

## Moisture Situation Update – July 17, 2019

### Synopsis:

Across much of Alberta, early June marked an abrupt shift to much wetter conditions following a very dry spring (**Map 1**). Since that time, a large area lying south of Grande Prairie and extending all the way down to Calgary and then diagonally from Calgary up to Lloydminster has received well over 150 mm of rainfall (**Map 2**). Within this zone, many lands west of Highway II have reported rainfall totals in excess of 200 mm, with some large areas ranging as high as 275 mm. Similarly parts of the North East have been wet with total accumulations topping 200 mm. Much of this moisture has fallen during widespread thunderstorm activity, bringing localized heavy downpours that in some locales exceed the amounts depicted on **map 2**.

Generally for those parts of the province lying north of Calgary, June and July are historically the wettest months of the year. Thus having above average moisture accumulations during a historically wet period in the year is significant and has in many cases, led to excessive moisture. As a result, standing water is common in areas with poor drainage as well as in the low lying areas of many fields. In fact many parts of the province are estimated to see this much moisture since the start of June, less than once in 12 years (**Map 3**).

In sharp contrast, the northern Peace Region has remained dry, receiving only 45 to 65 mm, from the beginning of June (**Map 2**), compared to the average, which ranges from 95 to 125 mm. As well conditions throughout parts of southern Alberta have been dry with some areas recording just over 20 mm, compared to the average which ranges between 85 to 115 mm. Since the start of the growing season (April 1, 2019) both of these areas remain in a moisture deficit with shortages across the northern Peace Region approaching one in 25-year lows, and some parts of southern Alberta, exceeding one in 25-year lows (**Map 3**).

In addition to being relatively wet, much of the province has been cooler than normal, with several areas grading down to one in six to 12 year lows (over the past 90-days) and some lands within this grading to one in 12 to 25 year lows (**Map 4**). This has led to slower than normal crop development, in those places that have been cooler than normal.

For areas with adequate moisture, warm dry weather over the next several weeks is needed to speed crop growth and encourage maximum water use, as fall approaches. Across the drier areas of the province, rain is needed now as many crops are still in a peak water demand phase of their growth period.

