

Moisture Situation Update – June 12, 2016

Synopsis

Since the last report (May 31, 2016) rain has continued to fall across much of the province (**see map 1**). The majority of this moisture was associated with wide spread thunderstorm activity and as a result local variability will be high and may not be well reflected on the map. Most of the agricultural lands lying north of the Yellowhead Highway, stretching as far north as Manning, received upwards of 20 mm of rain, with a large area including lands around Beaverlodge, through to Athabasca and up into the Fort McMurray area, receiving upwards of 50 mm of rain, with several widely scattered locals within this area receiving upwards of 90 mm of rain.

Thanks to the generally warm wet weather, which has persisted since mid-May, growing season precipitation accumulations are classified as being at least near normal across most of the province (**see map 2**). Notably, this includes the northern Peace region, which has been exceptionally dry for quite some time. Dry areas are still persisting between Sundre (north of Calgary), and Enchant (located about 80 km north of Lethbridge). Fortunately, the areas classified as one in 25 to 50 year lows around Sundre have seen upwards of 40 mm of moisture over the past 30-days which has generally been enough to sustain some growth in recent days (**see map 3**). Lands in and around Enchant have received just under 40 mm over this same period and require additional moisture soon, since of these areas have not received appreciable rains for the past three weeks. In stark contrast, a large area stretching from near Wetaskiwin to well beyond the Swan Hills has been quite wet over the past 30-days, with some stations northwest of Edmonton recording upwards of 180 mm or more.

Soil Moisture reserves are highly variable across the province, with less than one in 12-year lows along Highway 2 between Red Deer and Fort McLeod and throughout the extreme northern Peace Region (**see map 4**). Generally, the east-half of the province is estimated to have at least near normal soil moisture reserves for this time of year. Those areas with well below normal soil moisture reserves will need continued rains over the coming days. Fortunately, June is typically one of the wettest months of the year and the weather patterns of late are “normal” for this time of year.

Forecast from the Fire Weather Section (special thanks to Alice Ou)

Over the next several days expect no significant change in the weather, as Alberta remains under the influence of an upper trough. This low pressure system will continue to bring wide spread thunderstorm activity over the next several days. At this time, there are no early indications that Alberta will be coming under the influence of a persistent high pressure system that typically brings prolonged hot dry weather.

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

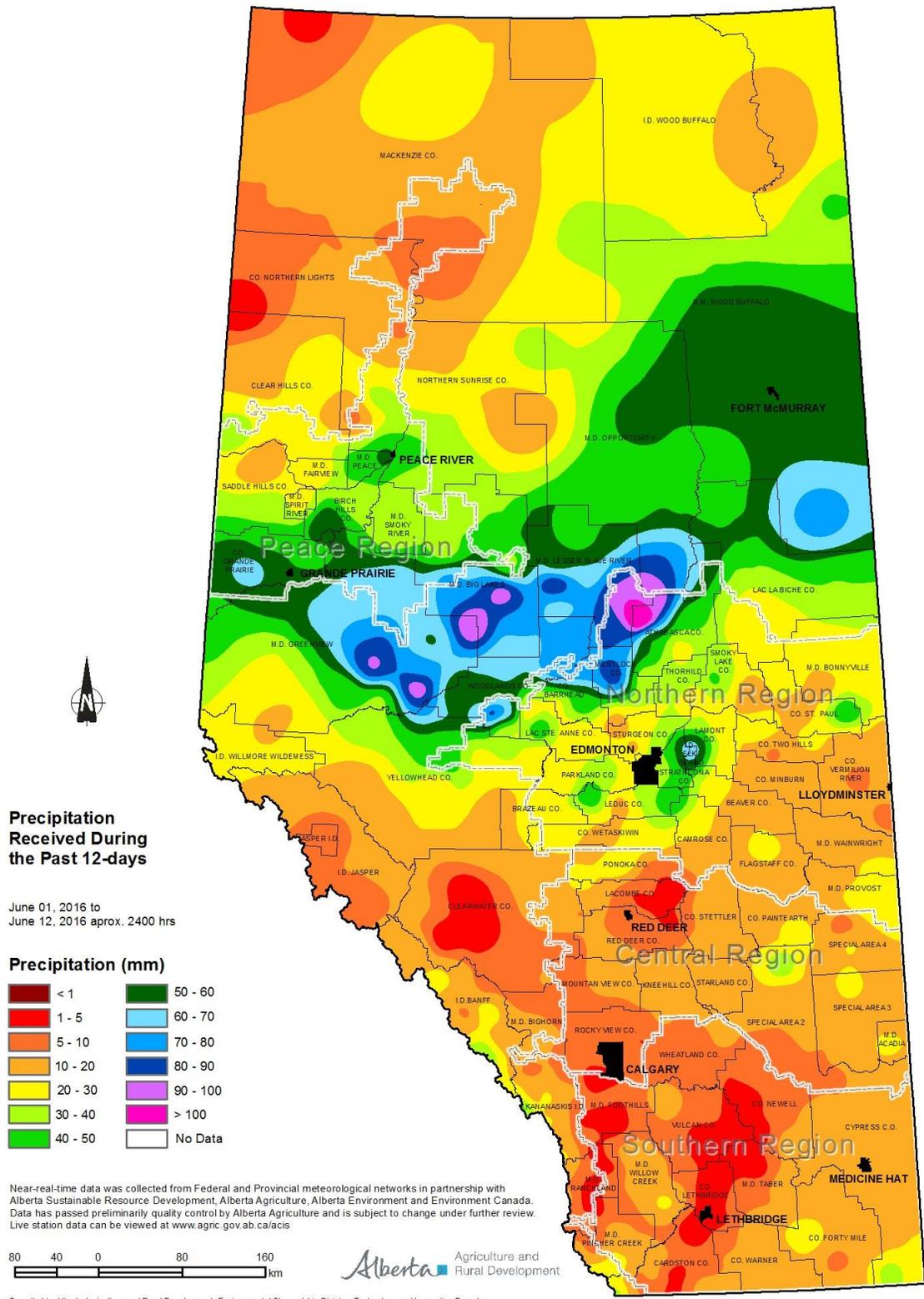
For frost probabilities in your area log on to <http://agriculture.alberta.ca/acis/alberta-weather-data-viewer.jsp> and, select the “normals” tab.

