

Moisture Situation Update – May 24, 2016

Synopsis:

A strong disturbance moved through the province late last week bringing much needed rain to all of Alberta's agricultural areas (**see map 1**). Many of the previously driest areas (**see map 2**), lying north of Calgary and west of Highway 2, as far up as the Swan Hills, saw significant amounts of moisture, ranging from 30 mm around Calgary to upwards of 80 mm across a large area west and north west of Edmonton. Even the northern Peace Region, an area that has consistently seen dry conditions over the past few years, received between 15 and 30 mm, enough moisture to get things going for the time being.

Cold air associated with this system brought wide spread, albeit light, frosts to many areas west of Highway 2 and throughout most of the Peace Region (**see map 3**).

Forecast from AF's fire weather section (special thanks to Paul Kruger)

Alberta now appears to be under the influence of a strong stable, upper level trough, the wet inverse of the strong upper level ridge that has been bringing Alberta unusually dry and warm weather over the past many weeks. Although it's very difficult to predict when this upper level trough will move off, if it persists we should expect to see a cool wet pattern remain.

Looking out over the next few days, expect to see a second upper level low develop this Wednesday bringing further wide spread rains over a period of a few days to most of the province's agricultural areas north of the TransCanada Highway. As of writing (Tuesday morning), it does not appear that this system will pack as much moisture as the previous system, but it's still a little too early to tell for sure.

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

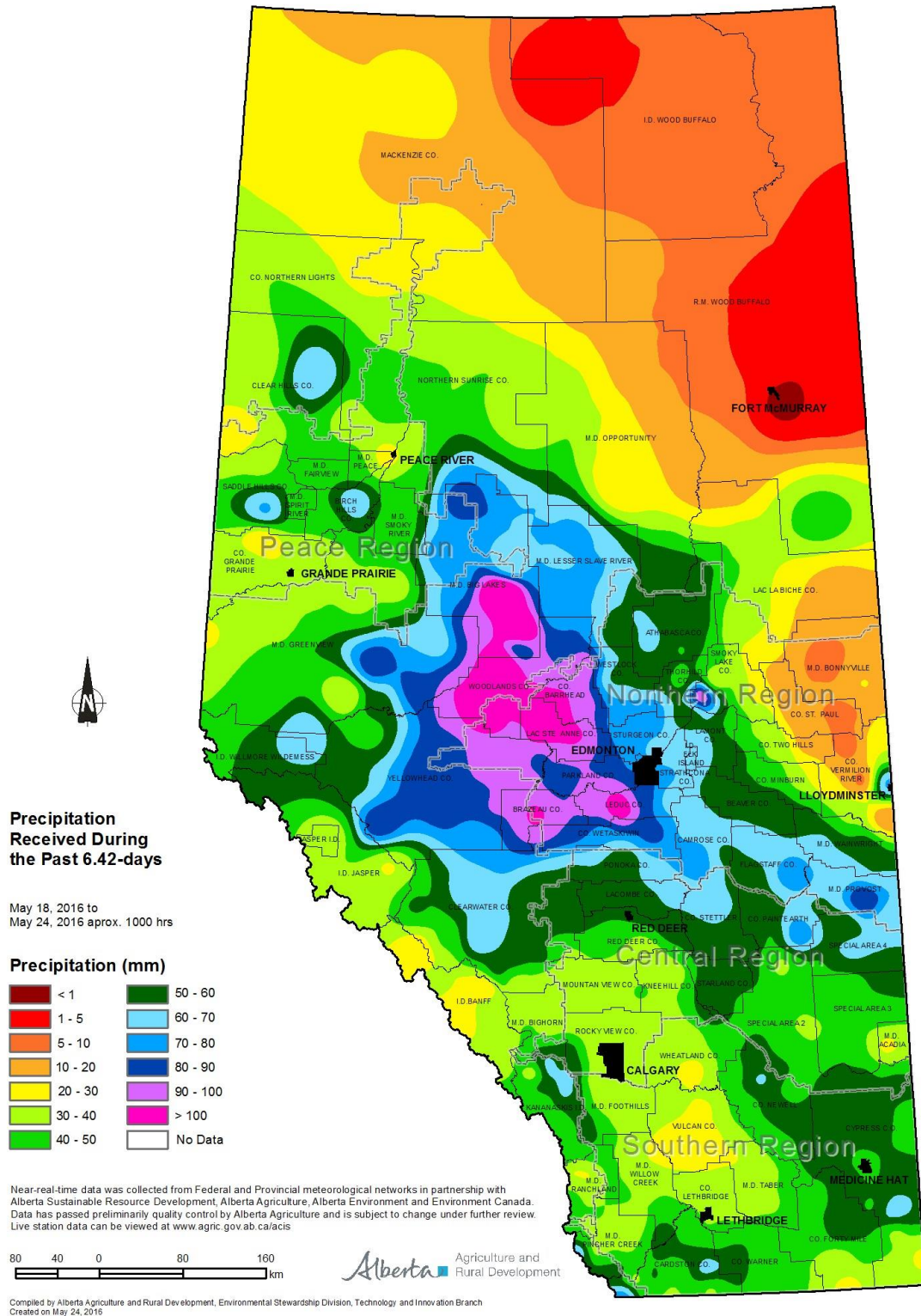
For frost probabilities in your area log on to <http://agriculture.alberta.ca/acis/alberta-weather-data-viewer.jsp> and, select the "normals" tab.

