



Agricultural Moisture Situation Update

May 17, 2022

Synopsis

Since the last report, May 10, 2022, precipitation has been variable across the province, with many areas receiving less than 1 mm (**Map 1**); this includes large parts of the Southern Region, which is still in desperate need of moisture. Over the next few days (Thursday and Friday) rains are expected across most of the provinces growing areas, with up to 20 mm of rain expected over the dry lands of the south. If this rain falls as forecast, it will help alleviate moisture over the short term, but more timely and at least near normal rains will be needed in the coming days and weeks to sustain plant growth.

Temperatures are expected to remain below seasonal following the rain. This will help to minimize moisture stress, but will result in slower plant growth rates. Province-wide, the cool spring has led to delays in “green-up”, germination and pasture growth. Warmer weather and near normal rains will be needed moving forward to insure vigorous plant growth.

Growing Season precipitation as of May 17, 2022

Since the start of this year’s Growing Season, (April 1), most lands south of the TransCanada Highway have remained exceptionally dry with several notable areas experiencing 1 in 50 year lows so far (**Map 2**). Most lands in the central parts of the Southern Region have received less than 10 mm (**Map 3**) with three stations reporting less than 5 mm (Barnwell, Lethbridge, Claresholm).

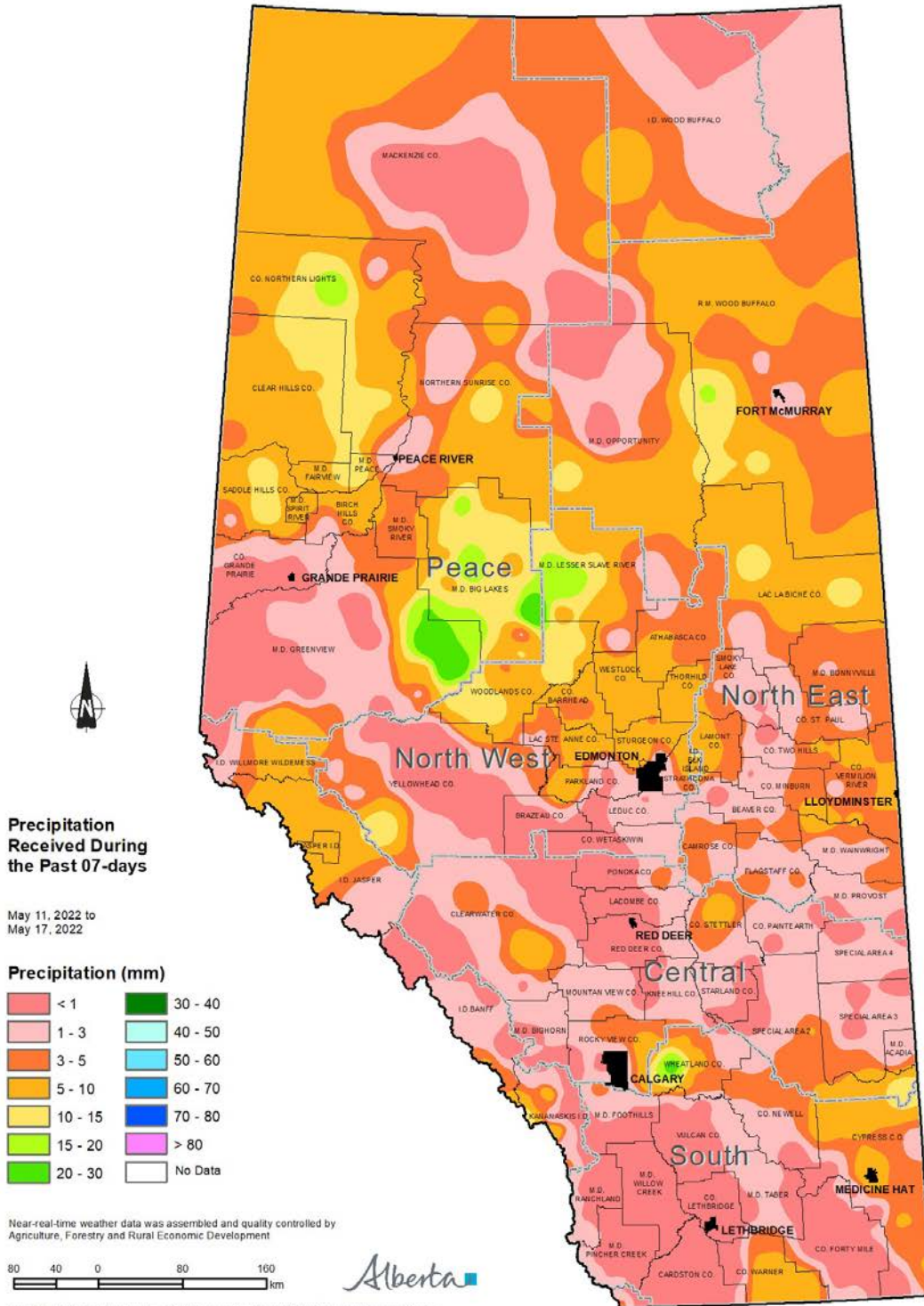
In sharp contrast, much of the Peace Region has experienced above normal moisture since the start of the growing season (**Map 2**), with lands around Manning estimated to see this much moisture since April 1, less than once in 50-years (**Map 3**). Some agricultural lands in the Peace Region have received over 100 mm over the past 7-weeks. One station called Doig Lookout (150 km North West of Manning) has recorded over 216 mm since April 1st.