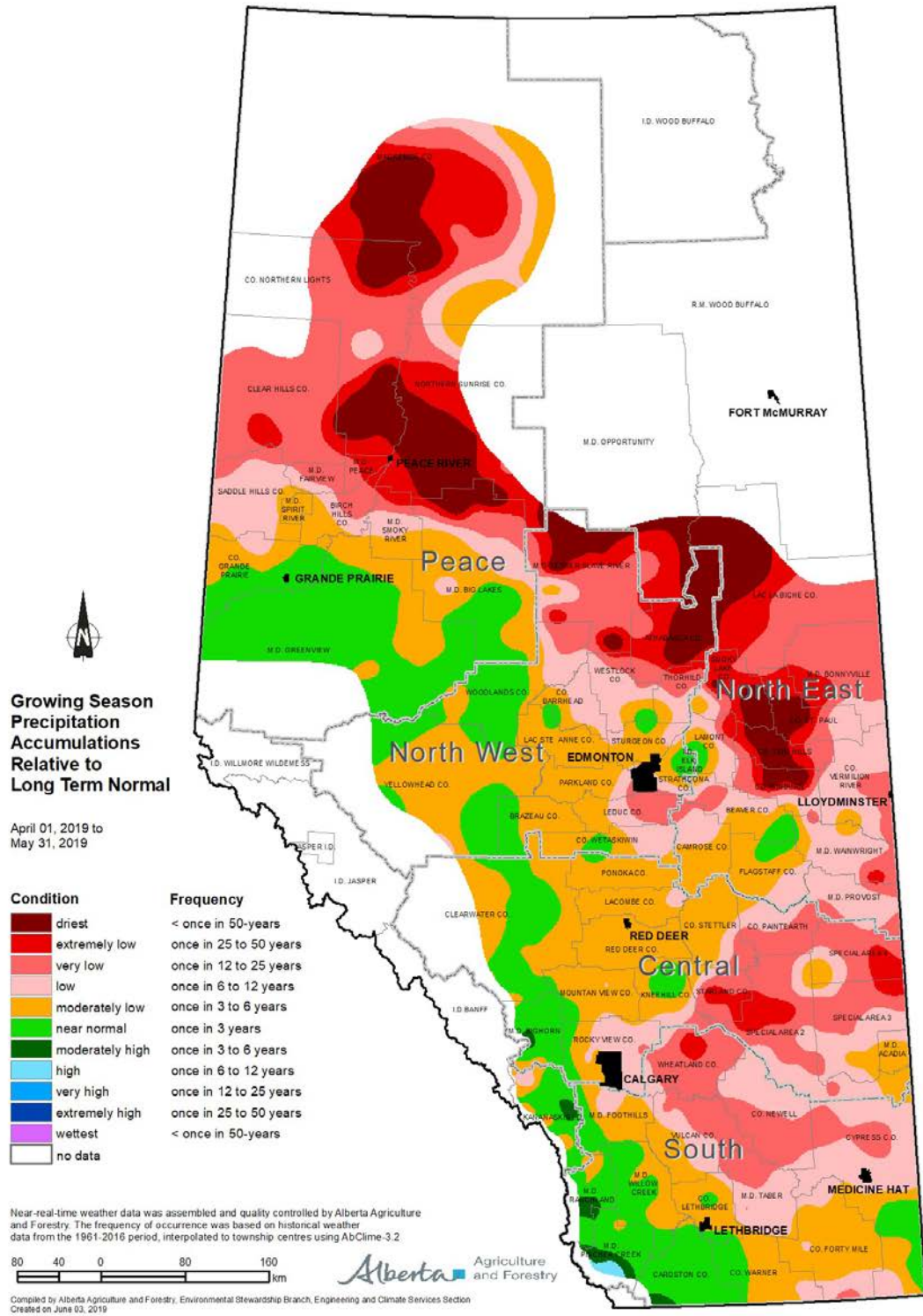
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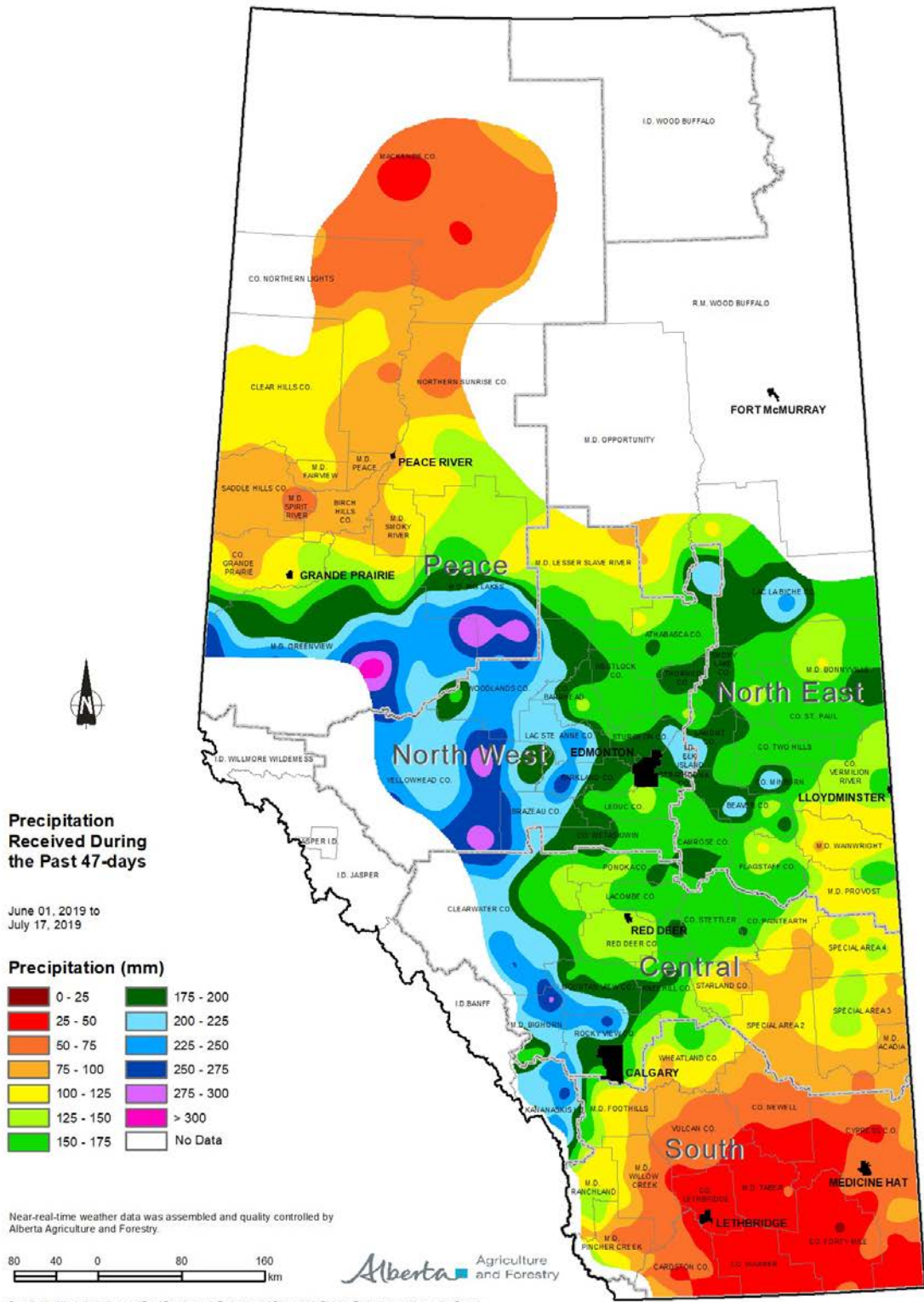
## Map 1



