

Agricultural Moisture Situation Update

November 12, 2019

Precipitation accumulations over the past 30 days (Map 1 and 2)

Over the past 30-days, precipitation has generally been above normal across the province's agricultural areas, with the exception of the northern Peace region where conditions have been drier than normal (**Map 1**).

The wettest areas of the province extend across a wide band running from Beaverlodge to Slave Lake, where accumulations for this time frame are estimated to be near 1 in 50 year highs. Total accumulations here range from 70 to 100 mm (**Map 2**), compared to the long term normal that ranges from 20-30 mm.

Other areas that have received well above normal accumulations include the northern half of the North East region, as well as western parts of the North West and Central regions (**Map 1**). Across these areas, accumulations are estimated to be this great less than once in 6 years, with many lands experiencing only one in 12 to 25 year accumulations. However, in comparison to the wettest areas in the Peace Region, precipitation totals were far less, ranging from 30 to 60 mm (**Map 2**).

Snowpacks relative to normal as of November 12, 2019 (Map 3)

Last weekend a cold front moved through the province, bringing further snows to much of the Peace region and most lands, down as far south as Red Deer. The greatest accumulations occurred across the southern Peace region where some areas received an additional 30 cm of fresh snow over existing snow packs.

For this time of year, snowpacks are now at least near normal across most of the Province's agricultural areas (**Map 3**). Snow packs are unusually deep through much of the southern Peace region, ranging up to one in 50 year highs. These grade down to at least one in 6 year highs, for much of the west-half of the province,

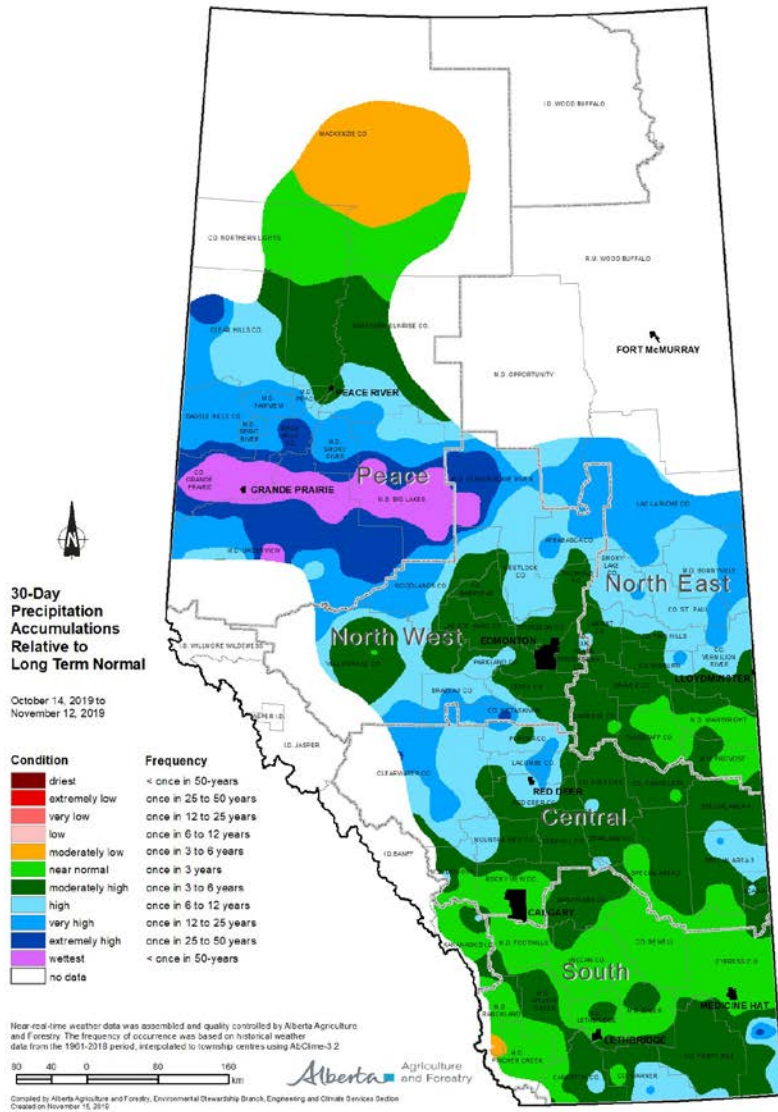
extending down to near Calgary, and as far east as Drumheller. However in recent days, warm air has flooded into the province from the west and snow packs are melting rapidly across the south-half of the province. If the long range forecasts are correct, it's likely there will be visible melting of current snow packs across most of the province lying south of the Swan Hills.

