

# Agricultural Moisture Situation Update

## Agricultural Weather Summary: March to October 2020

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### March-April: Lingering snows and a cold dry start to the growing season.

By the end of March 2020, the winter snowpack ranged from near normal across the east-half of the province's agricultural areas, grading to above normal towards the foothills and lands surrounding the Swan Hills (**Map 1**).

Temperatures during second half of March turned colder than normal with the trend continuing into mid-April. By the time it was over, large parts of the province had seen a start to spring this cold less than once in 50-years (**Map 2**). This led to lingering snow packs, and fear of another late planting, particularly throughout parts of the North East, North West and Peace regions, where some lands still had swaths laying in the fields due to the cold wet weather that hampered the harvest in 2019.

By the start of the third week In April, above normal temperatures arrived, accompanied by dryer conditions, leading to a rapid retreat of the winter snow pack.

### May-June-July: Rains fall unabated across the north, dry spell begins in southern Alberta in mid-July

During the first three weeks of May, most areas enjoyed warm and dry weather with the exception of parts of the North West where an early May event brought upwards of 50 mm of precipitation (**Map 3**). By the end of May, it was clear some lands would not be planted.

By May 20, most of the province south of the Peace region was struck with wet weather, which marked the start of long wet spell for many. Fortunately, the wet weather did not arrive in the Peace Region until the end of the first week in June. By mid-July, excessive moisture was a concern for many, with most of the province receiving well above normal rainfalls during the previous 60-days (**Map 4**).

### August-September-October: Dryer conditions prevail, late October cold snap.

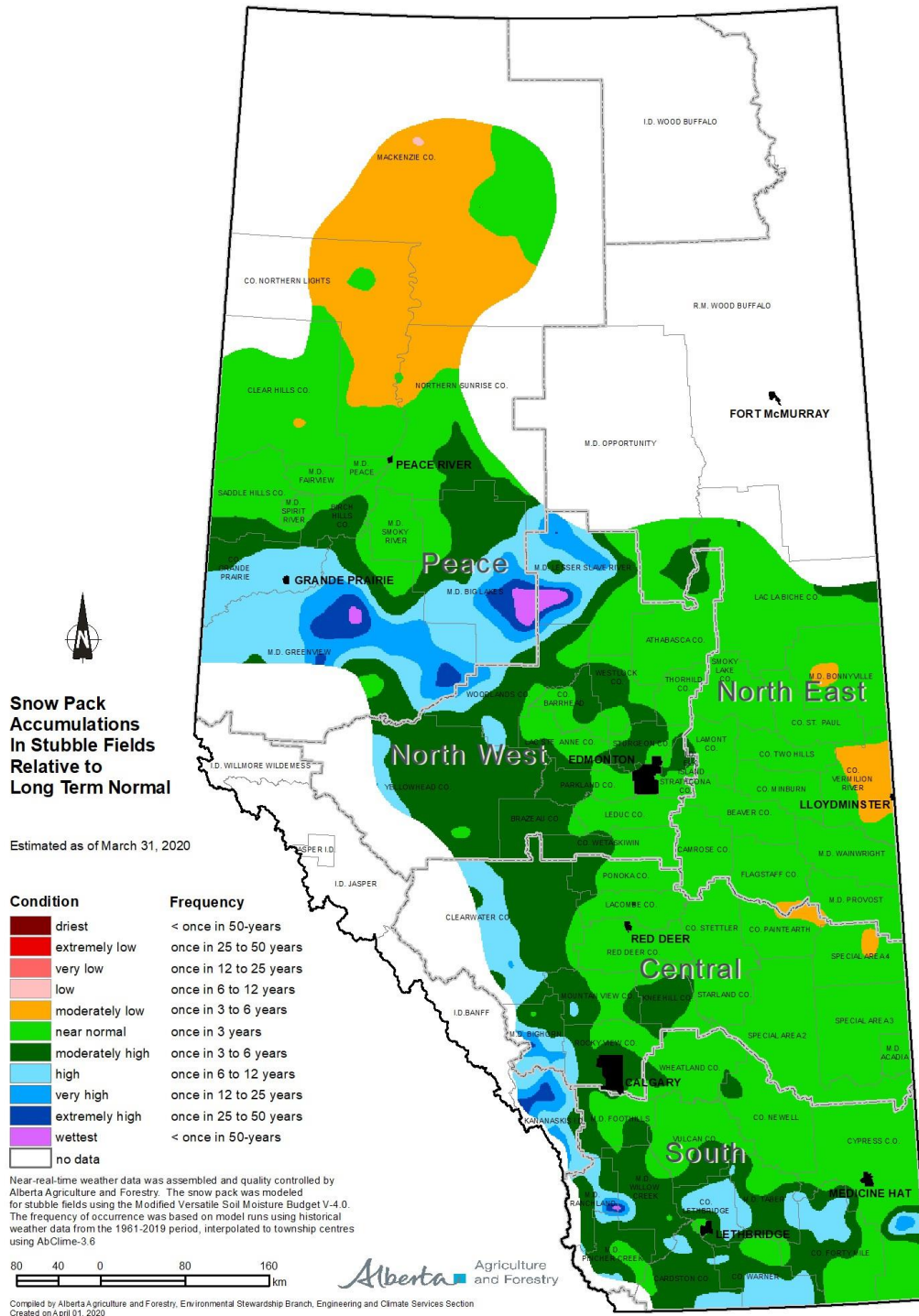
By the end of August, a drying trend had developed across most of the province with the exception of parts of the North East and extreme northern Peace Region (**Map 5**). Parts of southern Alberta were extremely dry, a trend that started developing in early July.

