

# Agricultural Moisture Situation Update

August 27, 2020

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## Synopsis

Since the last report (August 13, 2020), precipitation accumulations have been variable across the province with most lands south of Red Deer experiencing warm and dry weather. North of Red Deer precipitation has been more variable, with some of the wet areas in the North East and North West regions remaining wet. On a more positive note, recent warm weather has helped to speed crop development and dry crops in the swath.

## 14-day precipitation accumulations as of August 27, 2020 (Map 1)

Rains have remained persistent through the southern end of the North East and the eastern portions of the North West and across parts of the northern Peace Region. These previously wet areas have received 30 to 50 mm of rain, with the greatest amounts (> 60 mm) reported through the M.D of Wainwright.

In contrast, south of Red Deer and across the western half of the North West, conditions have been dry with most areas receiving less than 5 mm. Generally warm and dry weather over the past few weeks has been beneficial for normal farming operations.

## Soil moisture reserves as of August 27, 2020 (Map 2)

Soil moisture reserves are well above normal for this time of year through a large portion of the North East, the eastern third of the North West and north central portions of the Central region. Several areas have in excess of one in 12 to 25 year highs, with some relatively large pockets approaching one in 50-year highs. Standing water in low lying areas and ditches still exists in many locales. Some of these field areas will present challenging conditions for heavy equipment unless significant drying occurs over the next several weeks. Late frosts and warm and dry weather is needed this fall.

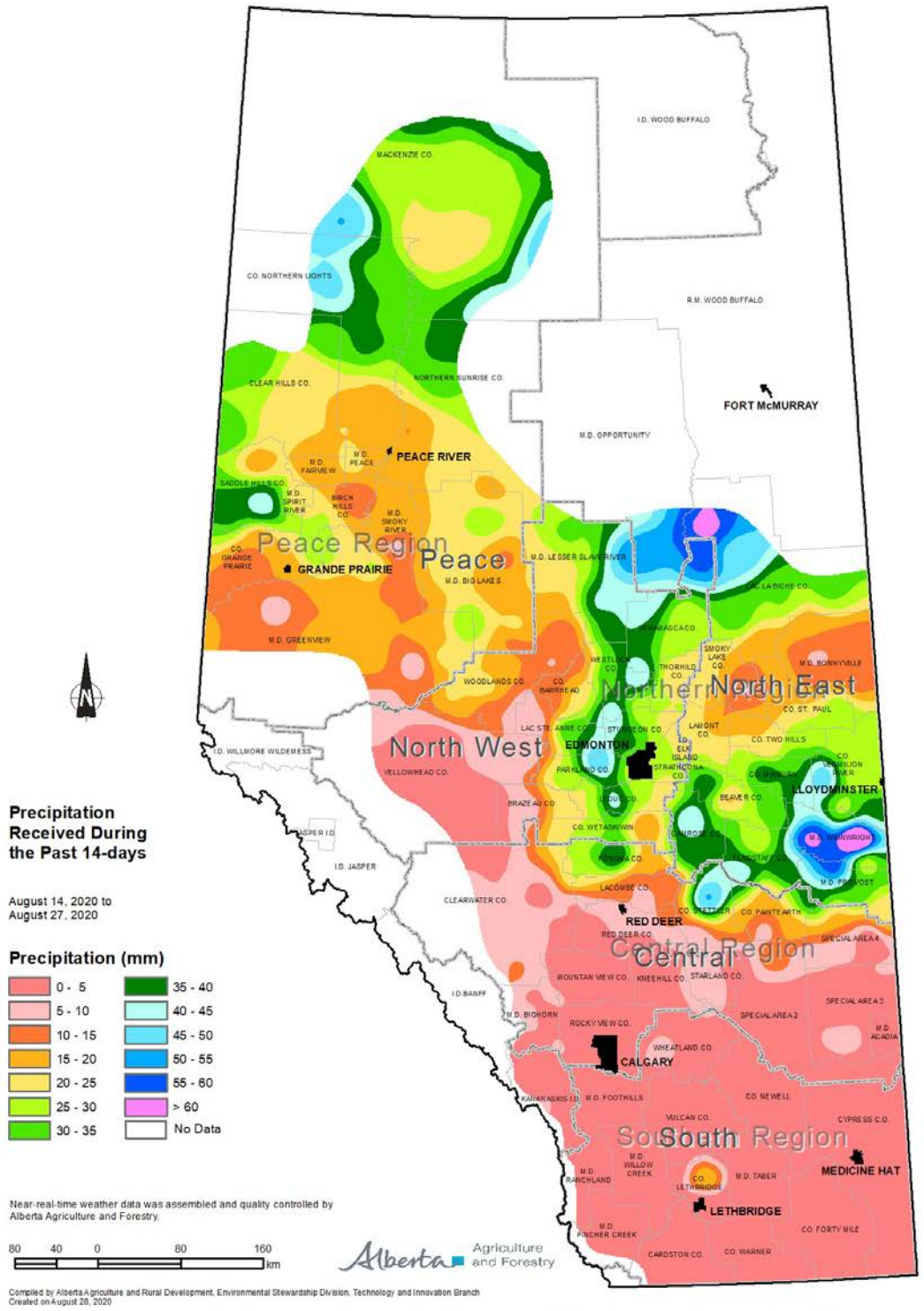
## 90-day temperatures relative to normal (Map 3).