Perspective

Over the next few days, rains along with cold temperatures are expected across many parts of the province, just ahead of the May long weekend. Across some lands, frost is possible. Please keep an eye on your local forecast. If the 15-20 mm of rain falls across the south, as predicted, this is a potential game changer for many, at least in the short term. However, low soil moisture reserves are prevalent in many areas and moving forward, further rains will certainly be needed soon.

On Tuesday May 24, 2022, expect another moisture situation update which will focus on where and how much moisture has fallen from the forecast rains.

Map 1



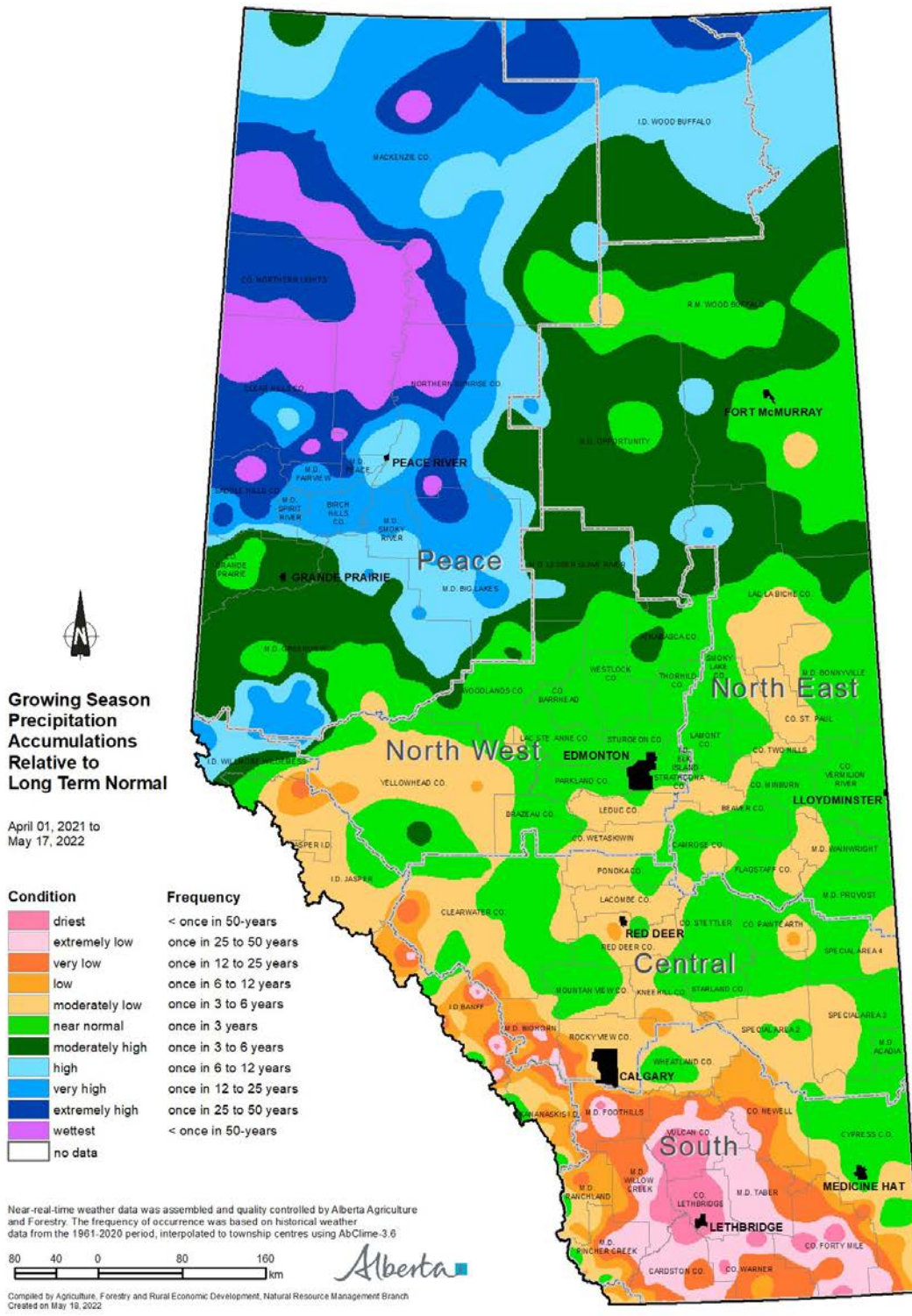
Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