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

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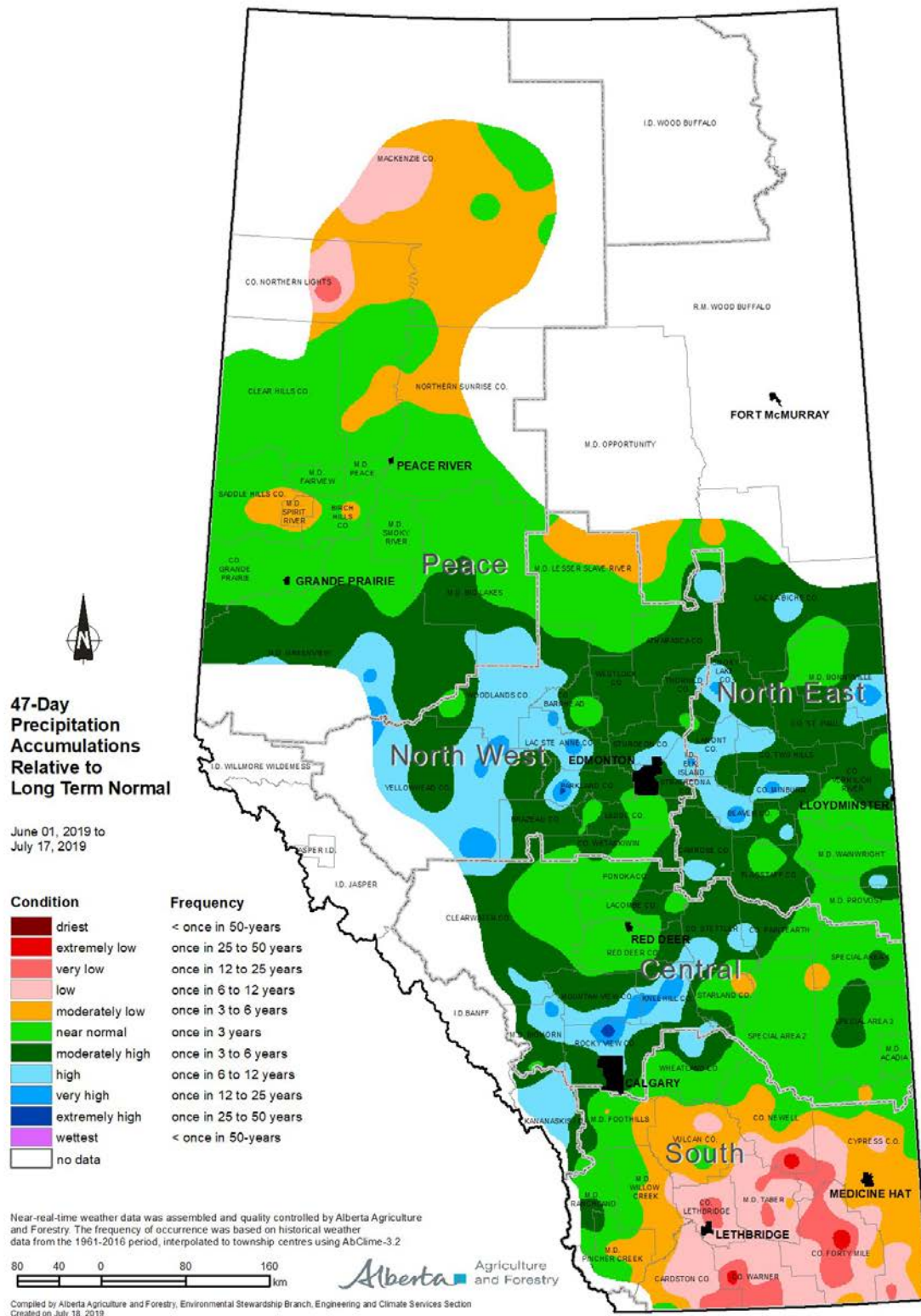
## Map 2



