

Moisture Situation Update – June 11 2017

Synopsis

Over the weekend wet weather prevailed once again, with most of the provinces agricultural areas between Grande Prairie and the USA border receiving at least 10 mm of rain (**see map 1**). Lands west of a line between Lethbridge and Edmonton saw well over 20 to 30 mm, trending up as high as 60 mm or more along a wide band running from about Red Deer to well north of Edson. Additionally, some isolated areas across the North East saw some heavy rains also, with some stations reporting well over 60 mm of rain accumulating in only a few hours.

Across most of the north-half of the province, over the past several weeks, multiple rainfall events have kept soil moisture reserves to well above normal (**see map 2**). In fact, both the North West and North East have large areas that are estimated to have soil moisture reserves this high, on average, less than once in 50-years. A general drying trend is needed through these areas so that field access is not hindered by wet soils.

Since the start of the growing season, precipitation has been extremely variable ranging from less than 40 mm across the northern Peace region, to well over 200 mm along the foothills and in and around the Swan Hills (**see map 3**). Areas that received over 180 mm include the extreme southern Peace, many lands west of Highway 2, and large areas north of the Yellowhead Highway between Edmonton and Lloydminster. In general, those areas that have received 140 mm or more since the start of the growing season would benefit from warm, dry weather over the next few weeks. In contrast, most areas north of the town of Peace River and throughout much of the eastern parts of the Central and South regions, will benefit greatly from additional rains.

Discussions with AF's Fire weather meteorologists (special thanks to James Schofield)

Starting tomorrow (Tuesday June 12th) an upper low will move through the northern part of Montana, bringing with it another round of wet weather, which will affect most of the Province. Across the south some areas may see upwards of 50 mm of rain. The central areas may see upwards of 30 mm of rain in some locals. Throughout the North West and North East, total accumulations will be less, but enough to further wet the surface. Across the Peace scattered showers may be plentiful, with some areas expected to see accumulations of up to 20 mm. Looking further out, the weather trends we have seen over the past several weeks are expected to continue for at least the next 10-days or so, as conditions are not yet favorable for the development of a stable warm and dry weather pattern.

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

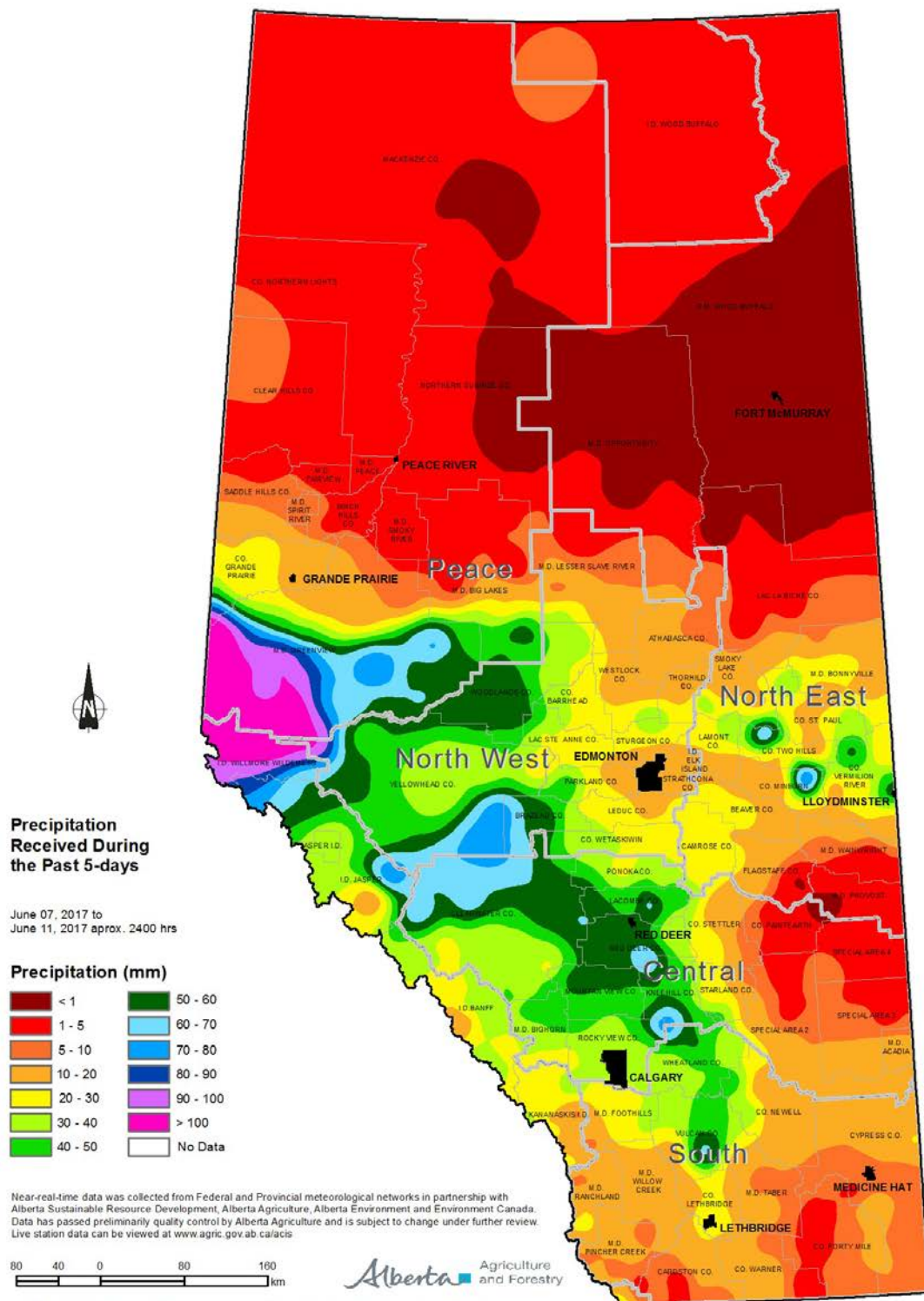
Near-real-time hourly station data can be viewed/downloaded at www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations

