



Agricultural Moisture Situation Update

August 24, 2022

Synopsis

Since the last [report](#) (August 17, 2022), and as of August 24th, some areas of the province have received much needed moisture (**Map 1**) in the face of persistent heat. Across the Southern Region, most areas received at least 5 to 10mm, grading to over 40 mm across some parts of the extreme south and also westward along the foothills. Thunderstorm activity was severe at times, with the Fort Macleod AGCM station receiving just over 90 mm of rain in three hours, on August 23rd. The rains also brought moisture across most of the foothill areas up as far as the southern Peace Region and to most lands west Highway 2, as well as across parts of the North East Region.

Notably, large areas of the province from Medicine Hat up to Edmonton and over to Lloydminster remained dry, along with most of the Peace Region (**Map 1**).

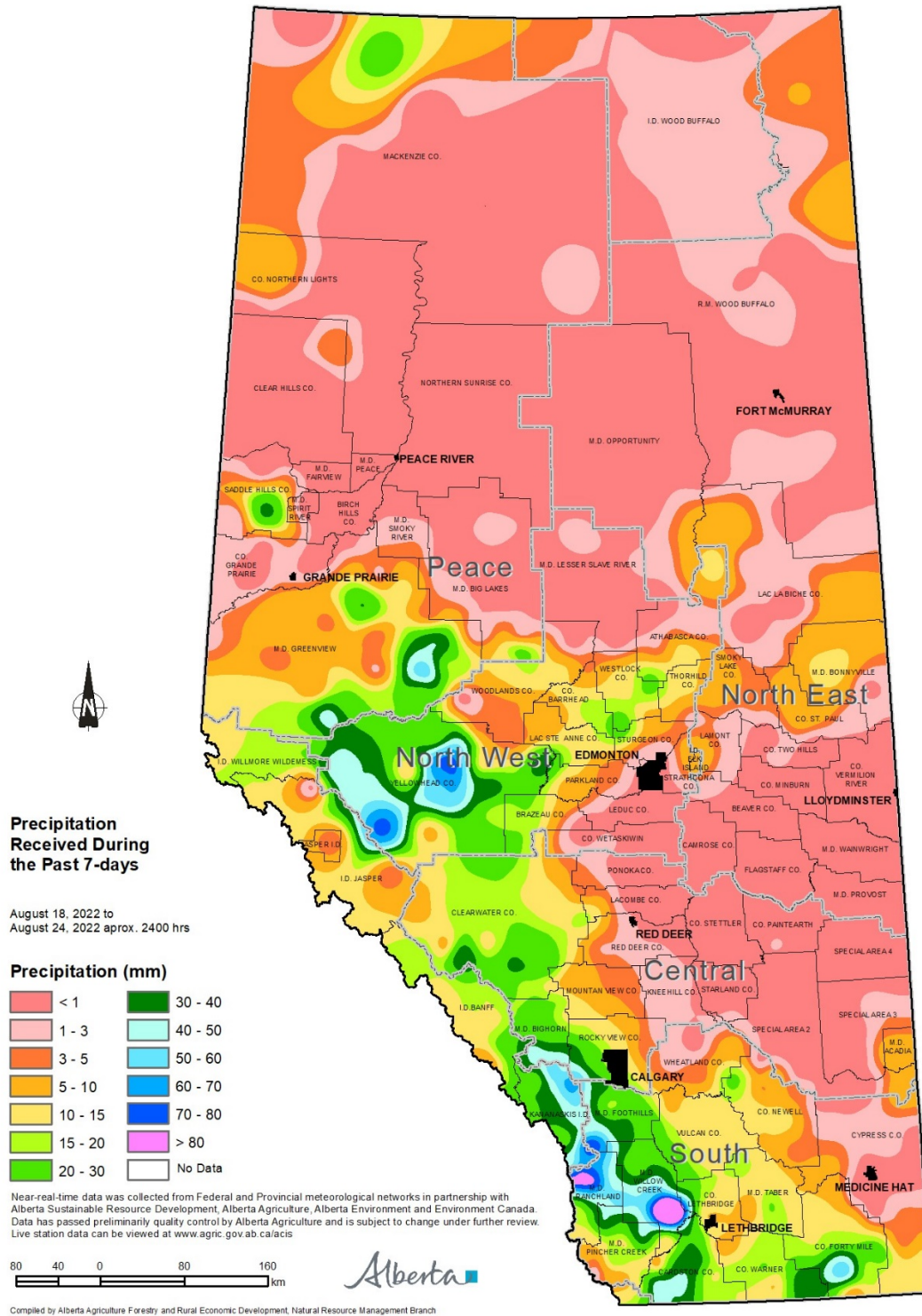
Perspective

Dry conditions that have persisted through August have likely had some impact on yield potential across most crops, particularly for forages and pastures. However, province wide, according to the August 9th [Alberta crop report](#), 70% of the seeded crops were rated as “good to excellent”, well ahead of the 5 and 10-year averages that stand at 55.7% and 63.9%, respectively. On August 26th, an updated crop report will be available that will describe impacts on yields in much more detail.

As harvest quickly approaches, warm and dry weather may be desirable for many pulling seed crops off of their fields, but this competes with the need for immediate moisture on hayland and forages. Fall is an important time for these crops as moisture between now and the first hard frost encourages growth and builds root reserves that are needed for kick starting vigorous growth in April and early May.

The earliest frosts (0C) start appearing in the historical meteorological record across most areas, as soon as August 20th, with unusual hard frosts (<-4C) usually not appearing until the first week in September across the northern Peace Region and elsewhere holding off until the second week in September. Currently long range forecasts, out to two weeks, are predicting that temperatures are not likely to drop well below normal. This, along with at least a month of above normal temperatures, has heated the ground to the point where there is little risk of early frosts causing significant damage any time soon.

Map 1



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/moisture-situation-update>

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