By the end of September, four major frost events occurred. The first arrived on Aug 30 and by September 8 many areas had seen frost, including much of southern Alberta but few, if any, received temperatures below -3C. By September 16, a third major frost occurred with parts of the North East, North West and east Central regions reporting killing frosts (< -4C) (**Map 6**). The fourth frost came during the last days of September, with many lands been subjected to killing frosts.

Despite the episodes of frost, September was generally warm and dry province wide. Across the north half of the province, Producers worked hard to bring in the harvest quickly with recent memories of cool and wet fall weather hampering harvest activities in 2018 and 2019 fresh in their minds.

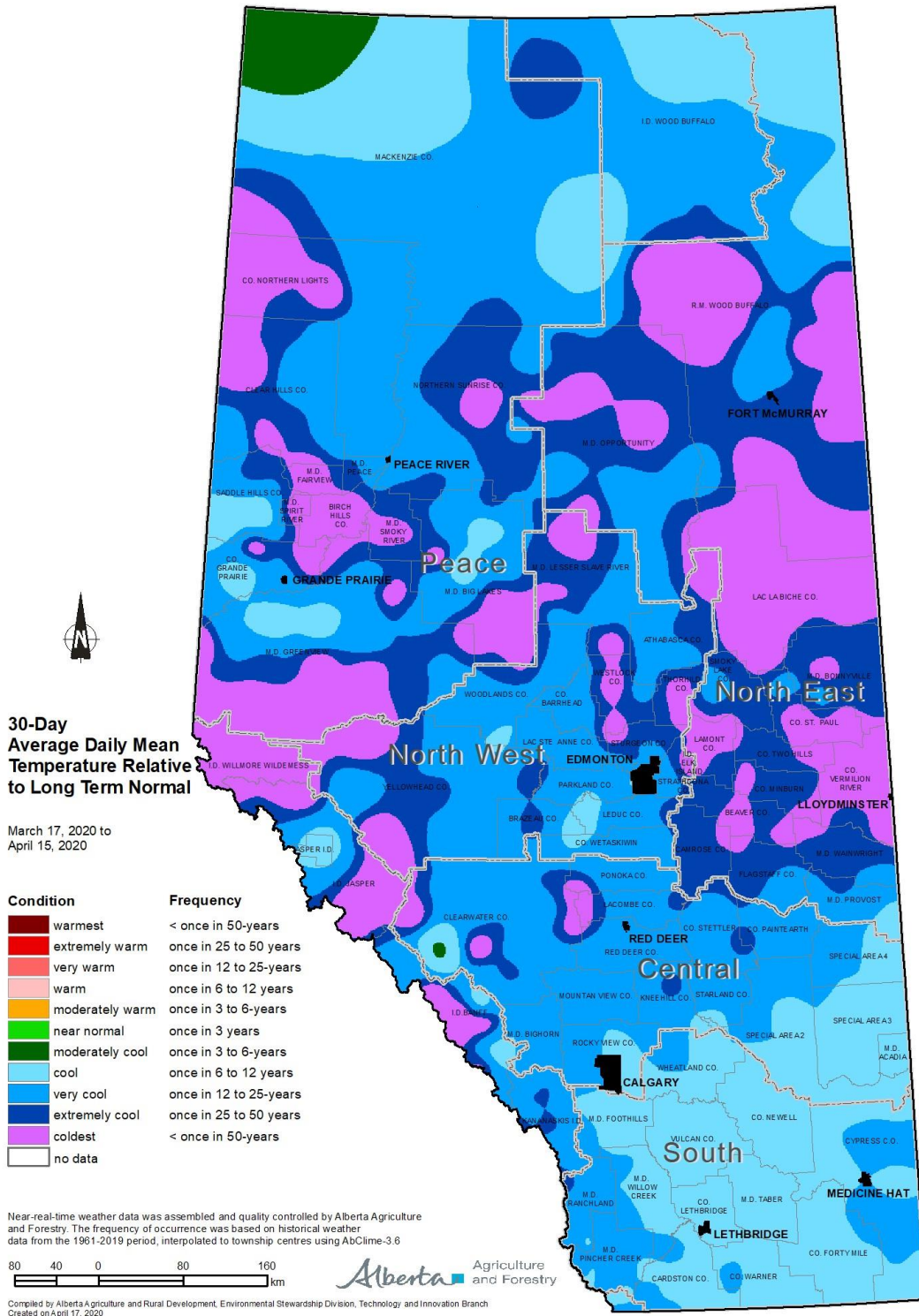
On October 12 the weather turned exceptionally cold province wide, with several nights plunging well below the -10C mark. By October 20 early snows had fallen across many areas under the influence of the foothills (**Map 7**). Unusually warm weather returned briefly during the first week of November with many lands experiencing day time temperatures in the teens.

