

## Moisture Situation Update – May 24, 2017

### Synopsis

Following an unusually wet spring (**see map 1**), the third week in May brought a much needed drying trend to most of province (**see map 2**). However, on Wednesday May 24<sup>th</sup>, a major storm system dropped significant moisture across a wide area ranging from the southern Peace Region all the way down south to Calgary, with total amounts ranging from 15 to 50 mm (**see map 3**). Fortunately some of the wettest areas of the province, (Barrhead, Westlock, Athabasca, Lac La Biche and Bonnyville) missed the brunt of the storm, with most areas within this reporting less than 15 mm. But even 15 mm was enough moisture to slow down agriculture operations for at least for a few days.

With all the wet weather soil moisture reserves are well above average across most of the north-half of province, and many lands from Wetaskiwin all the way up through the southern Peace Region are estimated to have reserves this high less than once in 50 years (**see map 4**). In stark contrast, the northern Peace Region remains quite dry and is in need of moisture now. South of Red Deer soil moisture reserves are generally near normal or higher, with above normal moisture found along the foot hills and adjacent plains, as well as east of Medicine hat, stretching up as far north as the M.D of Acadia.

Looking forward, dry weather is needed for most areas north of Red Deer, extending up through to the Southern Peace Region. Southern parts of the province are doing well with respect to moisture, but some lands across the central and southeastern parts could use moisture to help sustain good crop growth. And again, moisture is still needed across the northern Peace Region as persistent, dry weather continues to dominate local weather patterns.

### Discussions with AF fire weather forecasters:

Over the next several days expect to see a good drying trend develop. This is should persist well into next week, possibly a little beyond for the south half of the province, but considerable uncertainty exists looking out this far. Towards the middle to the end of next week, another moisture bearing system is expected to arrive, bringing rain to the northern parts of the Province, including much of the Peace Region.

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

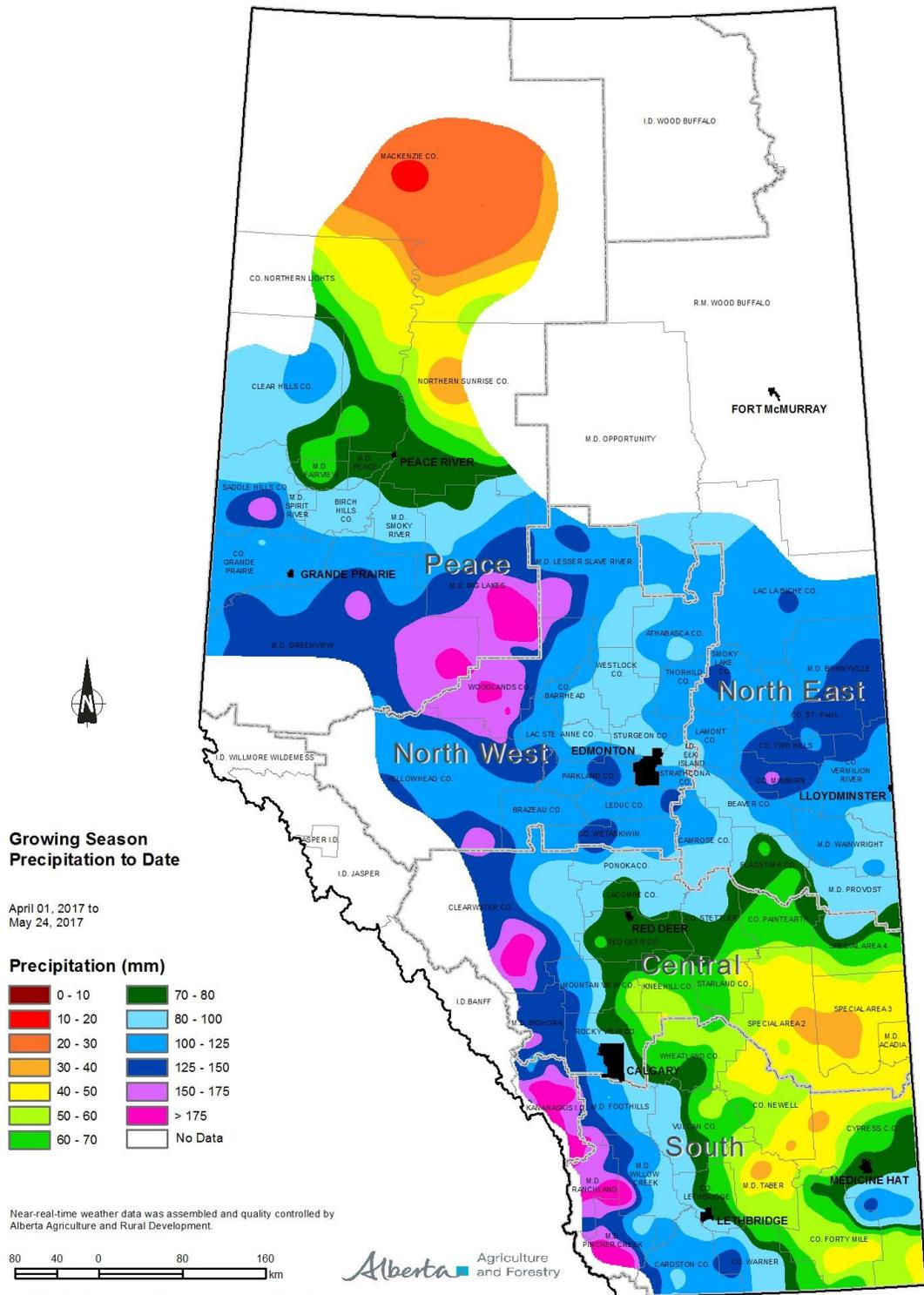
**Near-real-time hourly station** data can be viewed/downloaded at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations)

