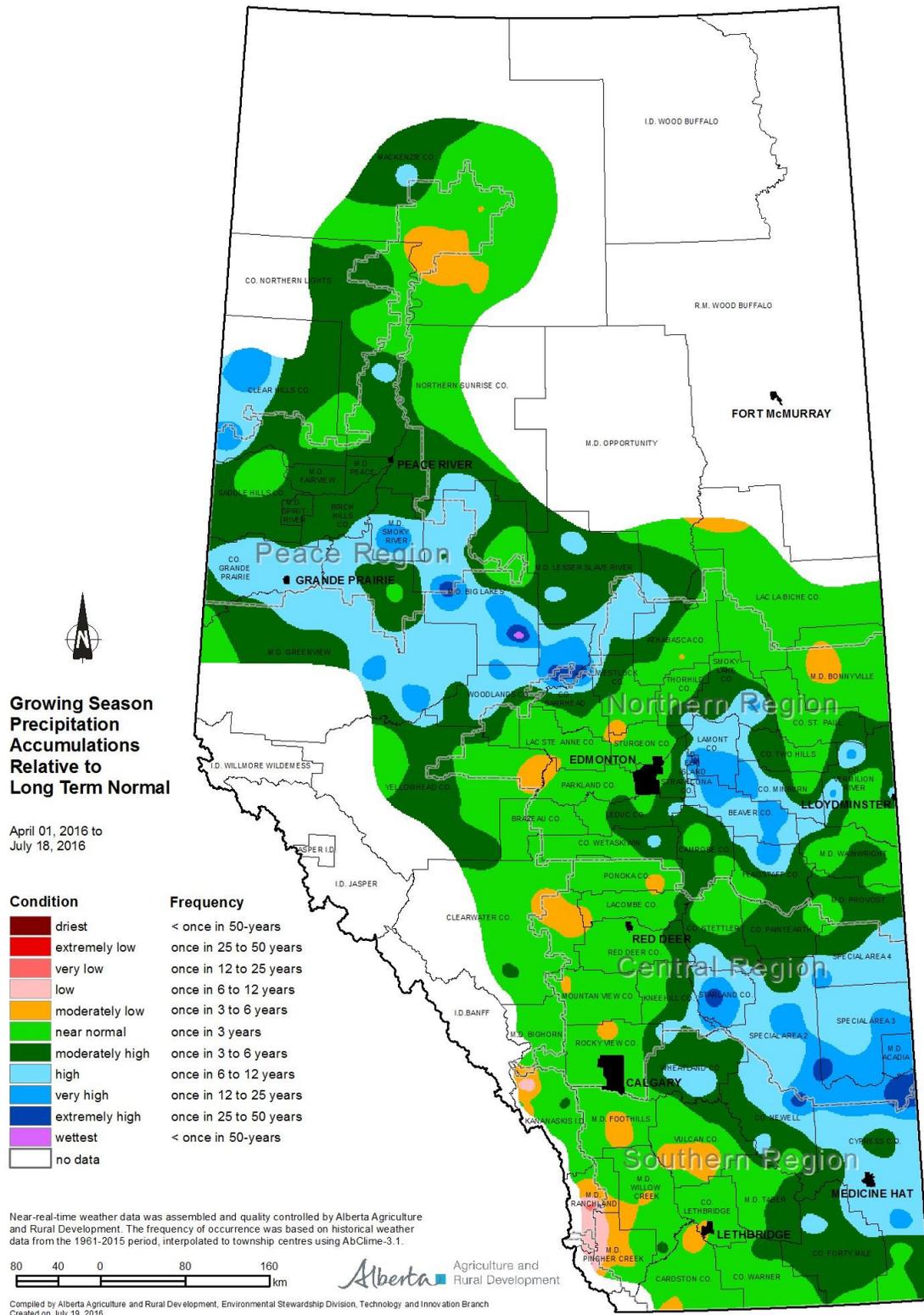
Map 2



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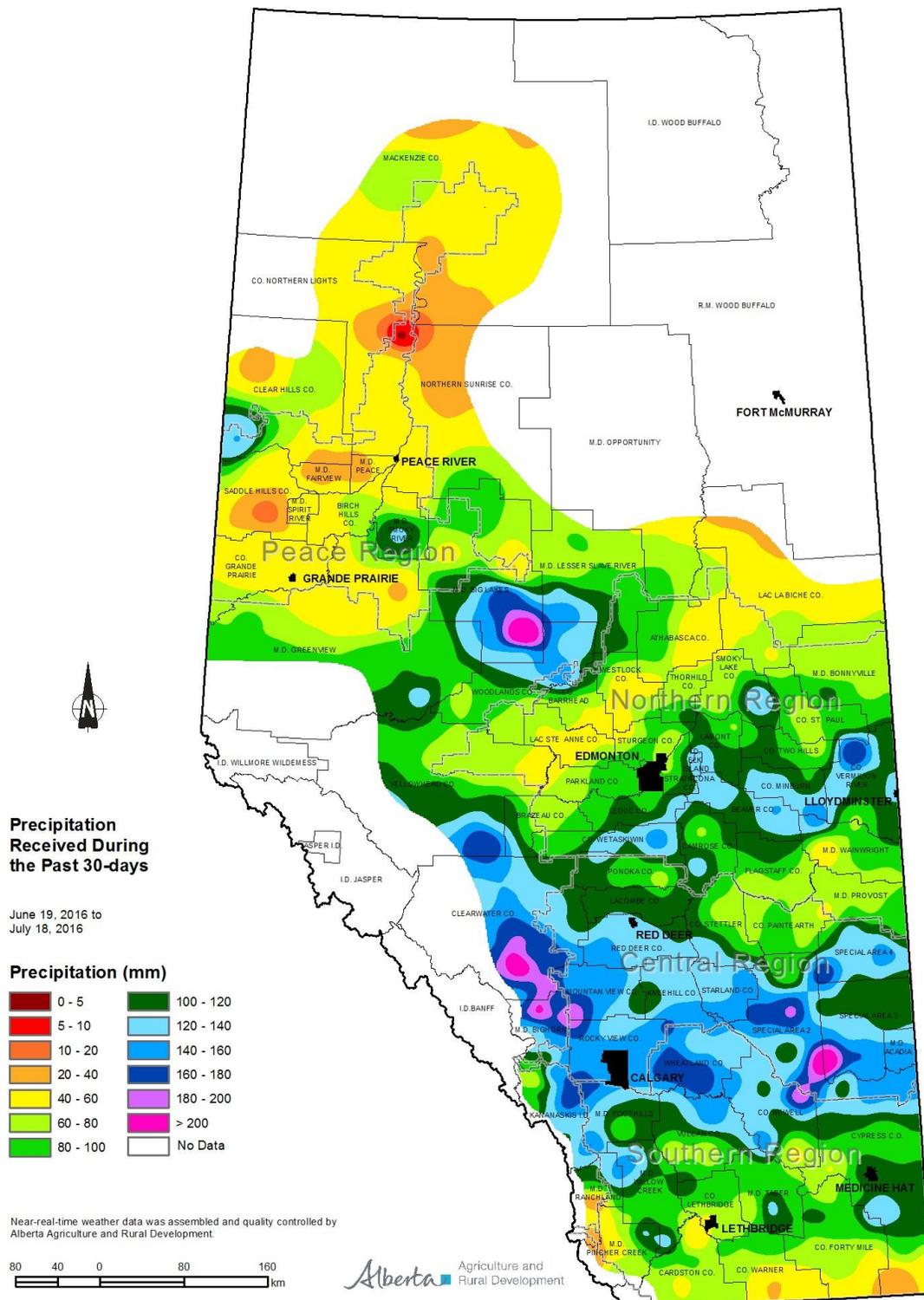
Map 3



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Map 4



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