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

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Map 1

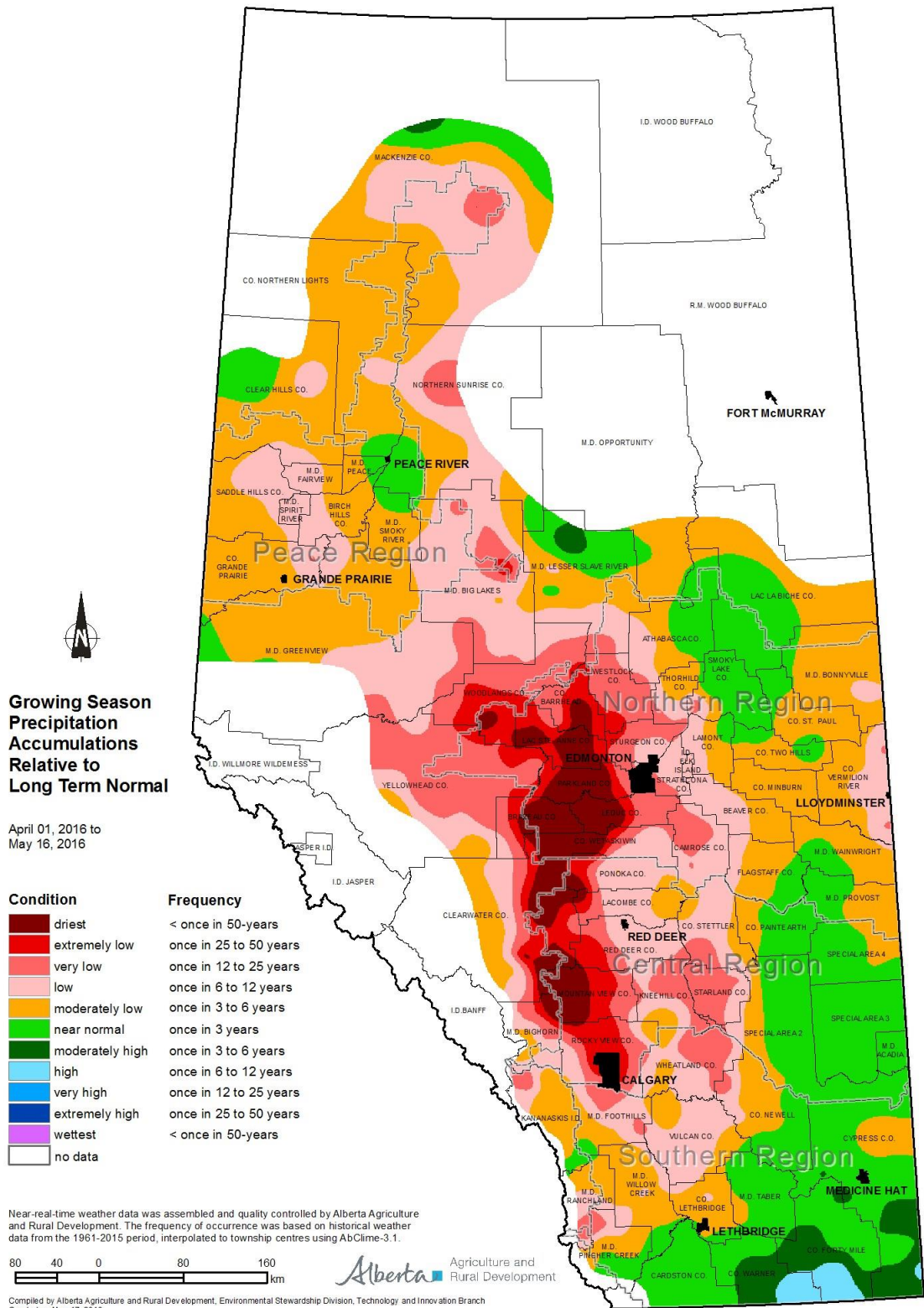


Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

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Map 2

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Map 3

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