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

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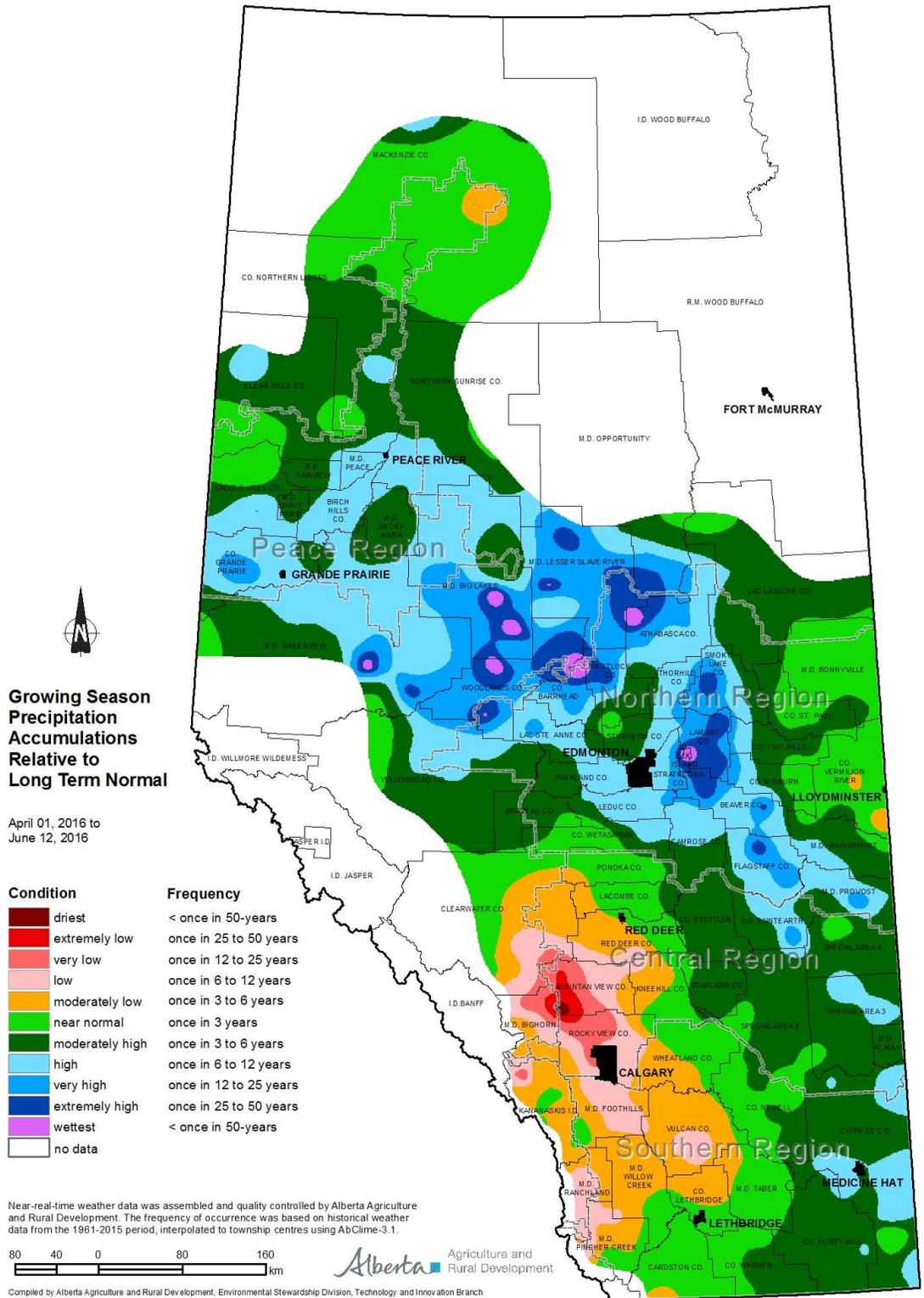
Map 1