# Map 1



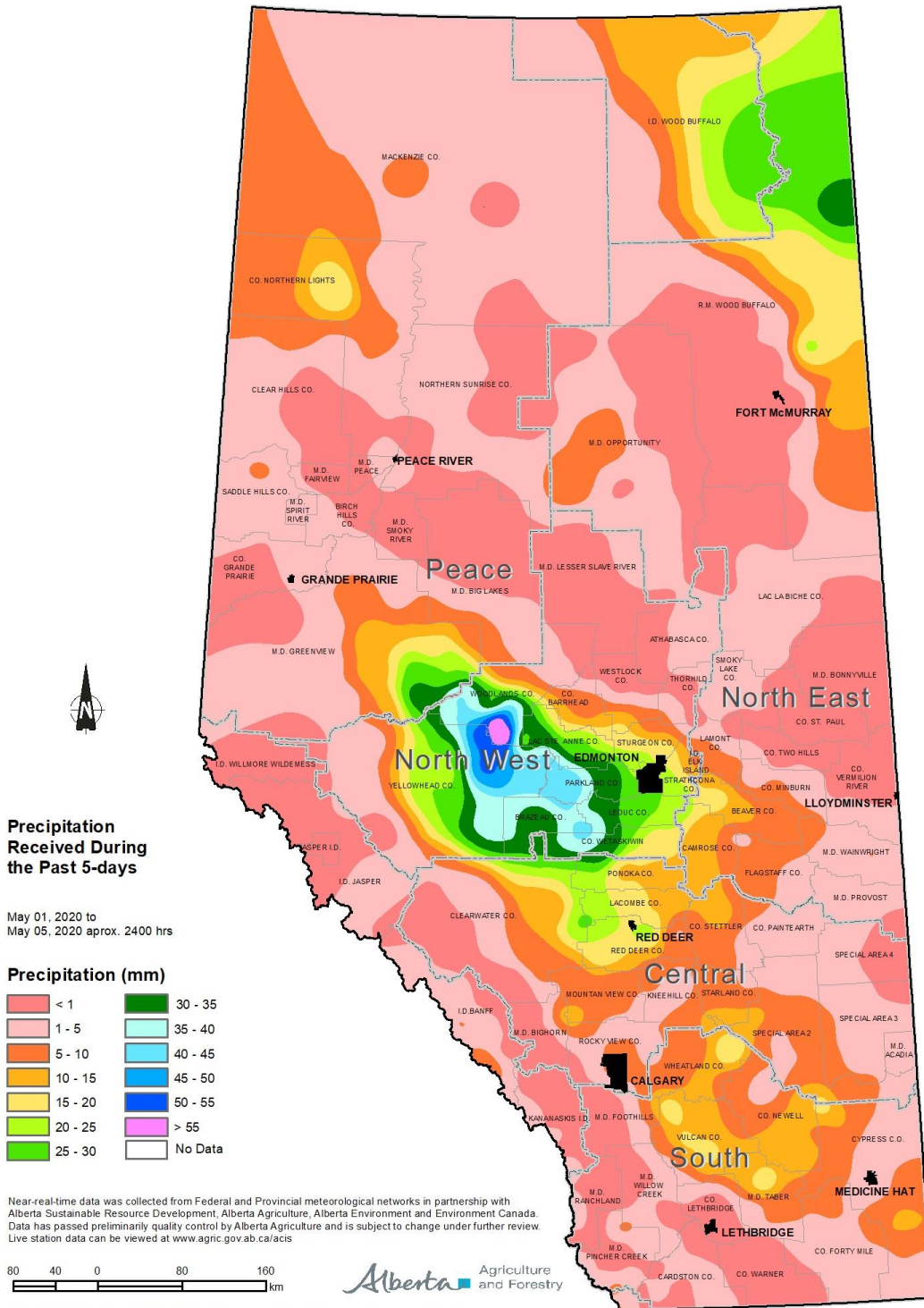
Visit [weatherdata.ca](http://weatherdata.ca) for additional maps and meteorological data

