

Agricultural Moisture Situation Update

October 1, 2020

Synopsis

Across the agricultural areas of the province relatively warm and dry weather has held fast for another week. Warm weather is expected to persist at least through the weekend. For many this has been a welcome reprieve following a wet spring and summer and at least two or three consecutive cold, wet falls that preceded this harvest season.

Early this morning temperatures dipped below freezing again, bringing yet another frost episode across a wide area ranging from parts of southern Alberta all the way up into the Northern Peace region. Several locales in the North East and central Peace regions saw the temperatures dip to at least -5°C .

30-day precipitation accumulations as of September 30, 2020 (Map 1 and Map 2)

Many of the previously wet areas through the North West and North East have been drier than normal for this time of year with some locales seeing a September this dry less than once in 12 to 25 years (Map 1). This has been beneficial, as many here were worried that the fall of 2020 would be a repeat of the series of wet, cold falls experienced over the last 2 to 3 years. Fortunately, most of these lands have seen less than 20 mm over the past month (Map 2).

Dry areas throughout the Southern region have received at least near normal accumulations with at upwards of 20-30 mm reported (Map 1). For now at least, this marks a shift from the drier than normal pattern that has persisted since the beginning of July through much of the south-east and since mid-July as one moves further west.

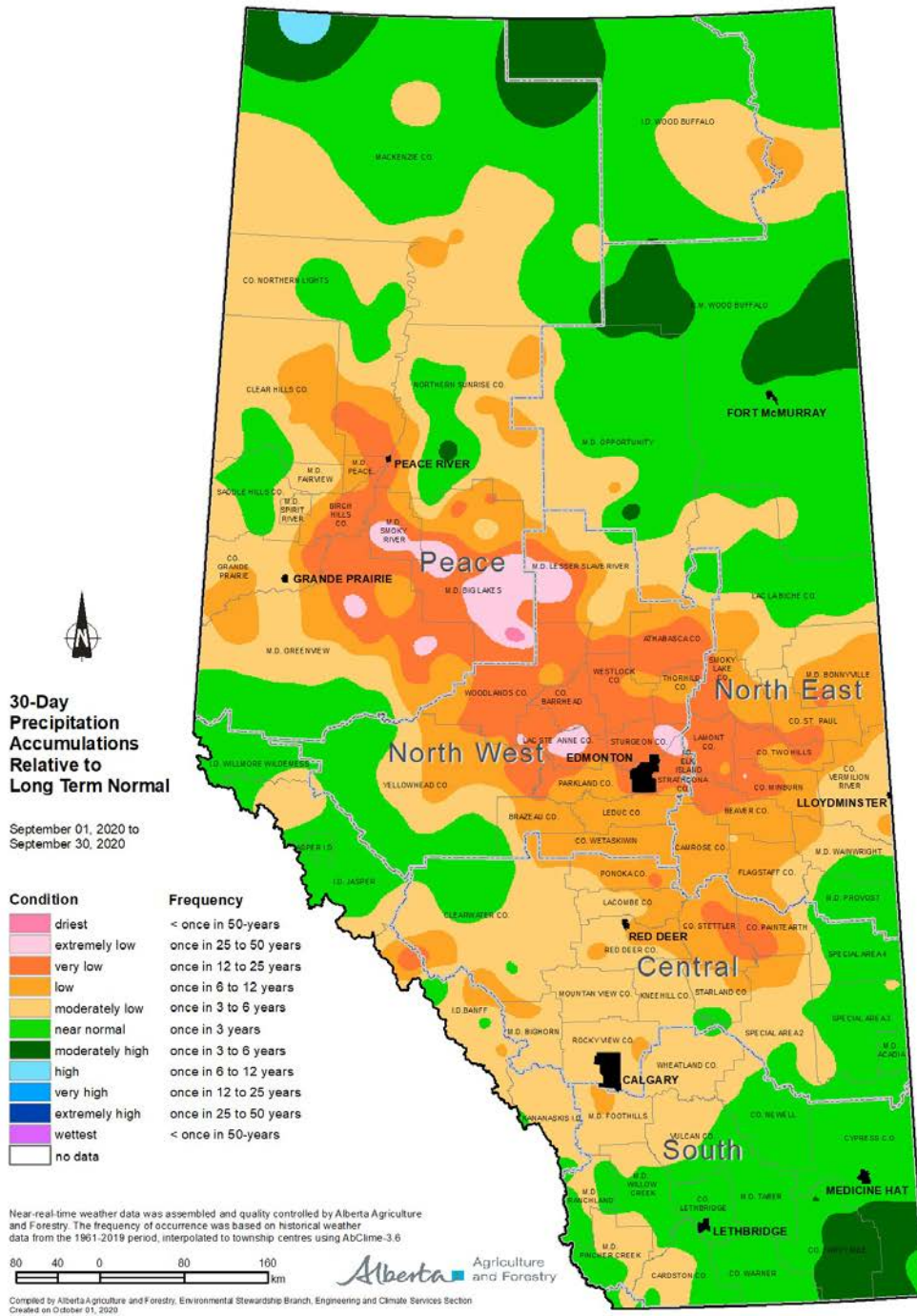
Frost September 28 to October 1, 2020 (Map 3)

Cold air descended across the land early on the morning of September 30 and October 1, affecting many widely scattered areas throughout the provinces agricultural regions. Parts of the North East, the Special Areas, and the south-central Peace region, saw large areas where temperatures dipped below -4°C (Map 3). Two stations in the North East, one near Mynam, and one near Rich Lake, both reported temperatures just shy of -6°C , with freezing temperatures persisting for at least 13 hours.

