

## Moisture Situation Update – August 1, 2018

### Synopsis:

Since mid-July, precipitation has been highly variable across the province, ranging from well over 100 mm across much of the southern Peace Region, to less than 5 mm across several pockets in southern Alberta (**see map 1**). Most lands extending south of Red Deer down to the US border have been receiving the bulk of their moisture from highly localized thunderstorm activity, bringing “hit and miss” rains across this wide area. As a result many areas are getting enough rain while some are not.

Several lands across southern Alberta have seen less than 10 mm of rain since July 15<sup>th</sup> and need moisture now in order to help alleviate stress in actively growing crops (**see map 1**). Here, dry conditions have prevailed since early May with some pockets seeing 90-day accumulations relative to normal ranked at one in 12 to 25 year lows (**see map 2**). For the driest areas, this translates to less than 70 mm in 90-days (**see map 3**), which is about half of the long term average of 140 to 150 mm. In contrast, some parts of southern Alberta are doing relatively well, with areas just south of the TransCanada highway and west of Highway 2 receiving well over 120 mm during this same time frame. Note that locally accumulations are variable and may be more or less than what is shown on these maps.

North of Calgary, several dry pockets (estimated to be at one in 12 to 25 year lows) exist, extending up as far as the Yellowhead highway (**see map 2**). Like the south, these areas have generally been missed by the frequent thunderstorms that are bringing rain to many nearby lands. However; on average these areas are typically wetter than southern Alberta and, while rainfall has been below normal, most of these areas have seen at least 120 mm over the past 90 days (**see map 3**).

Across the Peace Region, 90-day rainfall accumulations have been at least near normal, with some areas grading to above normal (**see map 2**). Much of this rain has fallen since the beginning of July and moisture is plentiful with a major portion of the area receiving upwards of 180mm since the start of May (**see map 3**).

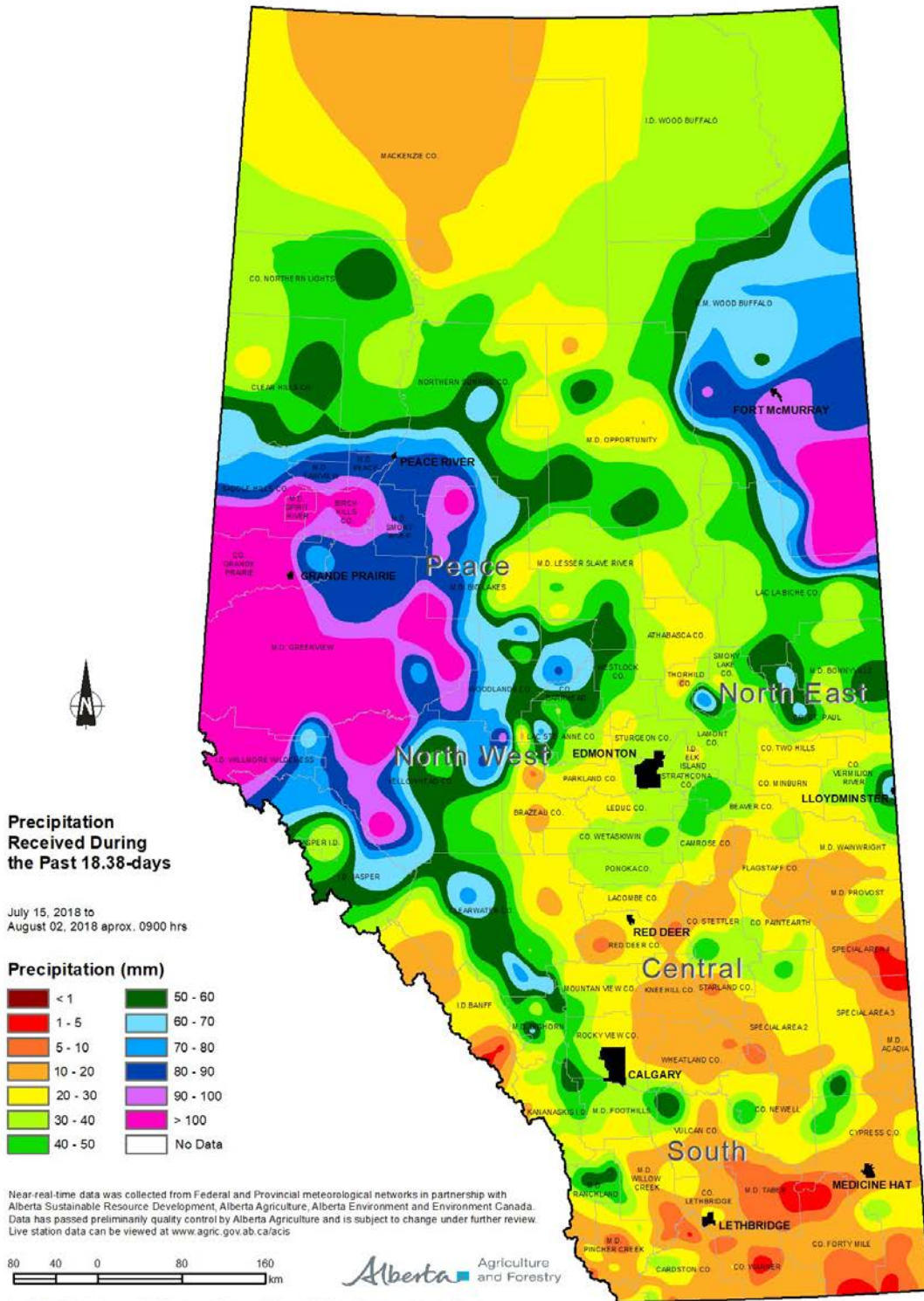
**Near-real-time hourly station** data can be viewed/downloaded at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations)