Map 2



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Map 3

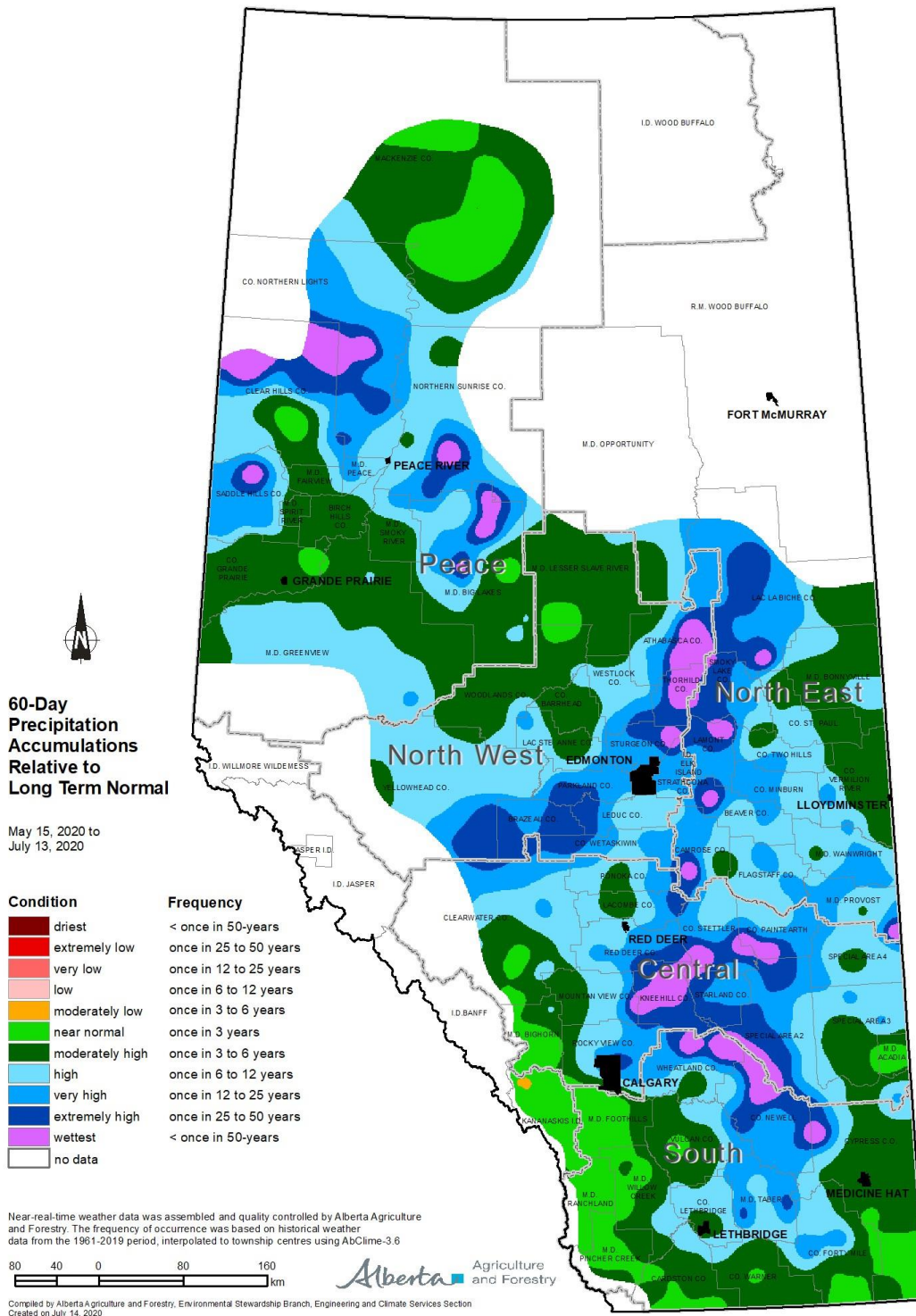