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

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

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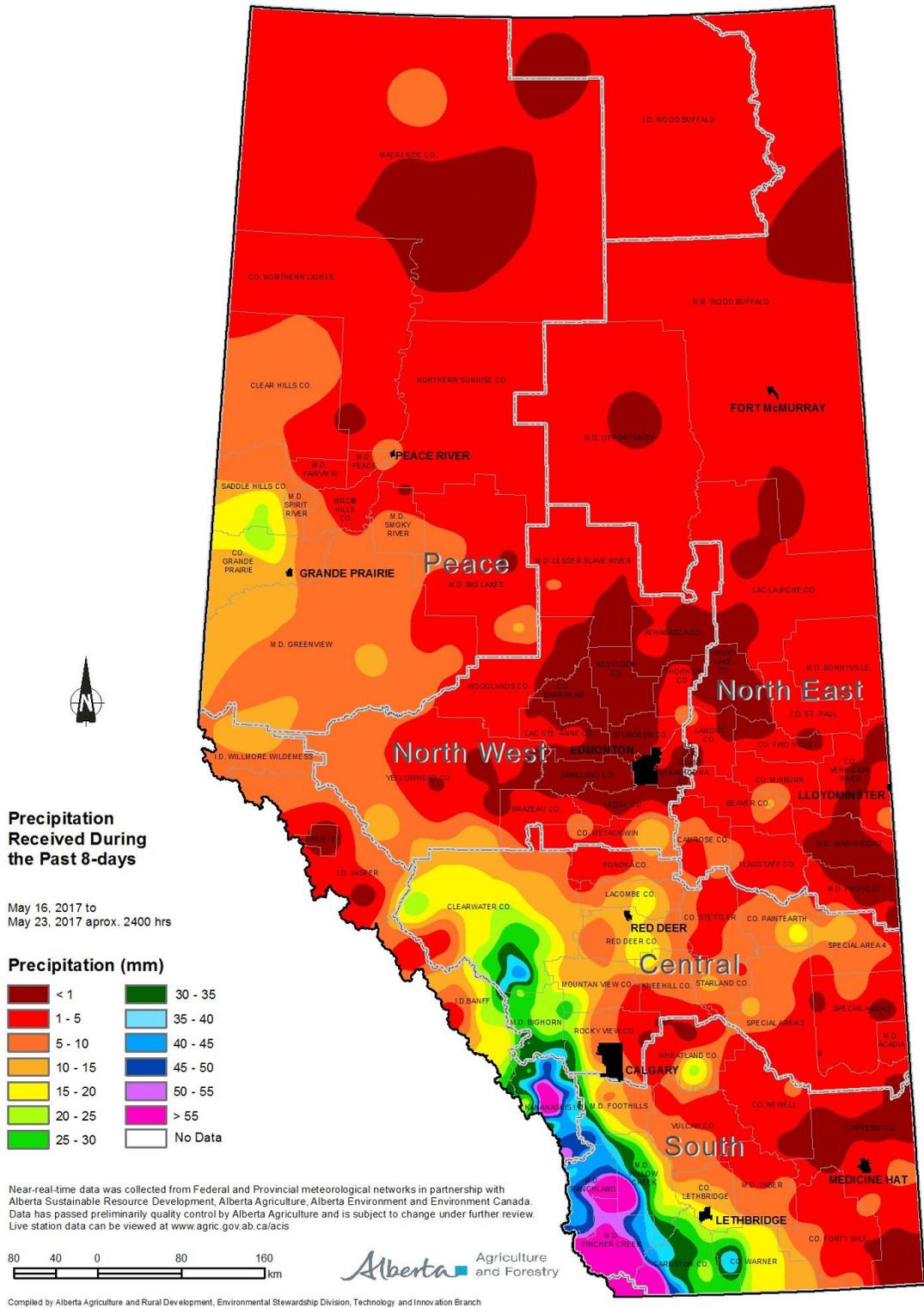
## Map 1