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

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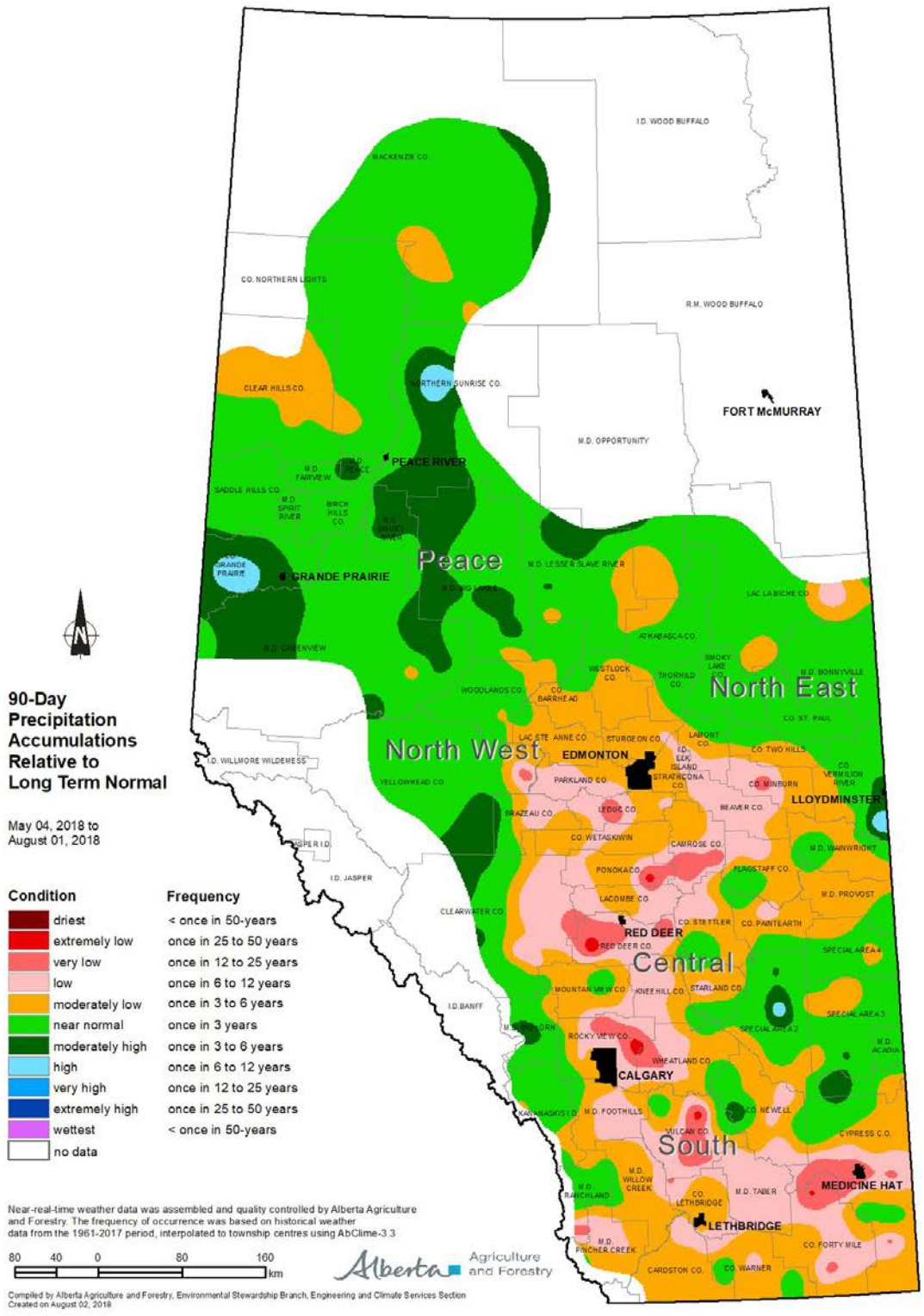
## Map 1