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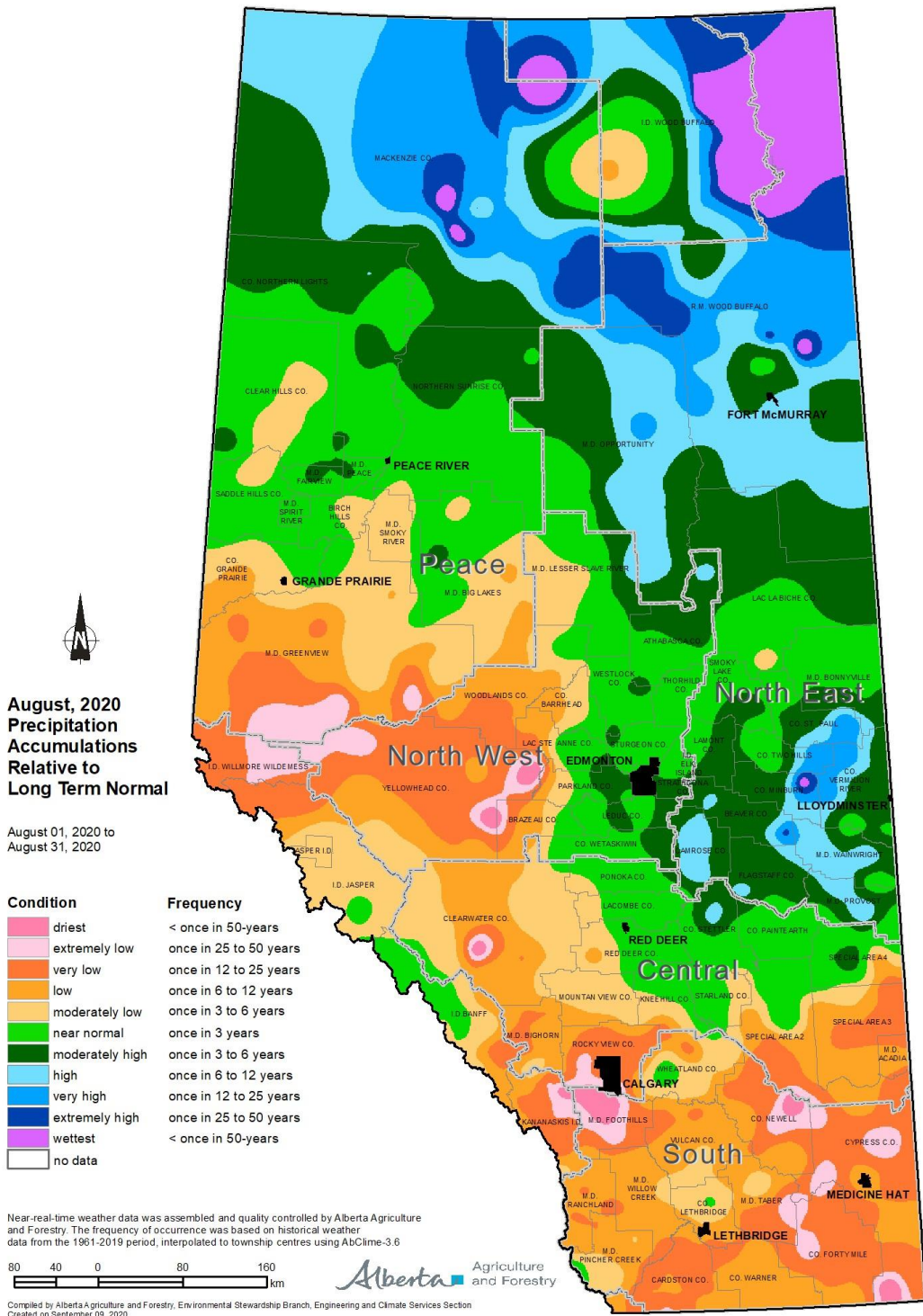
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Map 4



