

Agricultural Moisture Situation Update

August 20, 2019

Rainfall since August 1, 2019 (Map 1)

Since the beginning of August 2019, a very significant rainfall accumulation in the range of 40 to 100 mm was recorded, in most parts of the Peace Region, except the north corner, the northern and southern portions of the Northern Region and the eastern and western portions of Southern Region including the Foothills. Rainfall in the rest of the province varied from 10 to 30 mm and a portion of the Special Area with zero rainfall.

Growing season rainfall accumulation relative to the long term normal (Map 2)

Growing season rainfall accumulation relative to the long term normal was the highest mostly across most of the central and western portions of the Northern Region and varied from high to very high, including a pocket with extremely high to wettest (once in 50 year) located in the southeastern corner of the Yellowhead County. Growing season Rainfall accumulation in the rest of the reporting area varied from near normal and moderately high to low and extremely low in isolated pockets located mainly in the Southern Region and the northern corner of the Peace Region.

Soil moisture reserves relative to the long term-normal (Map 3)

Similarly, soil moisture reserves relative to the long term-normal was exceptionally the highest in most of Northern Region which varied from high to extremely high and wettest (once in 50 year) in few isolated pockets. Soil moisture reserve in the rest of the reporting area varied from moderately high and near normal to low and very low located in the Special area and the northern corner of the Peace Region.

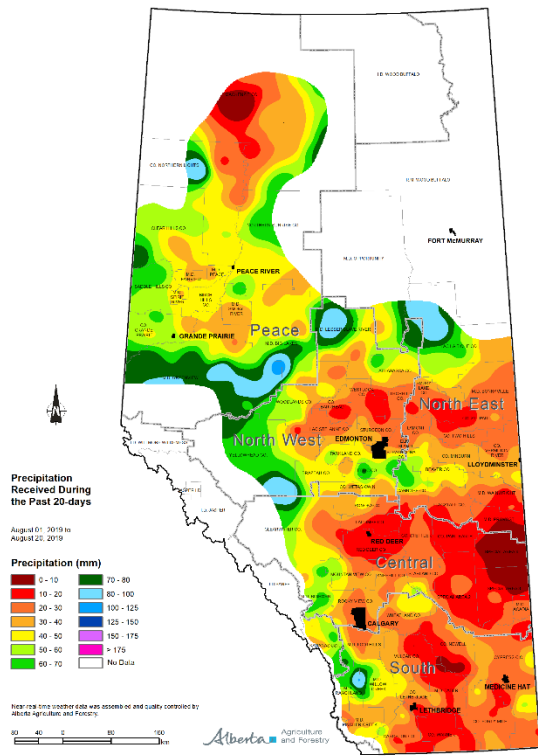
Temperature conditions during the growing season (Maps 4, 5 and 6)

Average daily mean temperature relative to the long-term normal during the last 60 days across most of the Central Region extending to isolated pockets in the Northern and Peace Region varied from cool to very cool (Map 4) which affects the timely development and maturity of crops.

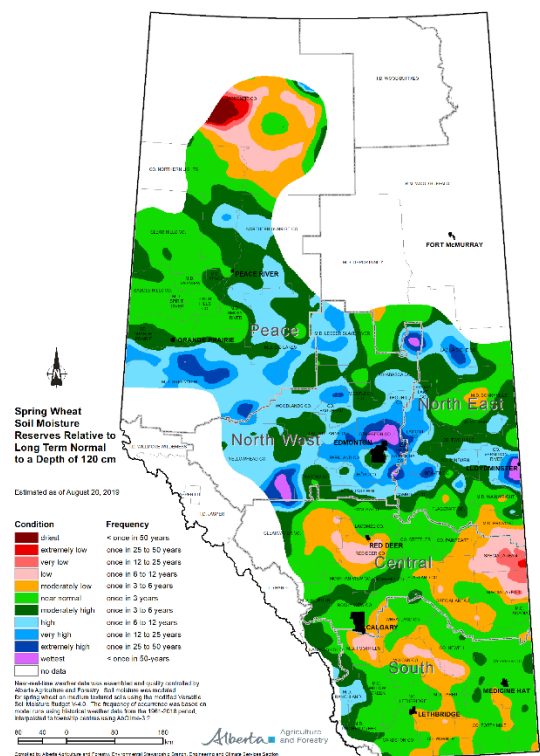
Empirical tools such as Corn Heat Units (CHU) or Growing Degree Days (GDD), derived from the accumulation of daily temperature, best measure the effect of cool temperature on crops during a growing season. Map 5 show the growing season accumulated CHU. The growing season CHU accumulation relative to the 1981 to 2010 normal (Map 6) varied from a very cool (once in 12 to 25 years) to cool (once in 3 to 6 years) in part of the Central and Northern Regions, slowing crop development and maturity. In the rest of the reporting area relative CHU accumulation varied from near normal to moderately warm, indicating relatively favorable temperature conditions.