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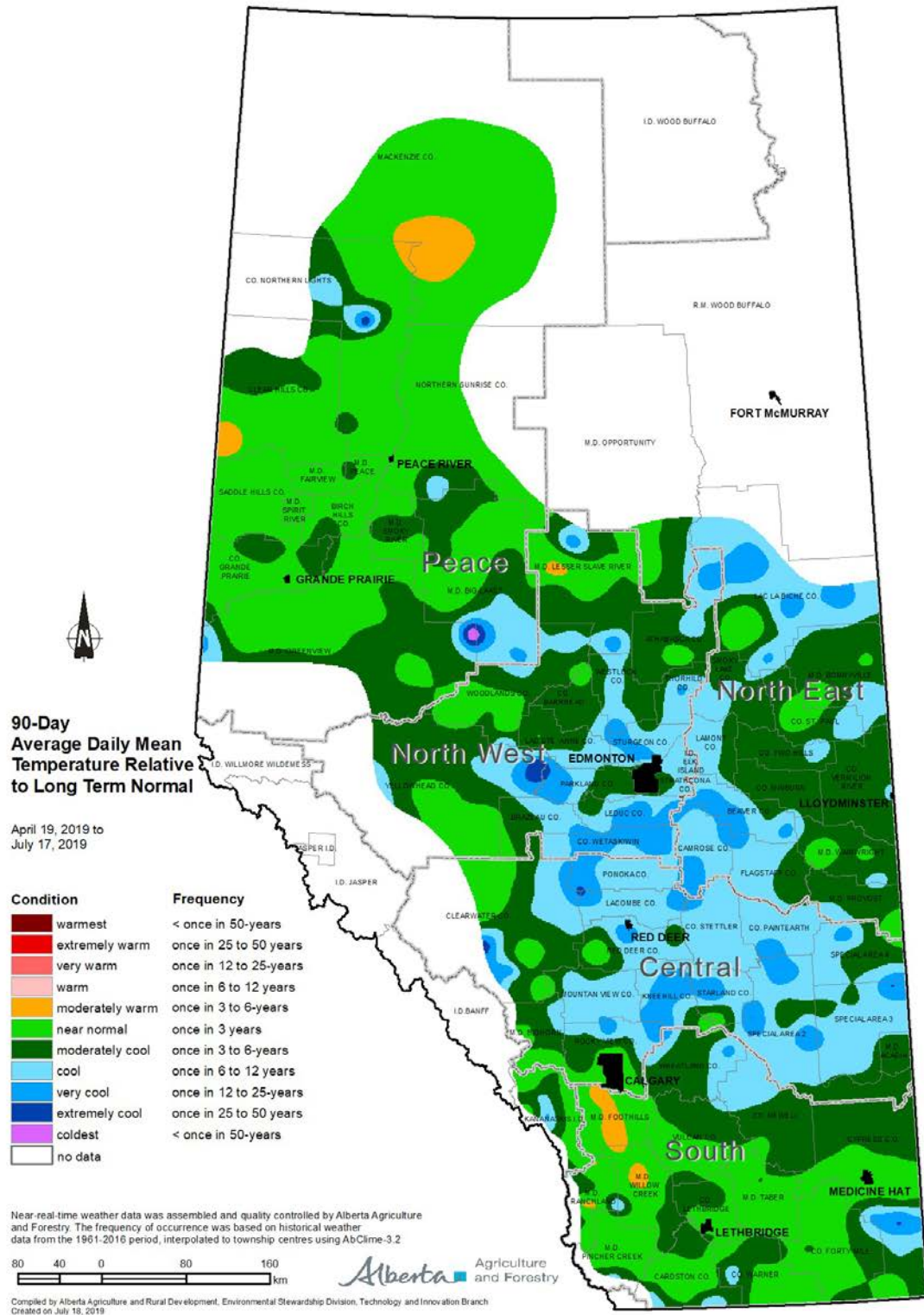
## Map 3



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## Map 4



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