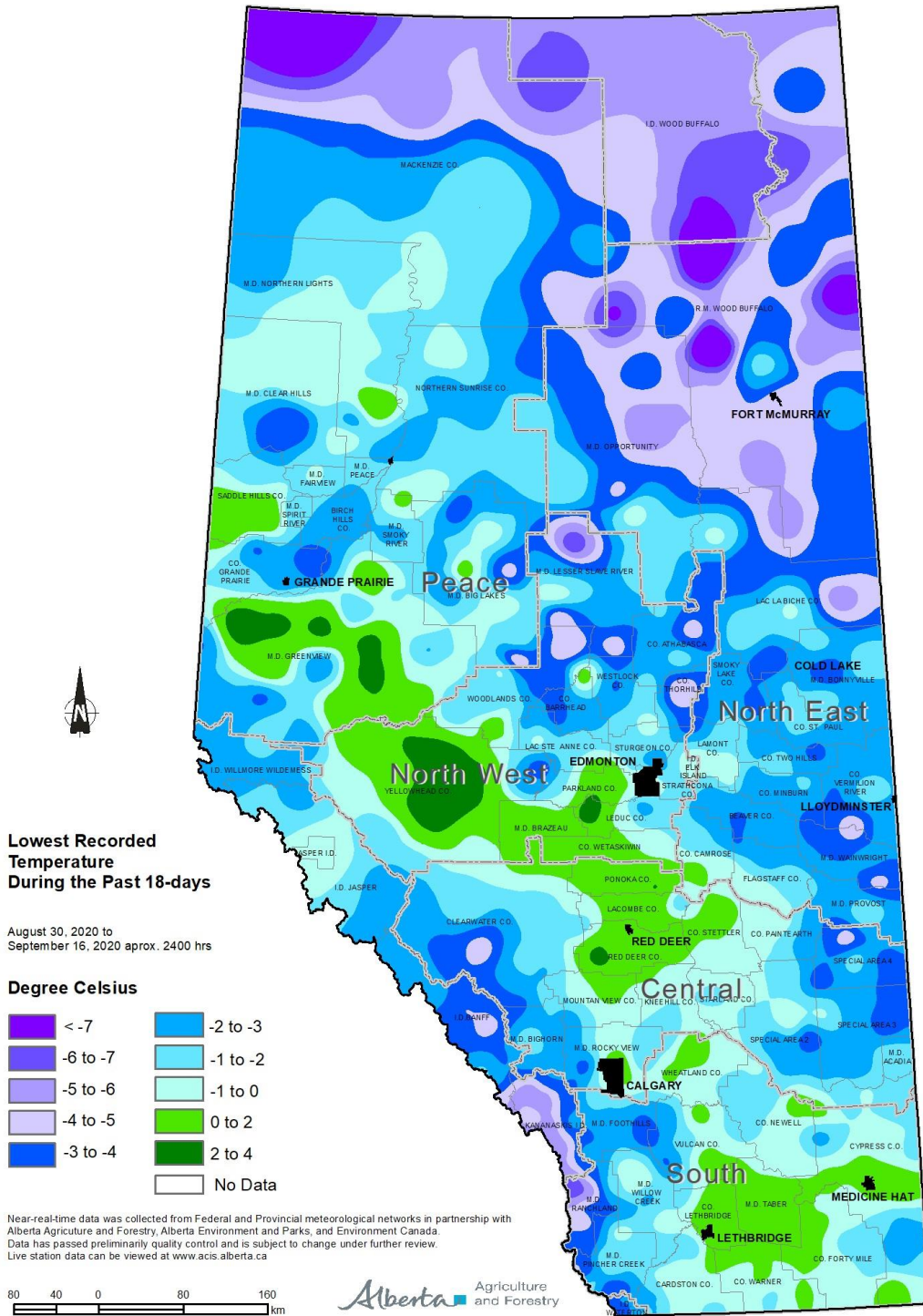
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Map 5