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

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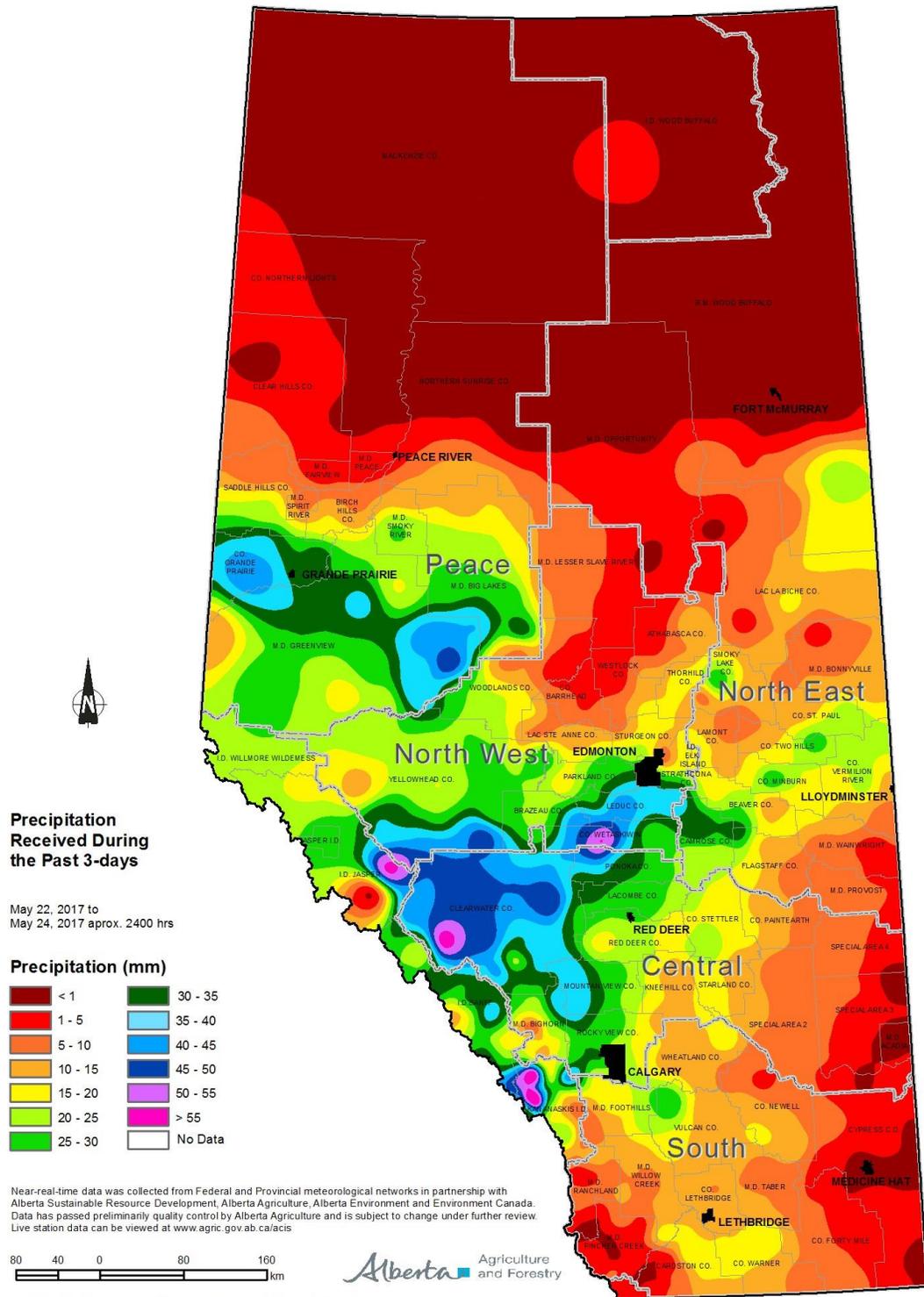
## Map 2