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

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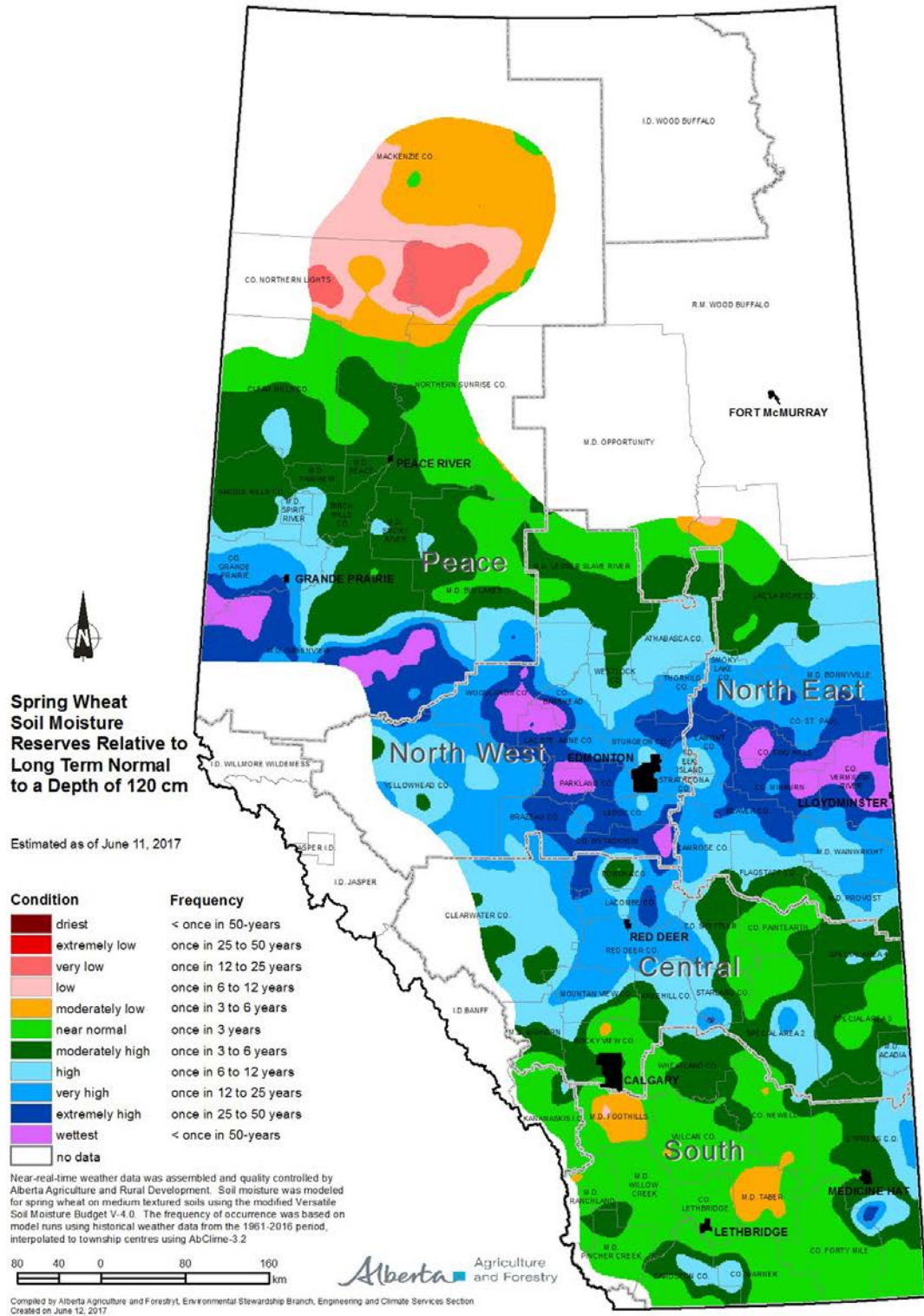
Map 1



