

Agricultural Moisture Situation Update

November 3, 2019

Synopsis

For much of the province, absent from this fall was a span of a few weeks of at least average temperatures with no precipitation. Such weather is helpful for swathing and drying crops, prior to combining.

Following a cooler than normal growing season, September harbored several wet episodes, separated by only two major dry spells that each lasted less than two weeks. As the days in October rolled by, the frequency of the wet spells increased, with many areas across the north-half of the province only seeing a handful of dry and often cloudy days between bouts of moisture. This made it difficult to make normal progress during this year's harvesting activities.

Precipitation accumulations over the past 5 days (Map 1)

As the harvest season winds down, over the past 5 days, most of the west half of the province received further moisture. Precipitation totals were variable, ranging from upwards of 20 mm towards the foothills west of Red Deer, down to just over 3 mm across a wide area extending from the US border, south of Lethbridge up as far as Manning in the Peace River. Many of these areas received a mix of rain and snow. Unfortunately, at this time of year, it only takes a few mm of moisture to delay late harvesting efforts for a few days.

Precipitation accumulations over the past 30 days (Maps 2 and 3)

Over the past 30-days, precipitation has been highly variable across the province, ranging from less than 5 mm through parts of the Special Areas, to well over 60 mm along the foothills and also in and around the Swan Hills (Map 2). Most of the south-half of the Peace Region received 35 to 60 mm. The majority of the lands north of the Yellowhead highway received at least 20 mm, with areas between Lac La Biche and Bonneville

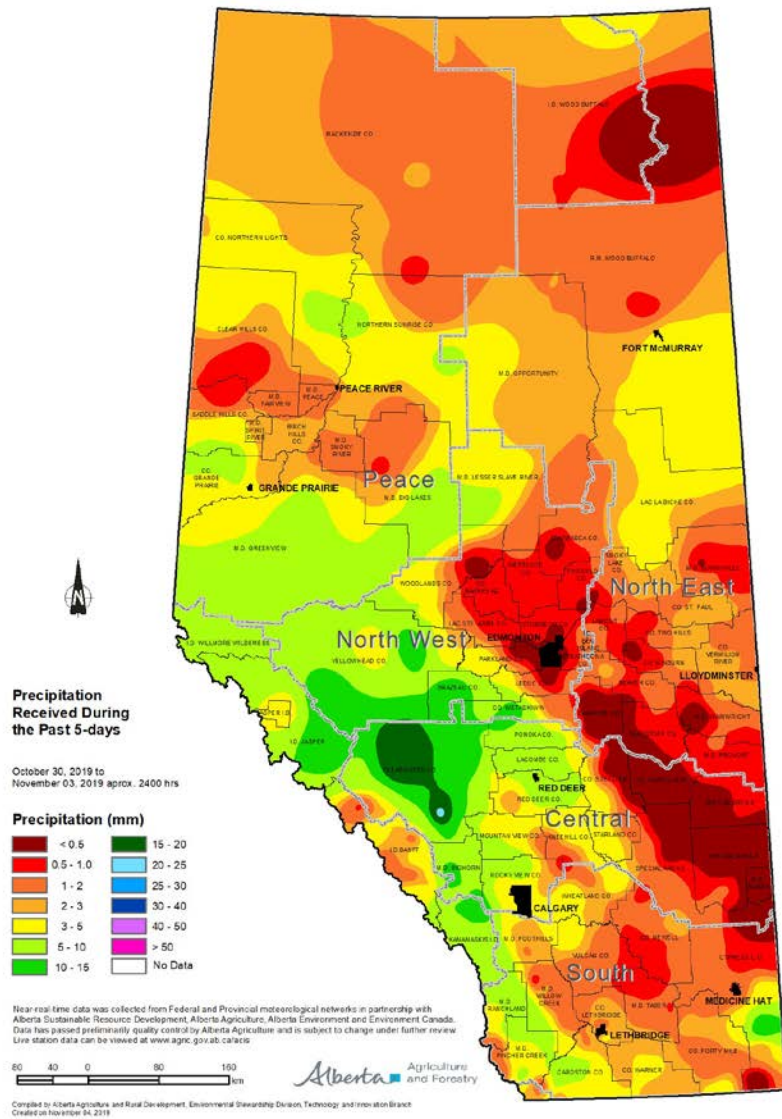
seeing accumulations topping 35 mm or more. Similarly other wet areas include a large pocket near Wetaskiwin (40mm) that extends west ward towards the foothills.

Generally most agricultural lands north of the Yellowhead Highway and south of the town of Peace River received above average moisture during the past 30-days (**Map 3**) with parts of the North East and the south-half of the Peace Region estimated to see this much moisture less than once in 12 years.