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## Map 3

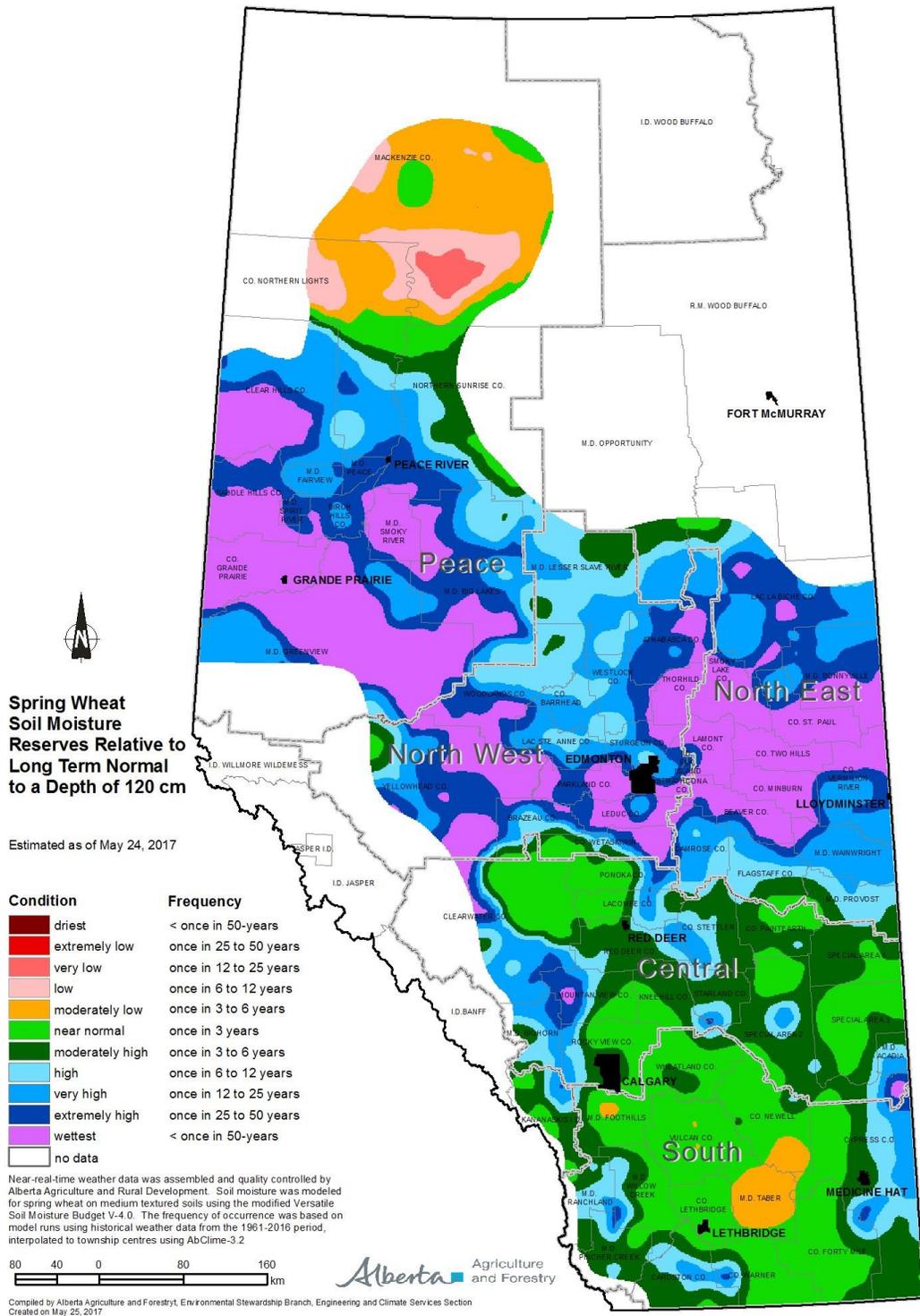


Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Environmental Stewardship Division, Technology and Innovation Branch  
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## Map 4



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