

Agricultural Moisture Situation Update

October 14, 2019

Precipitation accumulations over the past 5-days (Map 1)

Over the Thanksgiving Day weekend, cool wet weather prevailed over much of the province. A large area stretching from Red Deer all the way to north to Whitecourt and extending east towards Lac La Biche picked up an additional 5 to 15 mm of moisture. Many of these areas saw a rain snow mix, with temperatures struggling to remain above freezing. For many still trying to get crops off, this moisture was not welcome.

South of Red Deer precipitation was variable, but light, ranging from near zero along the foothills between Calgary and the US border, and throughout much of the Special Areas, to 3-5 mm in and around Medicine Hat. Similarly, across the Peace Region, precipitation accumulations were light, with most areas receiving less than 3 mm.

Precipitation accumulations since September 25, 2019 (Map 2 and 3)

In addition to well below normal temperatures, wet weather over the past three weeks has been prevalent province wide (**Map 2**). Much of southern Alberta has already received two significant snow falls. The first one occurred during the last few days of September and the second one early in the second week of October.

Over the past 20-days total accumulations range from more than 20 mm across much of the North East, North West and Peace Regions, to well over 40 mm across parts of southern Alberta. Areas west of Lethbridge saw much greater accumulations, with many stations in the mountains and foothills reporting well over 100 mm of moisture (**Map 3**).

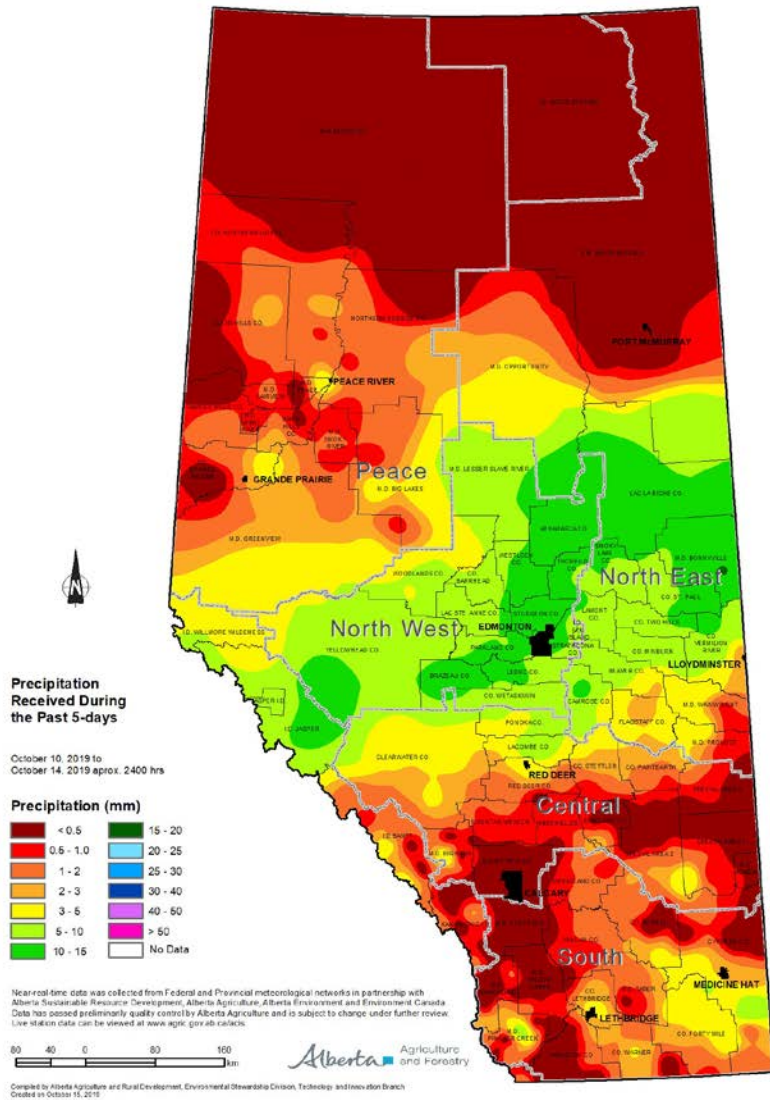
In the high country west of Claresholm and all the way south to the US border a total of four stations recorded more than 200 mm of precipitation, with most of this falling as snow. The greatest amounts were measured at the Spionkop Creek station where 343 mm was

recorded. Using a standard 10:1 rule for converting these measurements to snow depth, this translates to over 2 meters of snow at some of these stations.