Temperatures relative to normal over the past 30 days (Map 4)

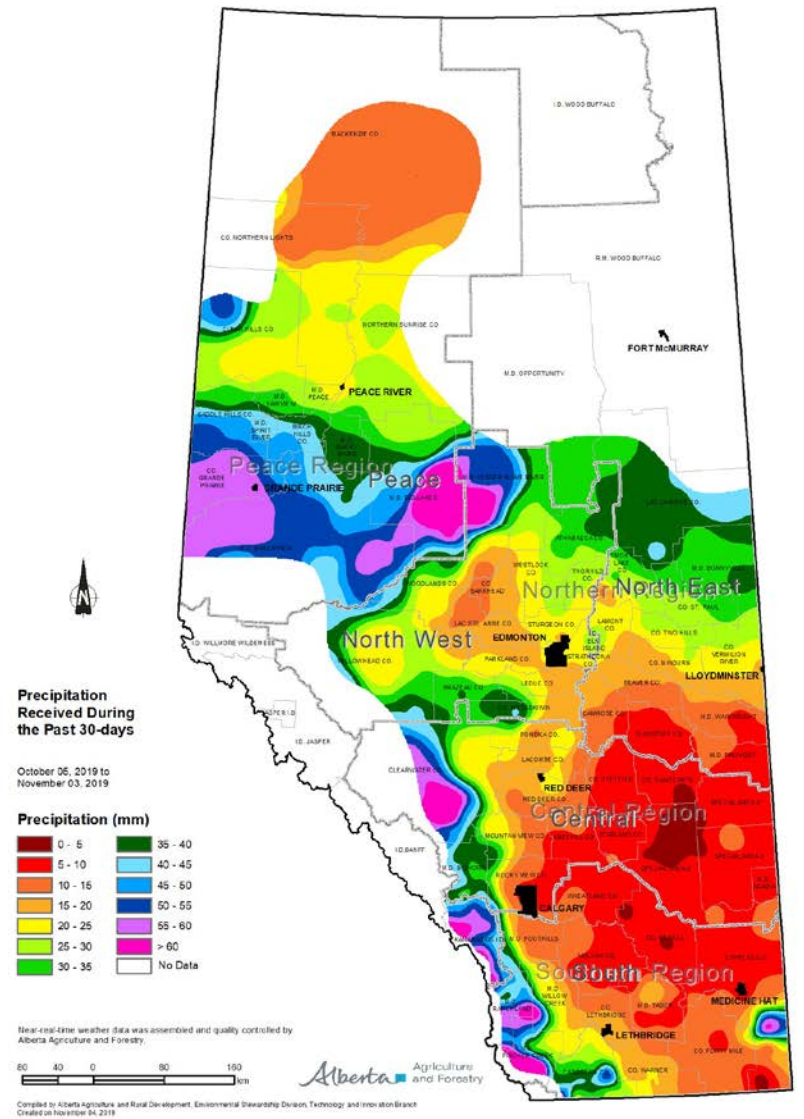
All agricultural areas, save for the northern tip of the Peace Region, have experienced below normal temperatures over the past 30-days. Many areas are grading to more than one is 6-year lows, with of large parts southern western Alberta grading to less than once in 12-year lows for this time of year.

Map 1



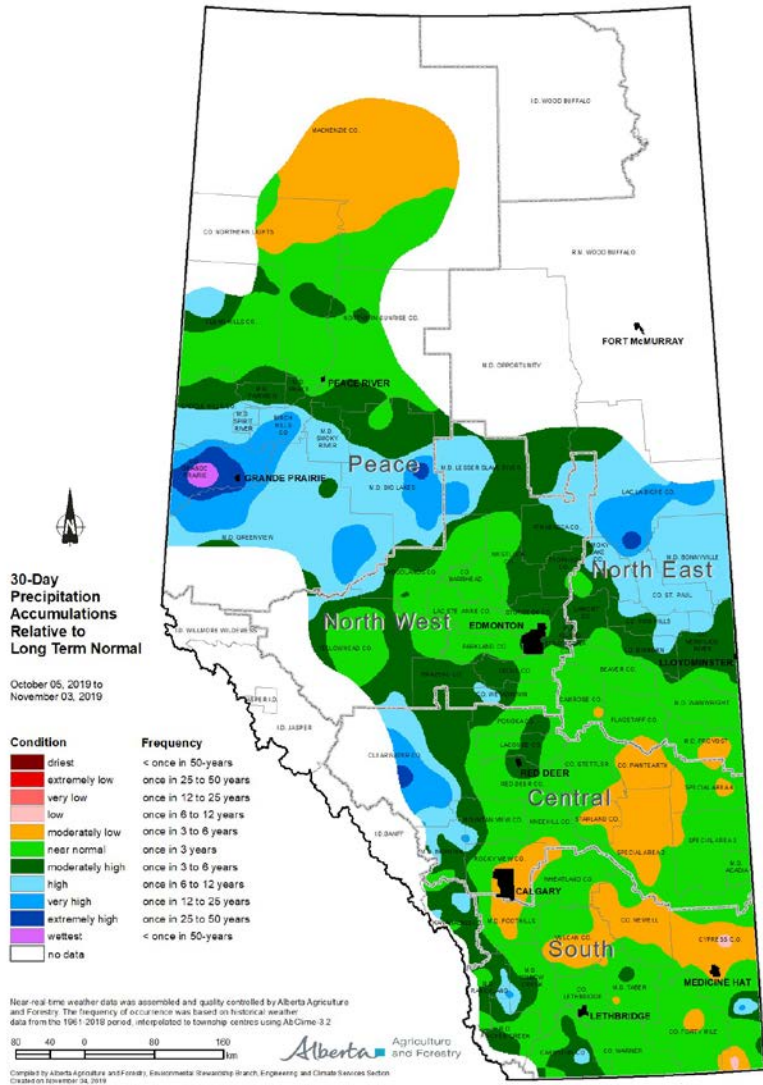
Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

Map 2



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Map 3



Map 4