Soil moisture reserves relative to normal as of November 12, 2019 (Map 4)

Fall soil moisture levels are generally at least near normal across the province (**Map 4**), a condition that generally bodes well for a good start to next year's cropping season. Areas that remain below normal as of freeze up include a large area centered near Red Deer (6 to 12 year lows), parts of the extreme northern Peace region, and in small pockets near Grande Prairie and also in the North East (3 to 6 year lows). However winter has just begun and there is ample time for these areas to receive further moisture ahead of next year's planting season.

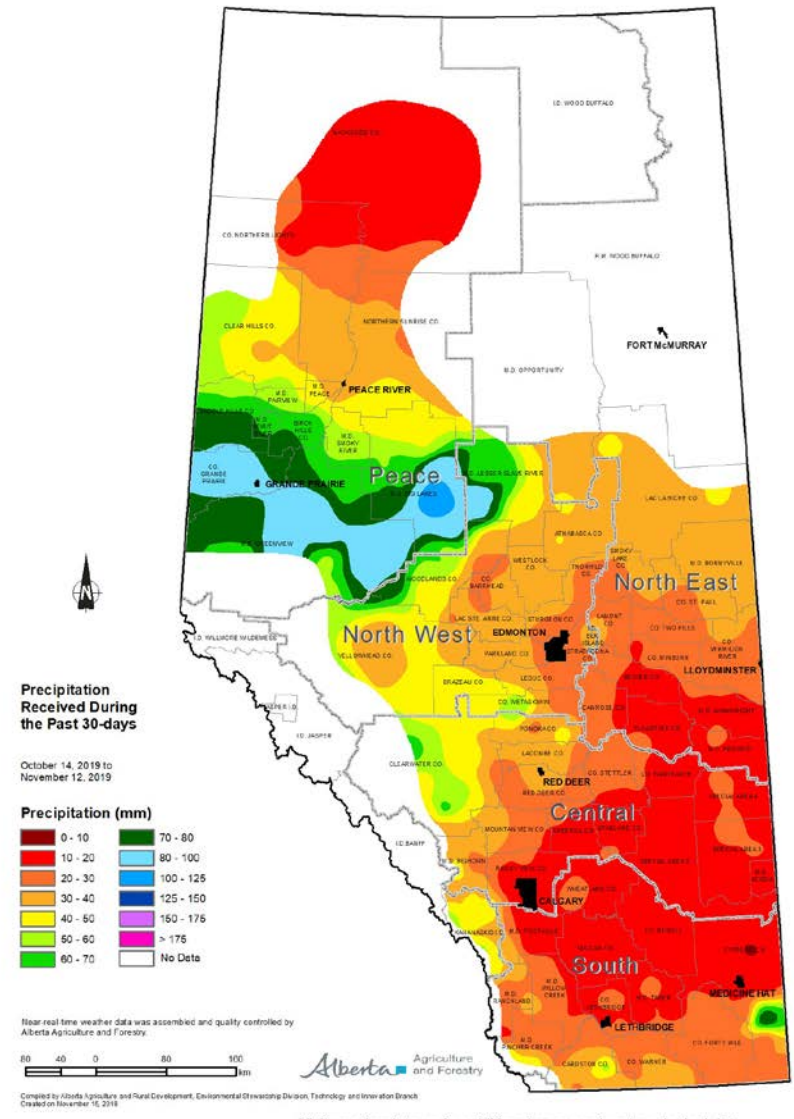
Soil moisture reserves are well above normal through a small area in the central Peace region near Manning, as well as through the southern Peace region, where snows are currently above normal. A warm spring may be needed in these areas to dry surface soils in a timely manner and allow time for planting. If this occurs, there will be ample moisture to get crops off to a good start.