Since the start of June, while it has been quite wet throughout many parts of the province, average temperature trends have been near normal to slightly above normal. This suggests that there have been no significant delays in crop growth rates due to a lack of heat units. Therefore, crops that have not suffered from excess moisture, hail, pests, diseases, etc. should be on track for a normal maturity date, providing that seeding occurred in a timely fashion.

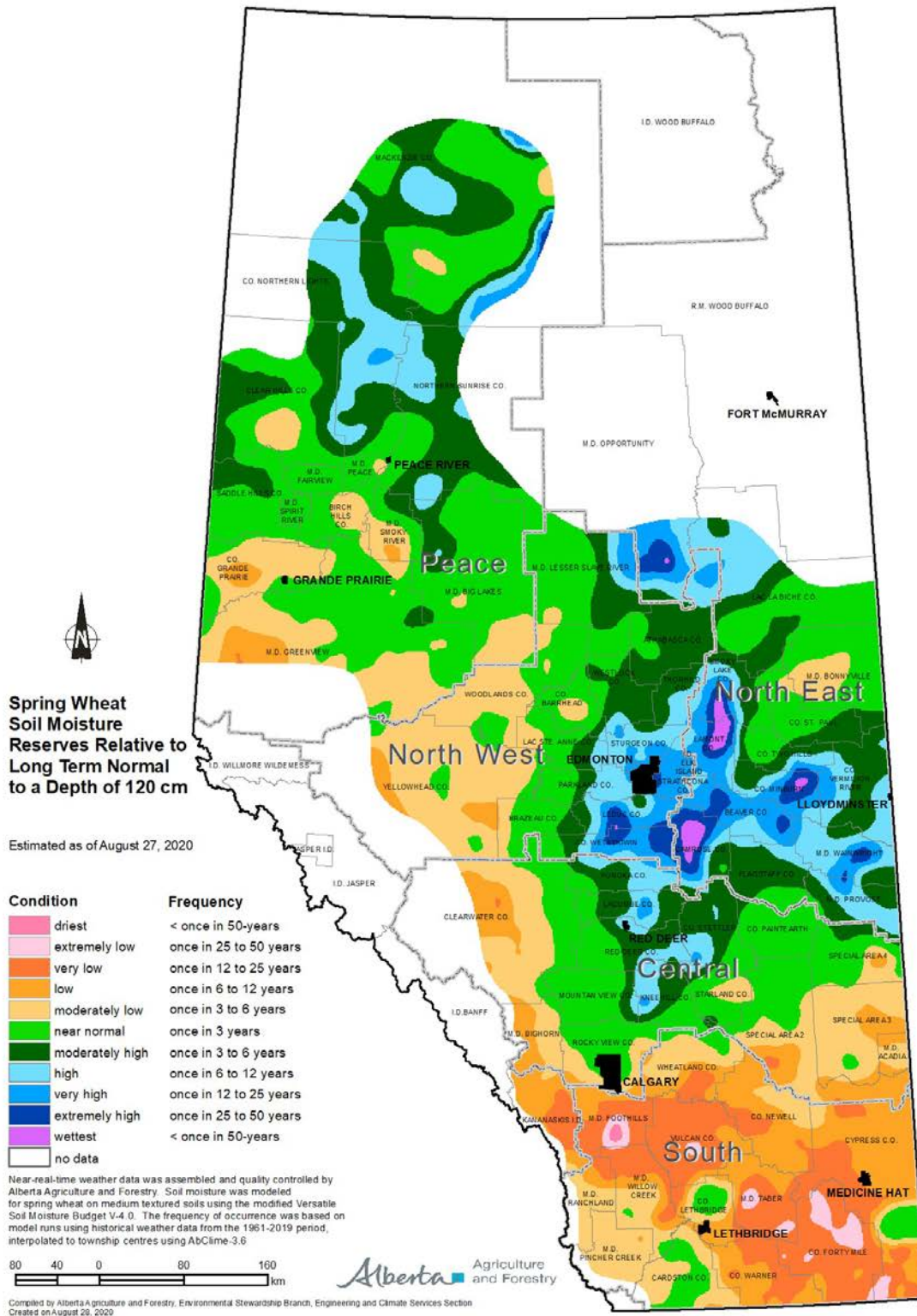
## Map of 25% risk for first killing frost (-4°C) (Map 4)