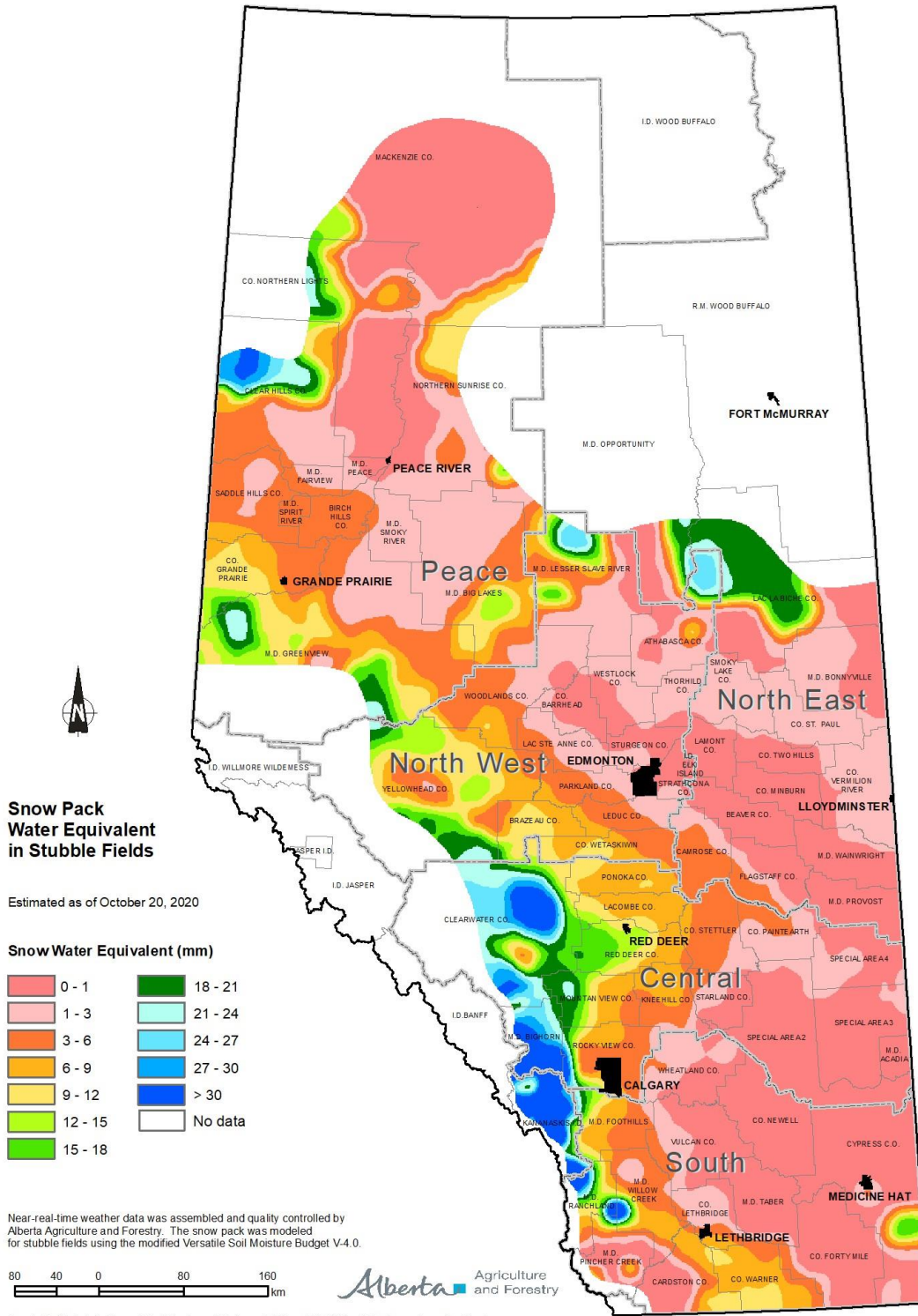


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Map 6



Map 7



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