

## Moisture Situation Update – May 31, 2016

### Synopsis

Since the last report (May 24, 2016) generally cool wet weather continued, with most agricultural areas experiencing an additional 10 mm or more of precipitation (**see map 1**). While the rains of May 18-24 were heaviest west of Highway 2 (upwards of 100 mm), these more recent rains were heaviest east of Highway 2 with areas between Mundare and Lloydminster generally seeing in excess of 40 mm of rain. Frost associated with this event was relatively light, but wide-spread and confined to those lands west of Highway 2 and throughout most of the Peace Region (**see map 2**). Note that the most damaging frosts were received during mid-May, (May 12-14) with many widely scattered and large areas seeing overnight lows dip down to less than -6°C (**see map 3**).

Following the warm dry winter and early spring, recent rains have been very beneficial with most of Alberta's agricultural areas now having received upwards of 80 mm of moisture for the growing season (**see map 4**). However, some lands still do remain relatively dry and will need additional moisture soon. These includes a large area stretching roughly from Olds to Champion (40-60 mm since April 1), along with a few pockets west and north of Lloydminster. Other areas with less than ideal moisture include the northern Peace Region, where fewer than 40 mm have been received since April 1. These lands are likely not suffering acute crop moisture shortages at the moment, but they will need timely rains very soon to insure good growth continues.

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

Over the next several days, typical June weather is likely to dominate the forecast, characterized by instability and scattered showers. At this time it does not appear that Alberta will be coming under the influence of a wide spread, persistent hot dry weather pattern, any time soon. In addition, it does not appear that any major wide spread moisture bearing systems are in the forecast either, which should help alleviate concerns of large areas with excess moisture. However, localized heavy down pours are quite possible as some areas may see large thunderstorms develop in the coming days.

**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)

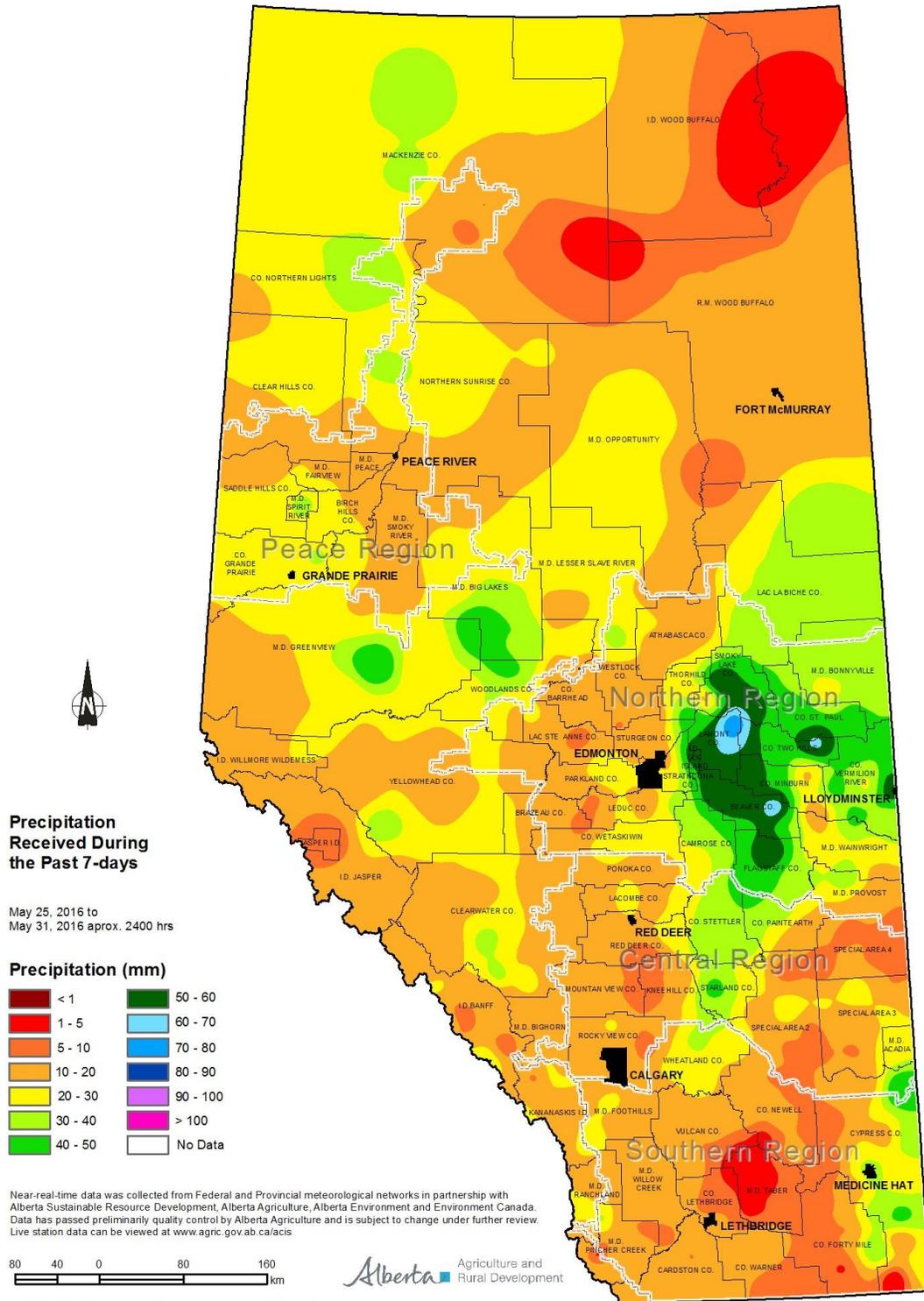
For frost probabilities in your area log on to <http://agriculture.alberta.ca/acis/alberta-weather-data-viewer.jsp> and, select the "normals" tab.