As harvest season approaches, early frosts remain a concern for many, along with untimely snows, cool temperatures and excess moisture. Note this map shows a **one in four year risk date**, so it means that over the long term, 25% of the time an area will experience temperatures as low as -4C as early as the date shown in the legend. Keep a close eye on the local forecast to more accurately pin point the likely hood of frost as the weather turns colder. Note that low lying areas and lands near rivers and lakes may be more prone to early frosts than what is depicted here and they could occur earlier.

Map 1

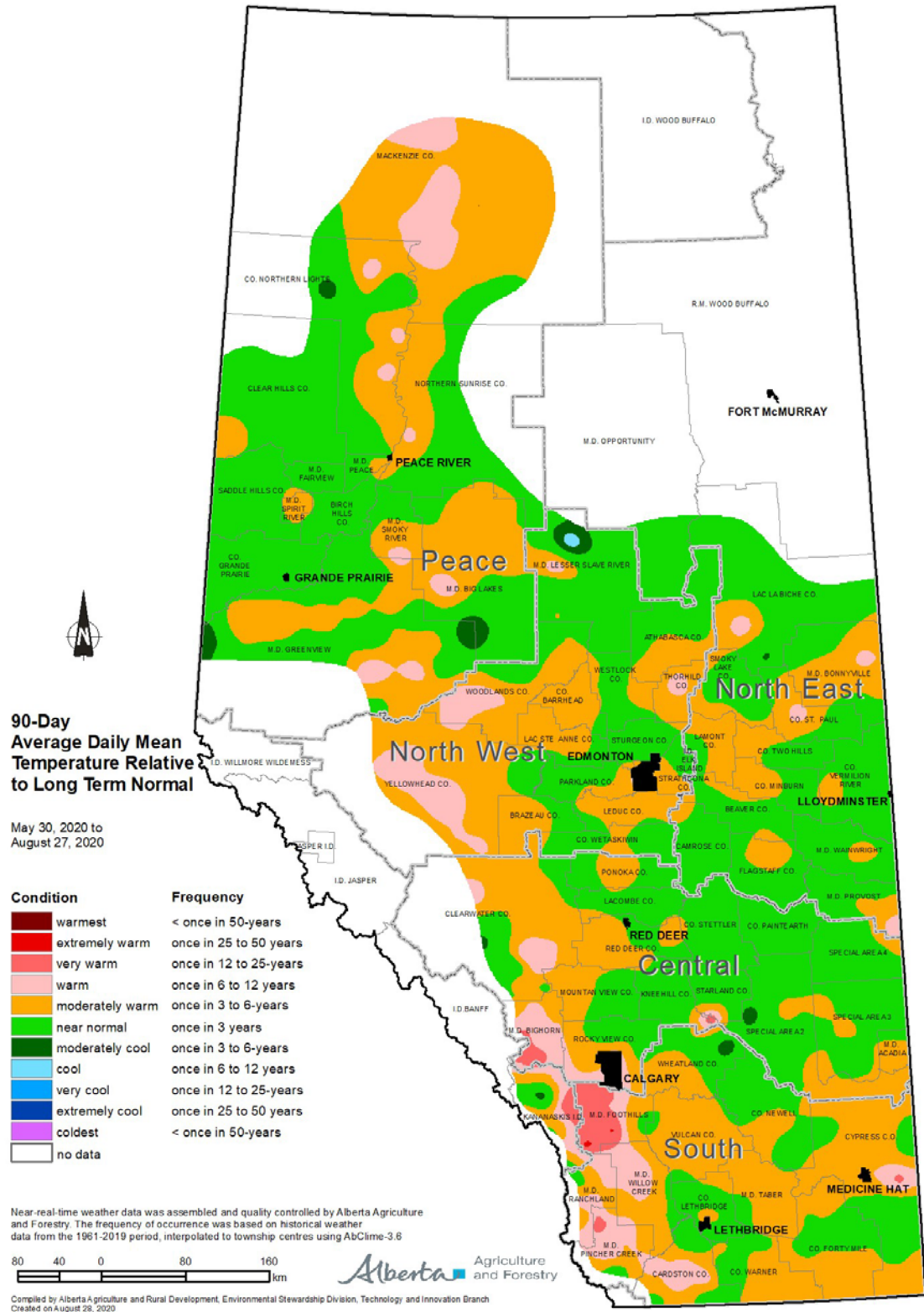


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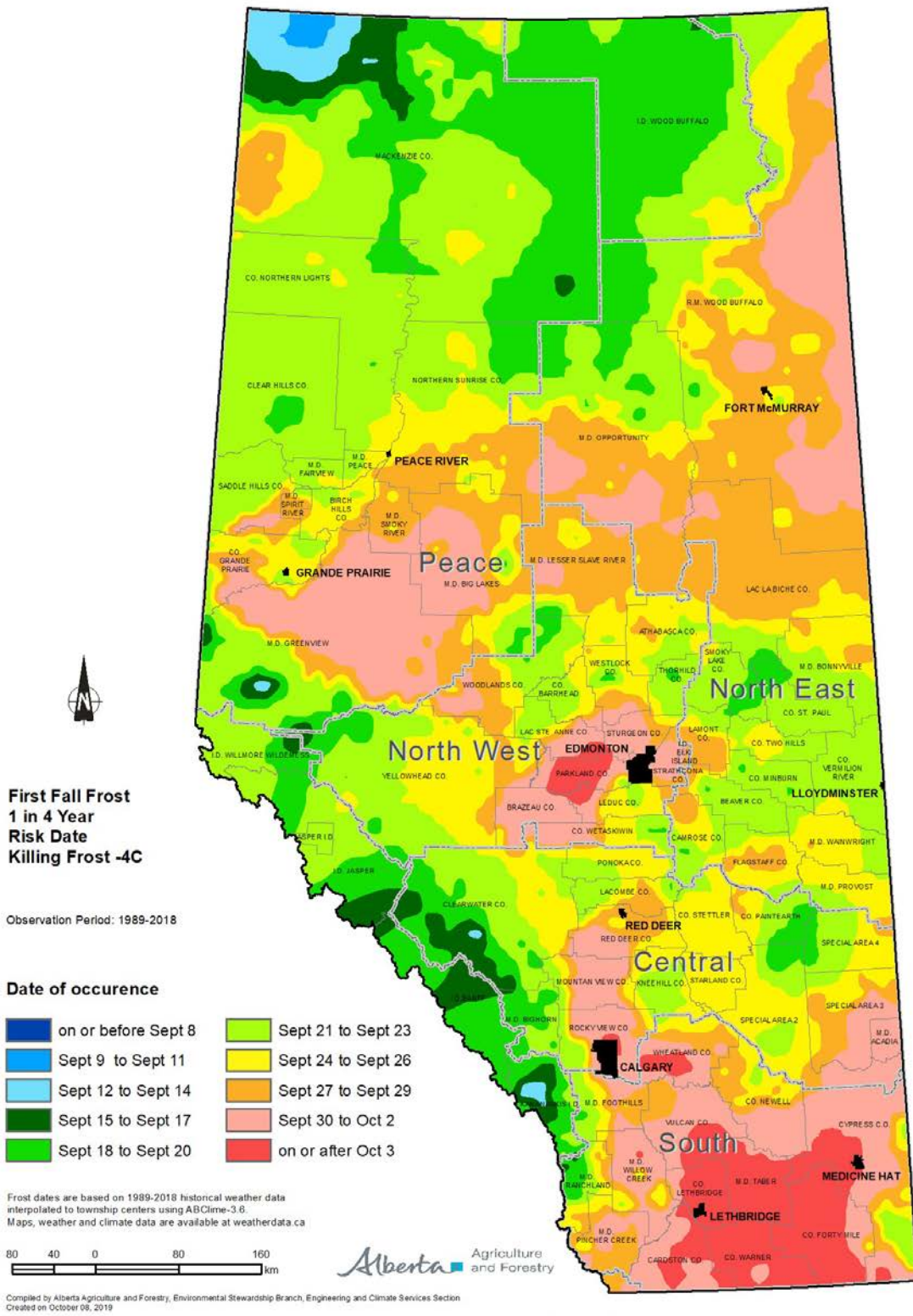


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