For some lands this marks at least the fifth frost event of the fall season. Frost hit early in some locales on August 31, then again on September 8, 13 and 16 and more recently on September 30 and October 1.

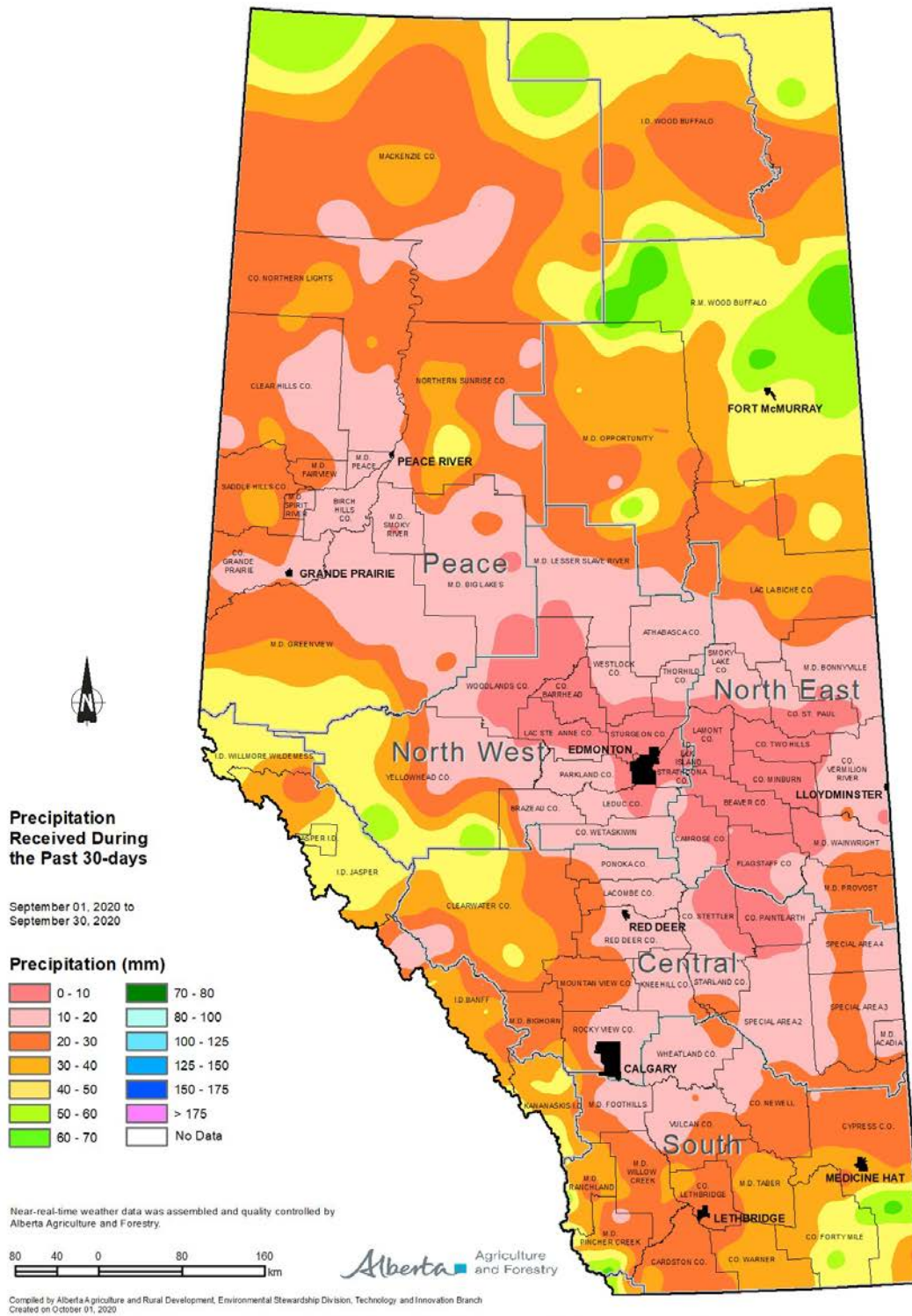
Despite some chilly mornings, September as a whole, has been warmer and drier than average, which has allowed harvest to continue at a relatively steady pace.

Map 1



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

Map 2



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