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

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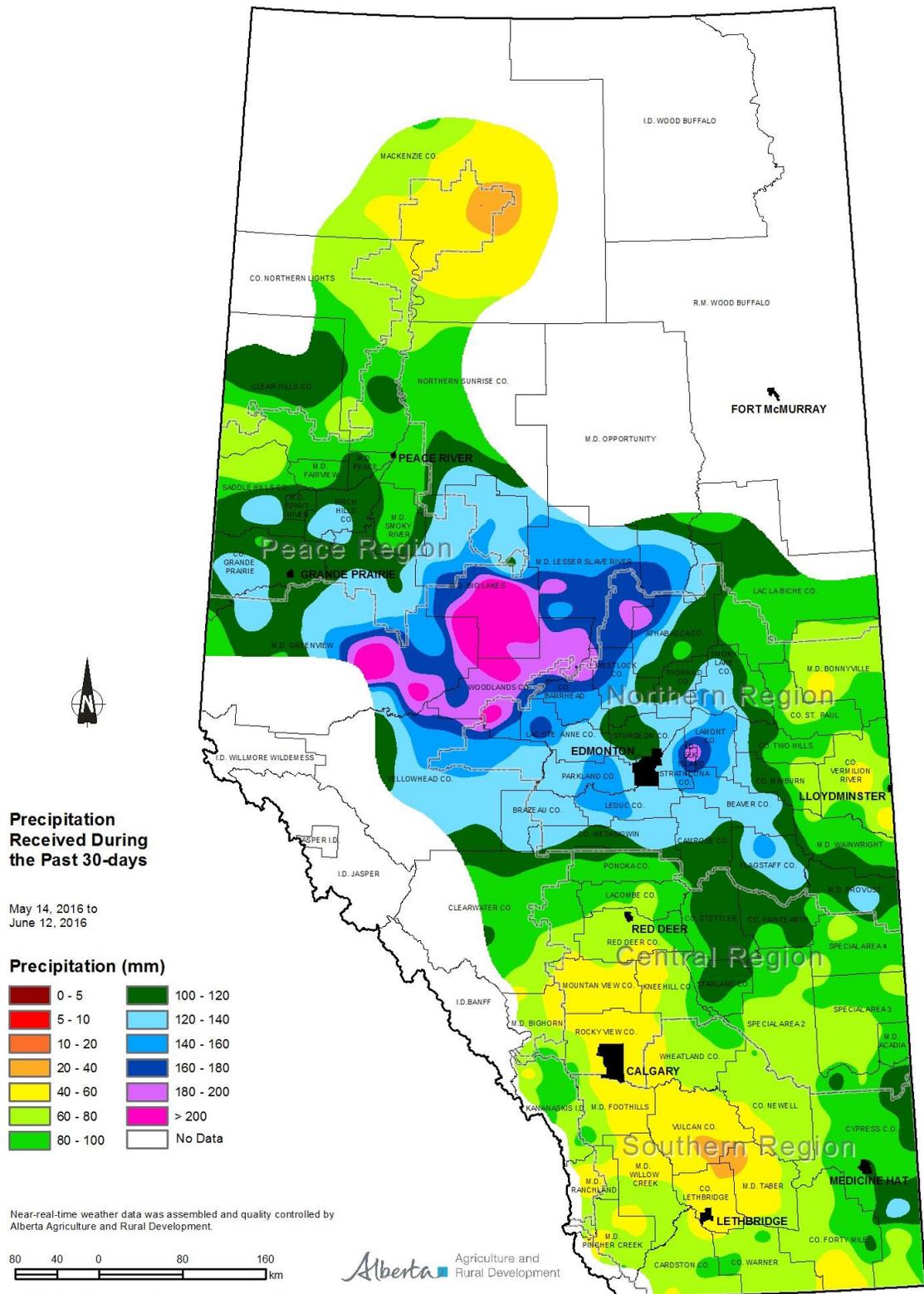
Map 2