Note - We have developed new CHU and GDD sets of maps and will be posted on our website, regularly during the growing season.

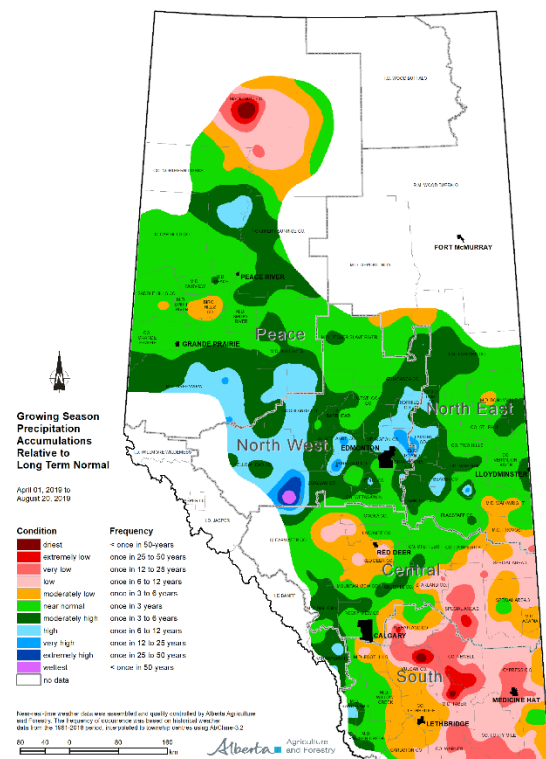
Map 1



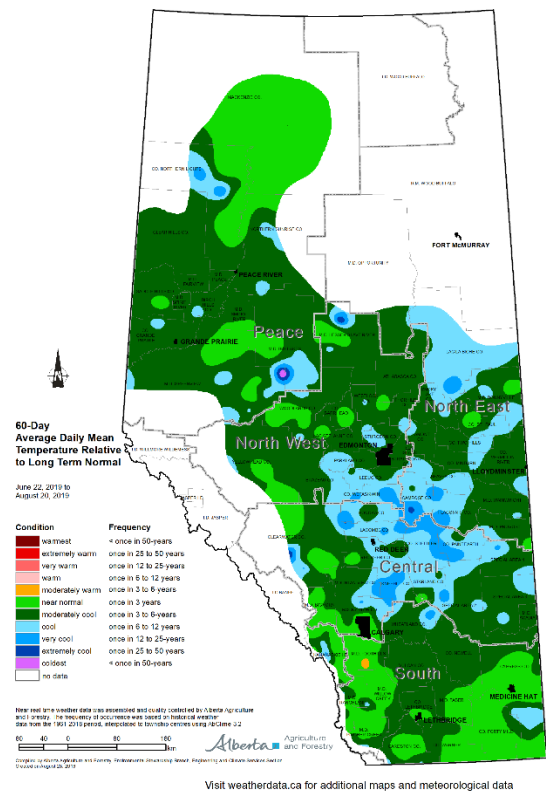
Map 3



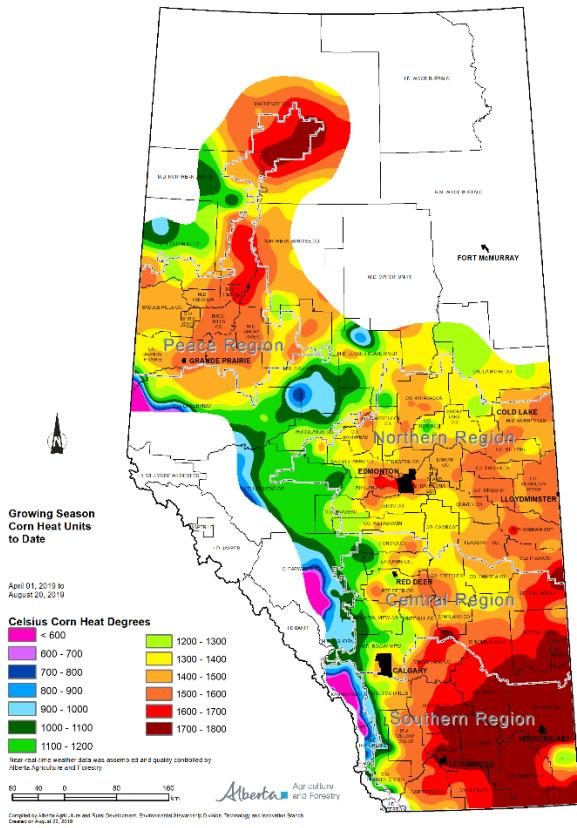
Map 2



Map 4



Map 5



Map 6