Temperatures relative to normal since September 25, 2019 (Map 4)

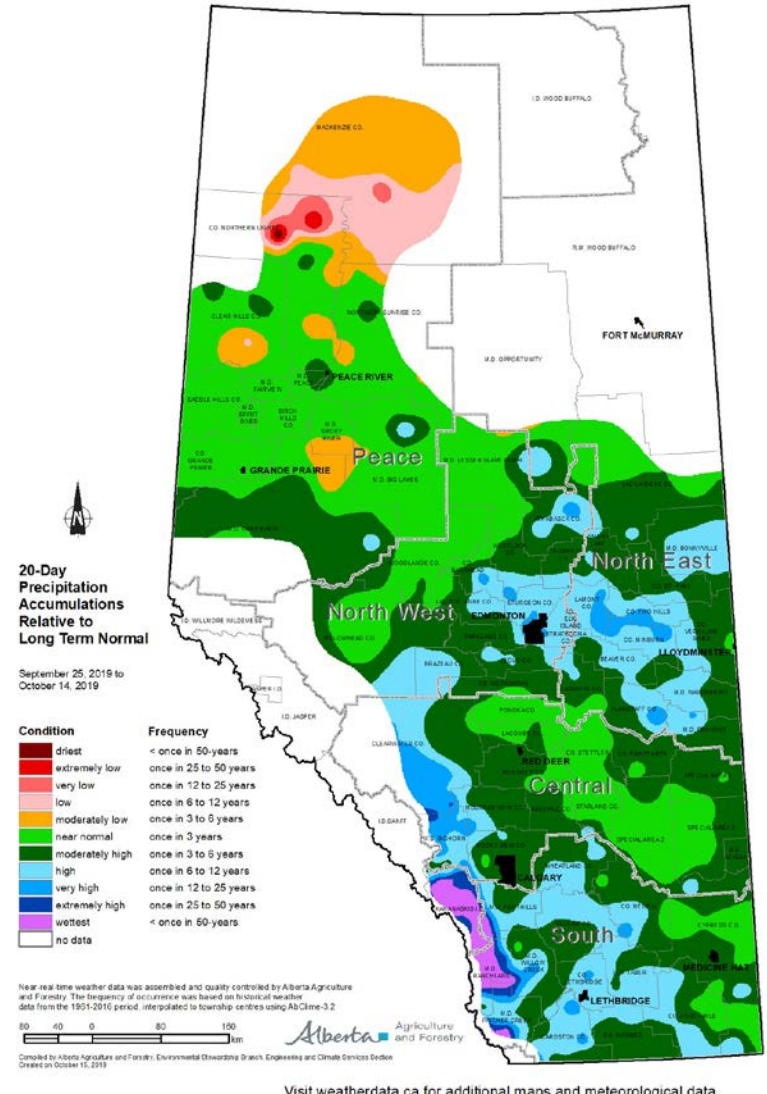
Across most of the province, with the exception of the northern Peace Region, temperatures have been well below normal over the past three weeks (**Map 4**). Most areas south of the Yellowhead Highway see weather this cold at this time of year less than once in 12 years. Throughout southern Alberta, most areas see an early cold spell like this less than once in 25-years, with some pockets north of Lethbridge estimated to be near one in 50-year lows.