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Map 2



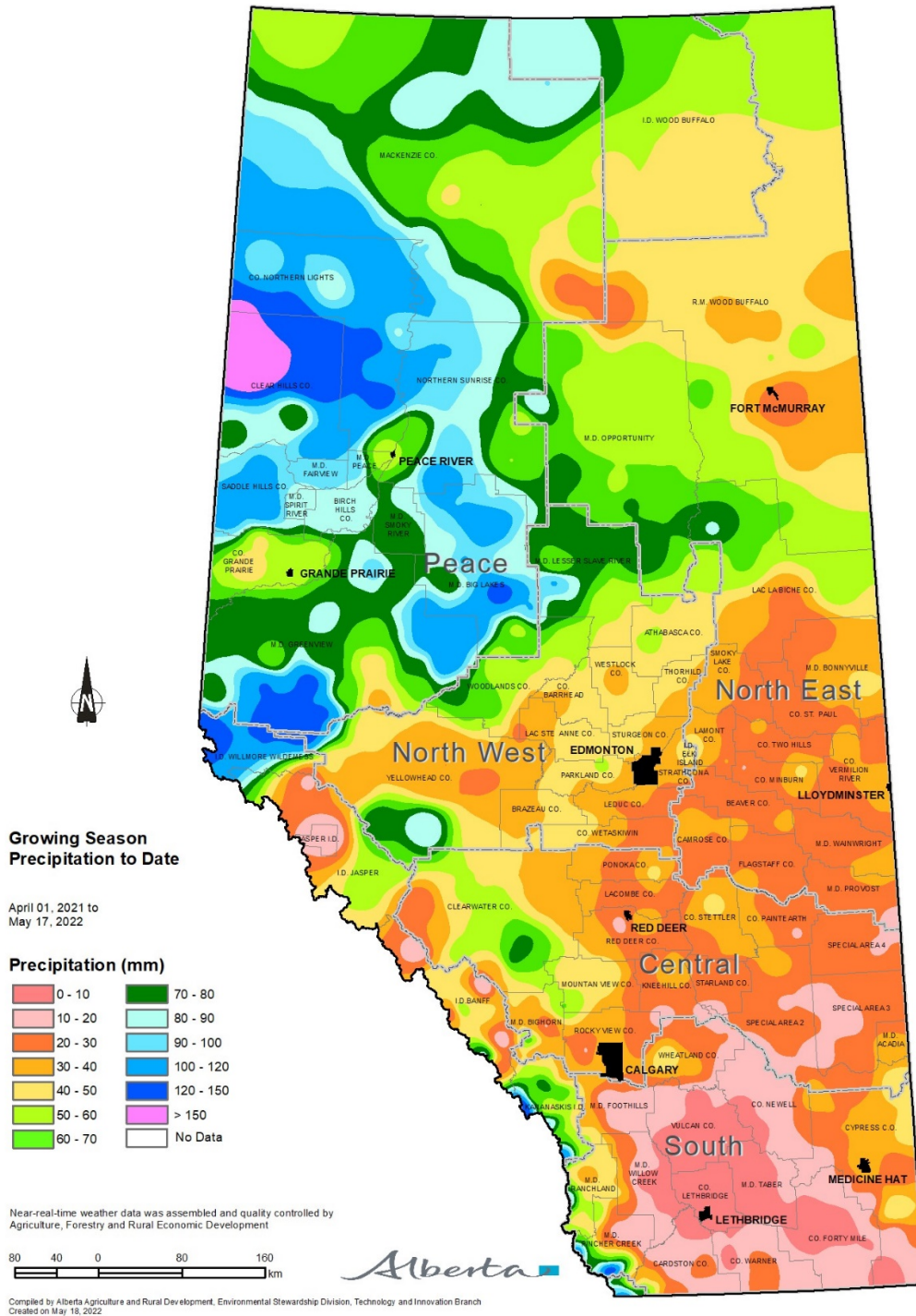
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Map 3



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