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

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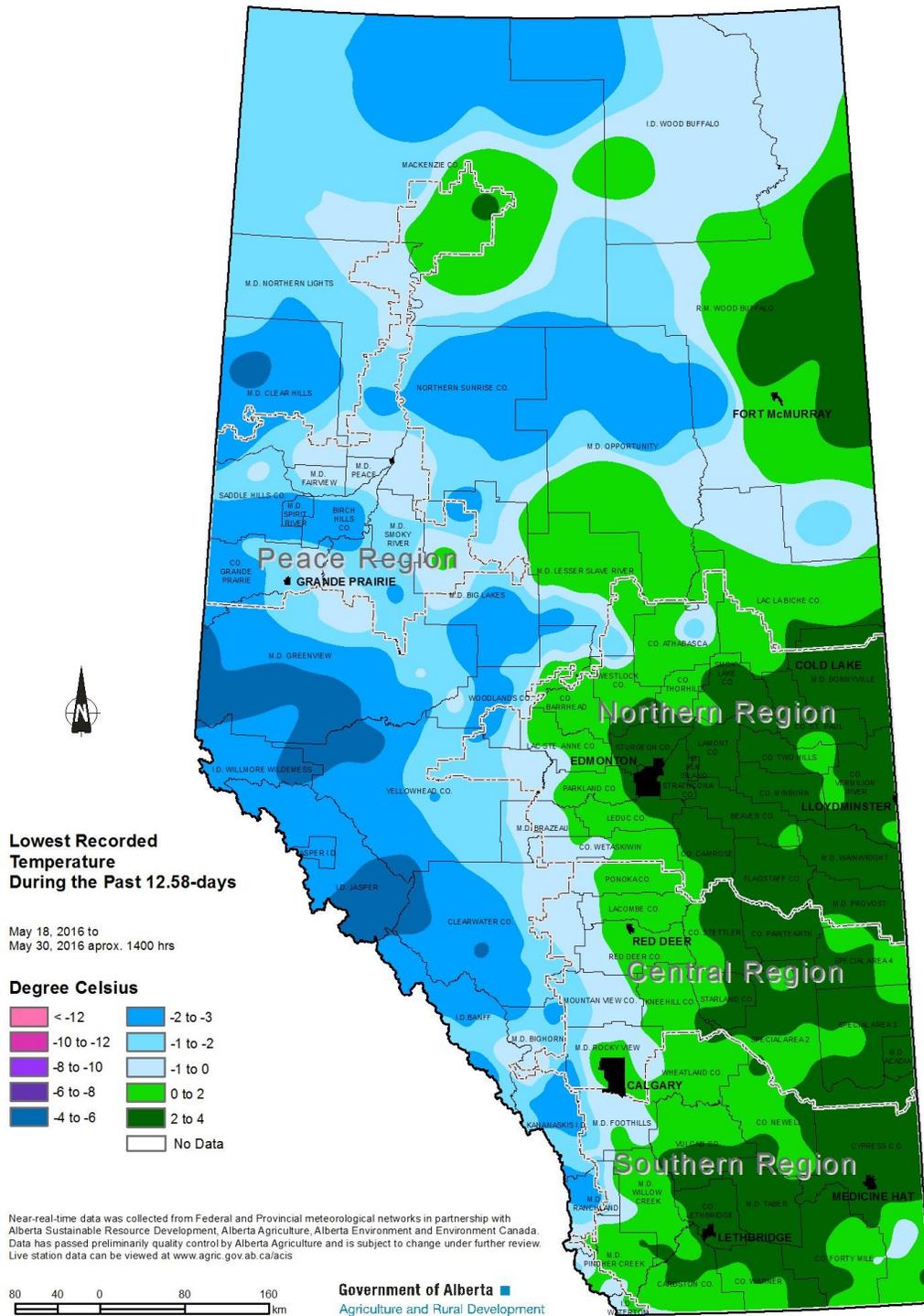
## Map 1