Map 1



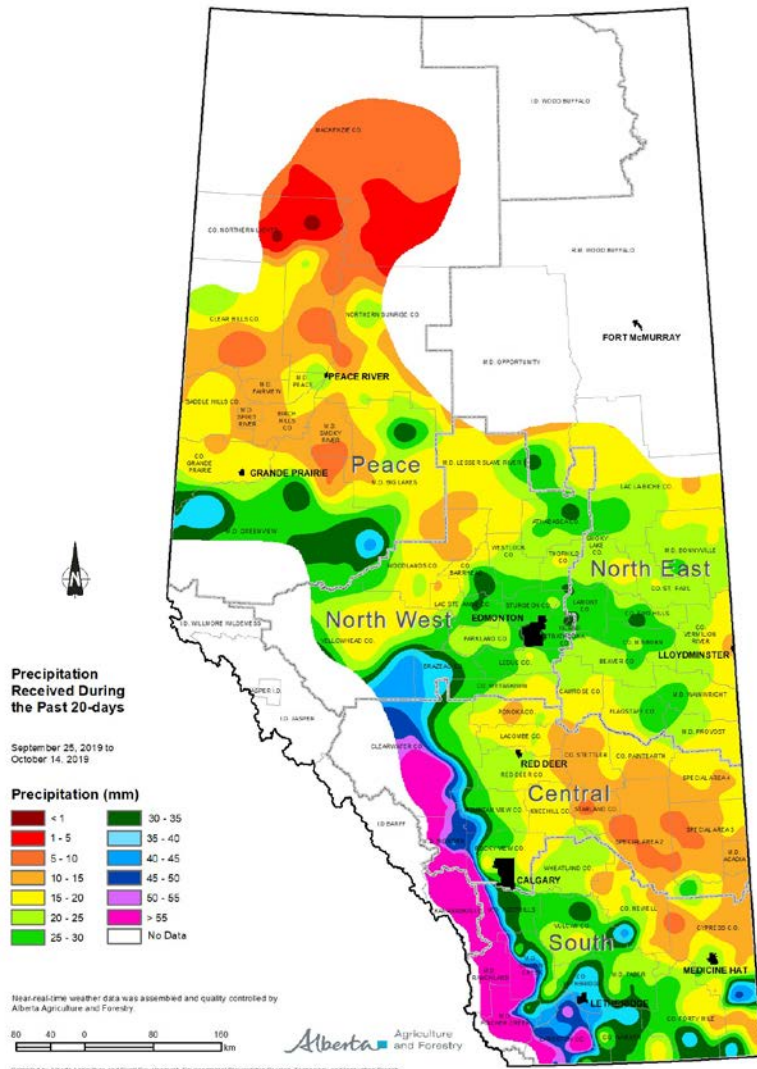
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Map 2



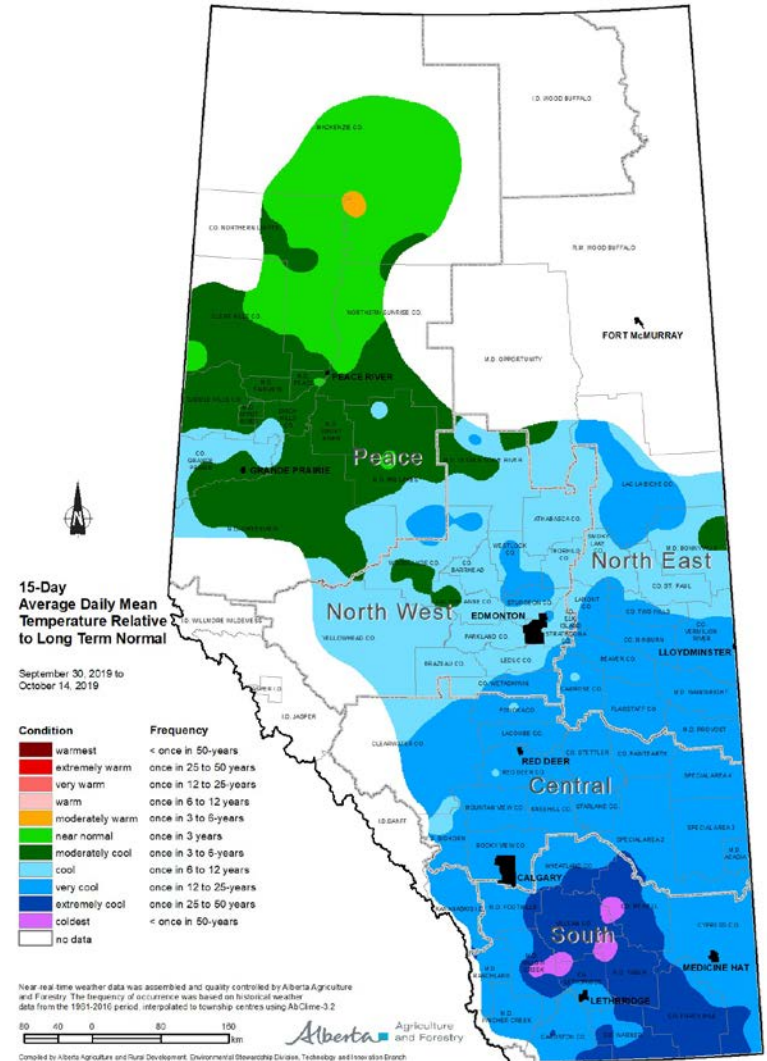
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Map 3



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Map 4



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