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

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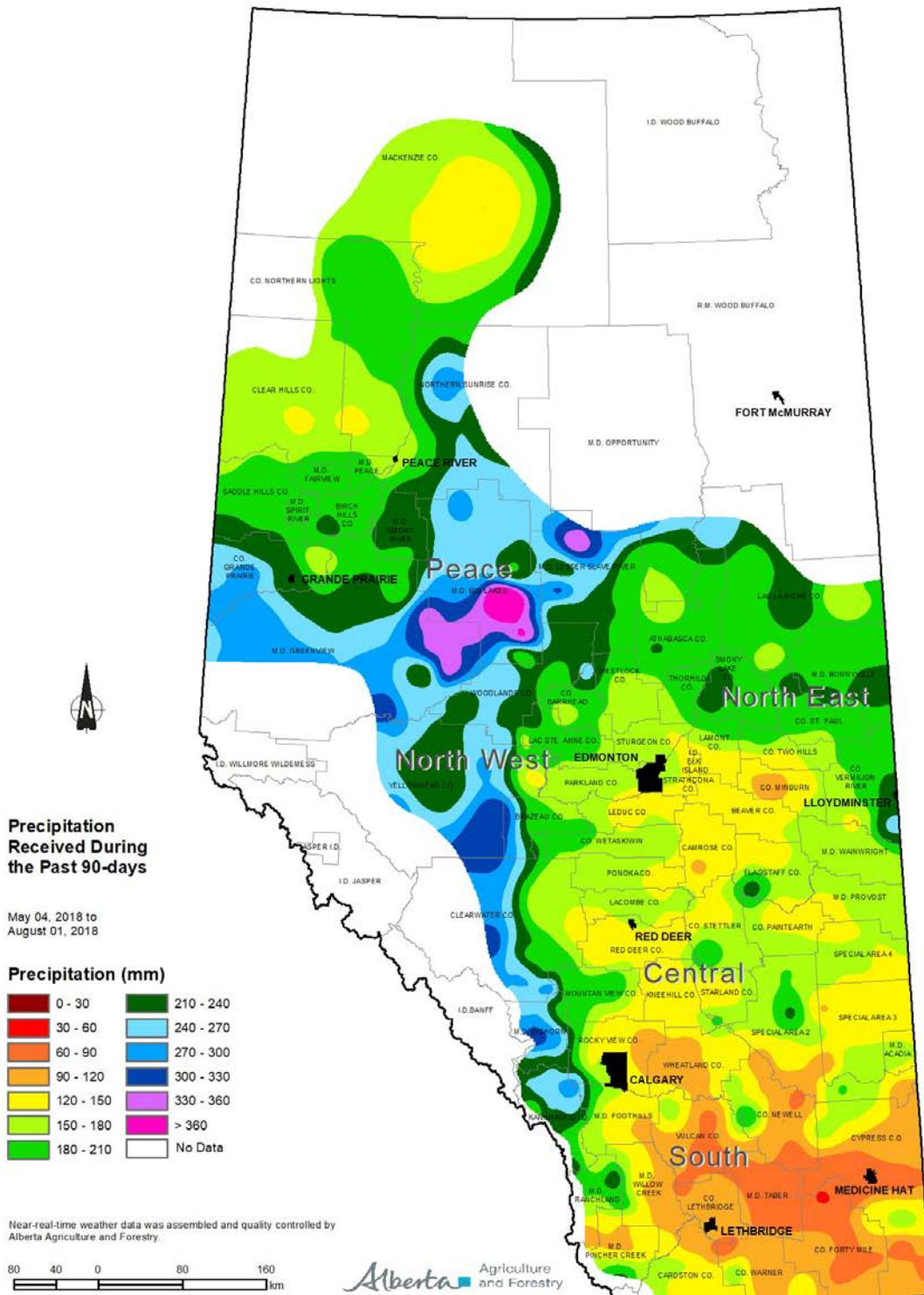
## Map 2



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## Map 3



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