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

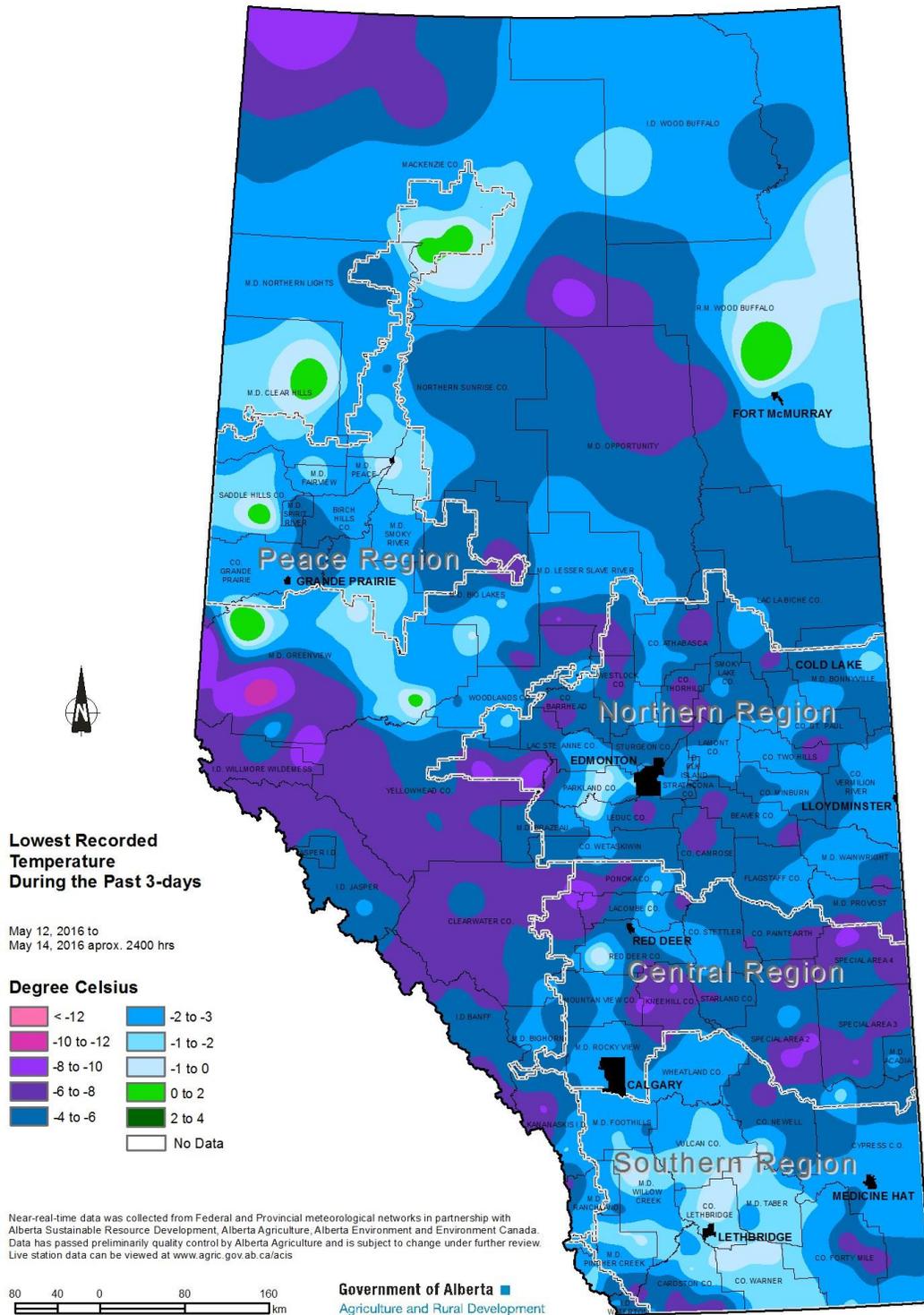
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## Map 2