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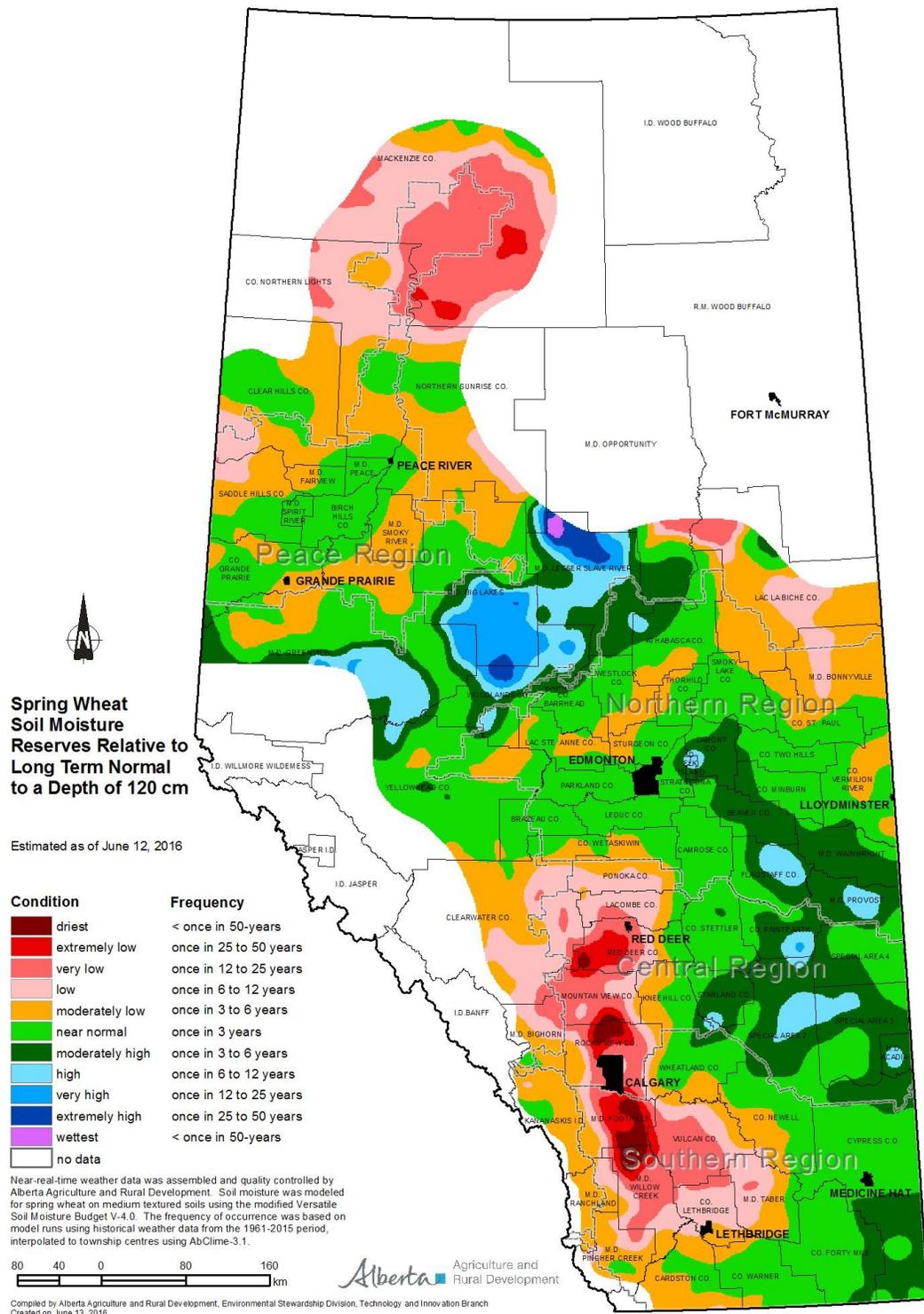
Map 3



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Map 4



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