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

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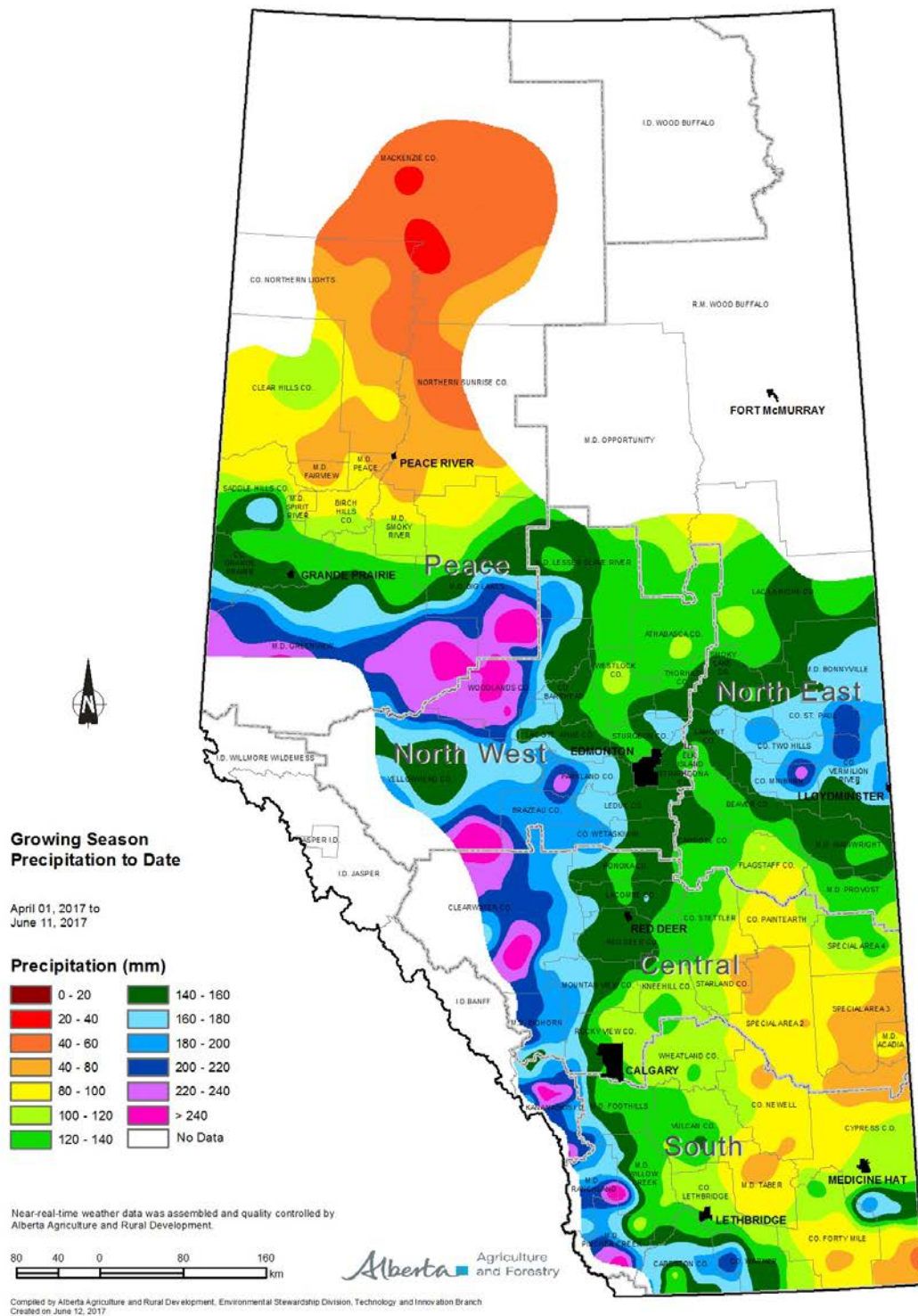
Map 2



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Map 3



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