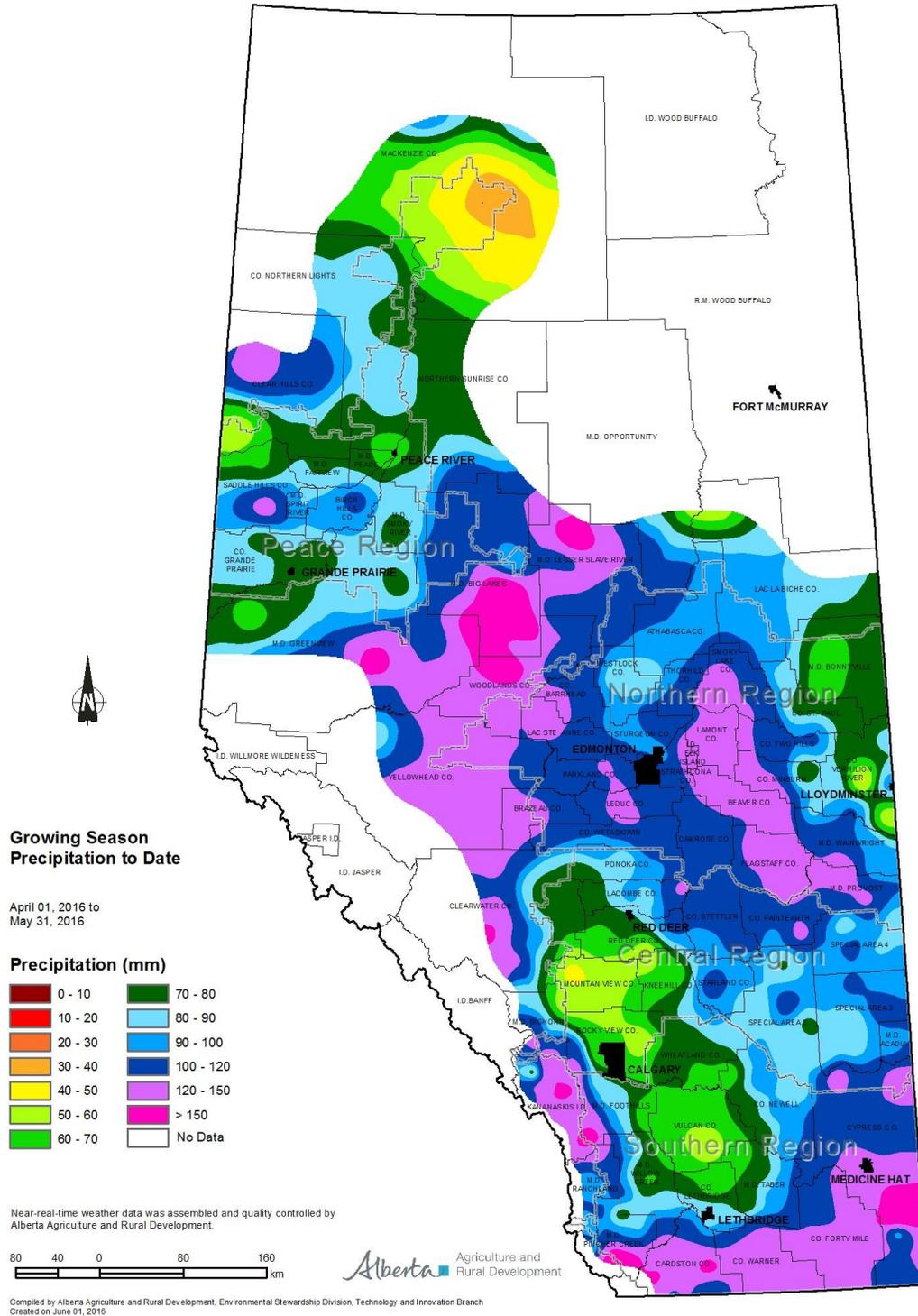
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## Map 3



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## Map 4



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