Map 1



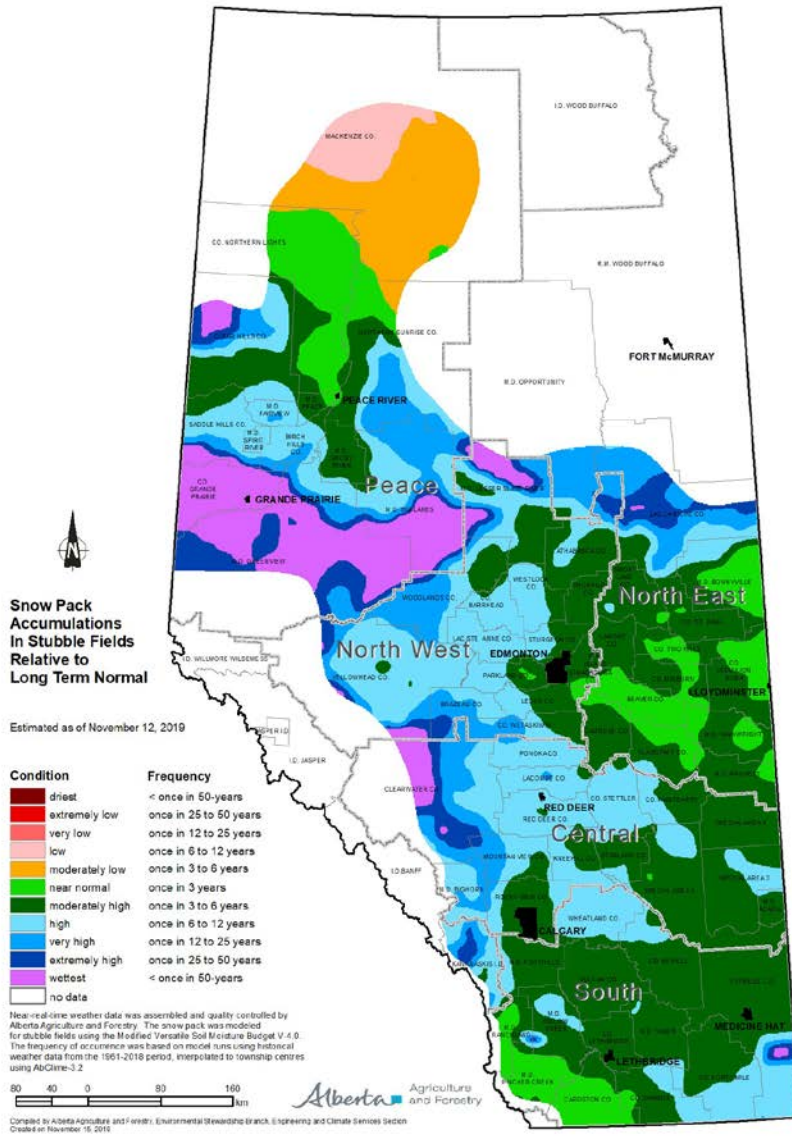
Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

Map 2



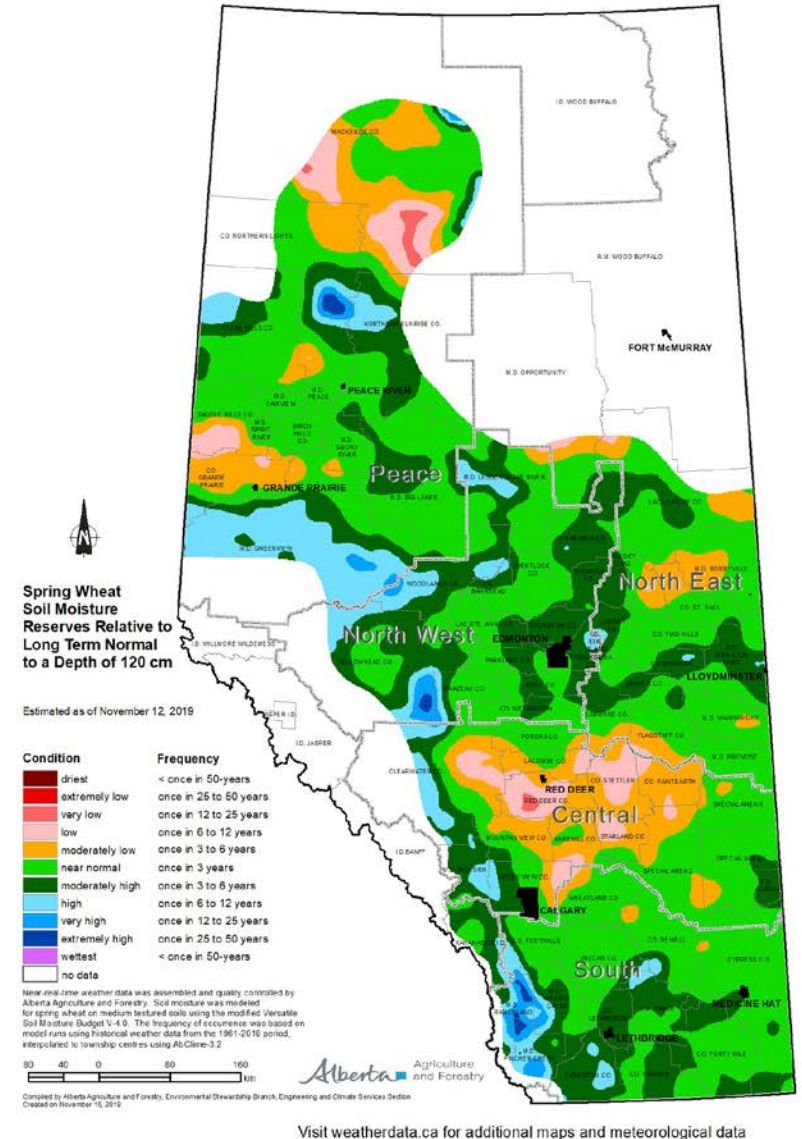
Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

Map 3



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

Map 4



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data