Agricultural Moisture Situation Update
June 13, 2024

Synopsis

Since the last report (June 6, 2024), the province has continued to receive variable rainfall which has been more concentrated in the northeastern areas of the province. While the southern half of Alberta has seen less than 5 mm over the past 7-day period (**Map 1**), Mackenzie County, R.M. Wood Buffalo, Lac La Biche County, and M.D. of Opportunity have received more than 50 mm. The last 30 days (May 14 to June 12) of precipitation indicate that most of the province is at least near normal relative to long term (**Map 2**). There continue to be areas concentrated in the Central and South regions that are still very low or low relative to normal: Cardston and Warner County, scattered areas in the foothills within Clearwater County and Jasper I.D.. With the continued moisture as we would expect to see this month from historical record, there is an expectation of returning to normal in these dryer regions.

Growing Season Precipitation Accumulations

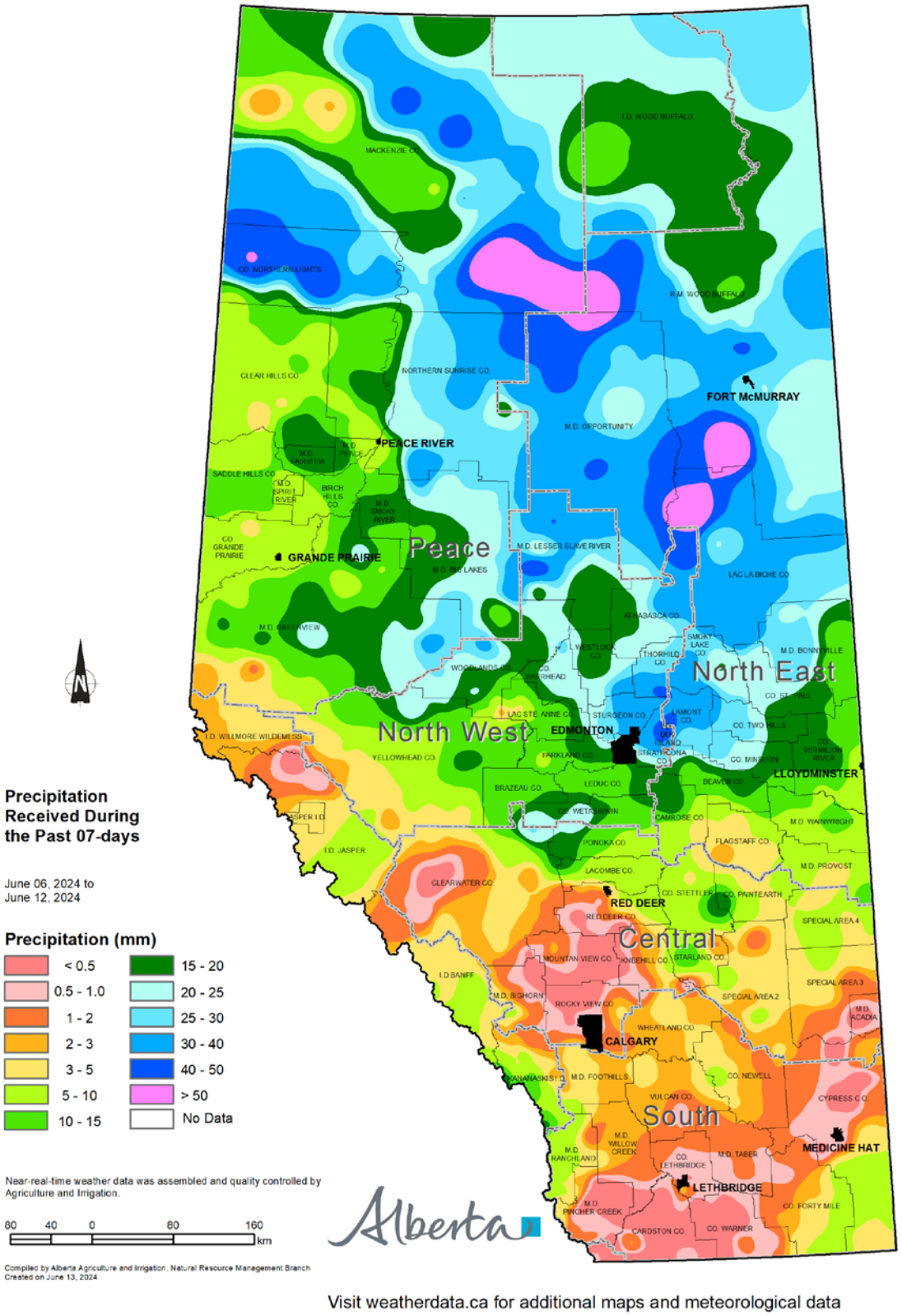
Our current growing season precipitation is beginning to migrate from the lows to the higher ends of normal (**Map 3**). The western side of the Peace, North West, west region of Central, and west areas bordering B.C. in the South are still on the low end relative to normal. It is evident that the recent intense rainstorms have the east Peace region experiencing some of the wettest conditions in the past 50 years which furthers the narrative of “variable” precipitation conditions in our province this year.

Soil Moisture Reserves

A good portion of Alberta’s agricultural areas have seen improved soil moisture reserves, while Grande Prairie, west of Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary, west and south of Lethbridge remain dryer (**Map 4**). The Peace agricultural regions are on the opposite end of the spectrum with much wetter conditions than normally expected. Seeding has almost been completed in the province (or at least very close to being complete at the time this report is being written); plant available water is at least 80 mm (**Map 5**) for the majority of the agricultural areas. Central east and south of Red Deer are indeed drier, as well as the regions near Grande Prairie north. Fields have been observed to have some standing water in the areas of oversaturation but breaks of warmer dry weather should remedy this situation.

https://open.alberta.ca/publications/moisture-situation-update

Map 1



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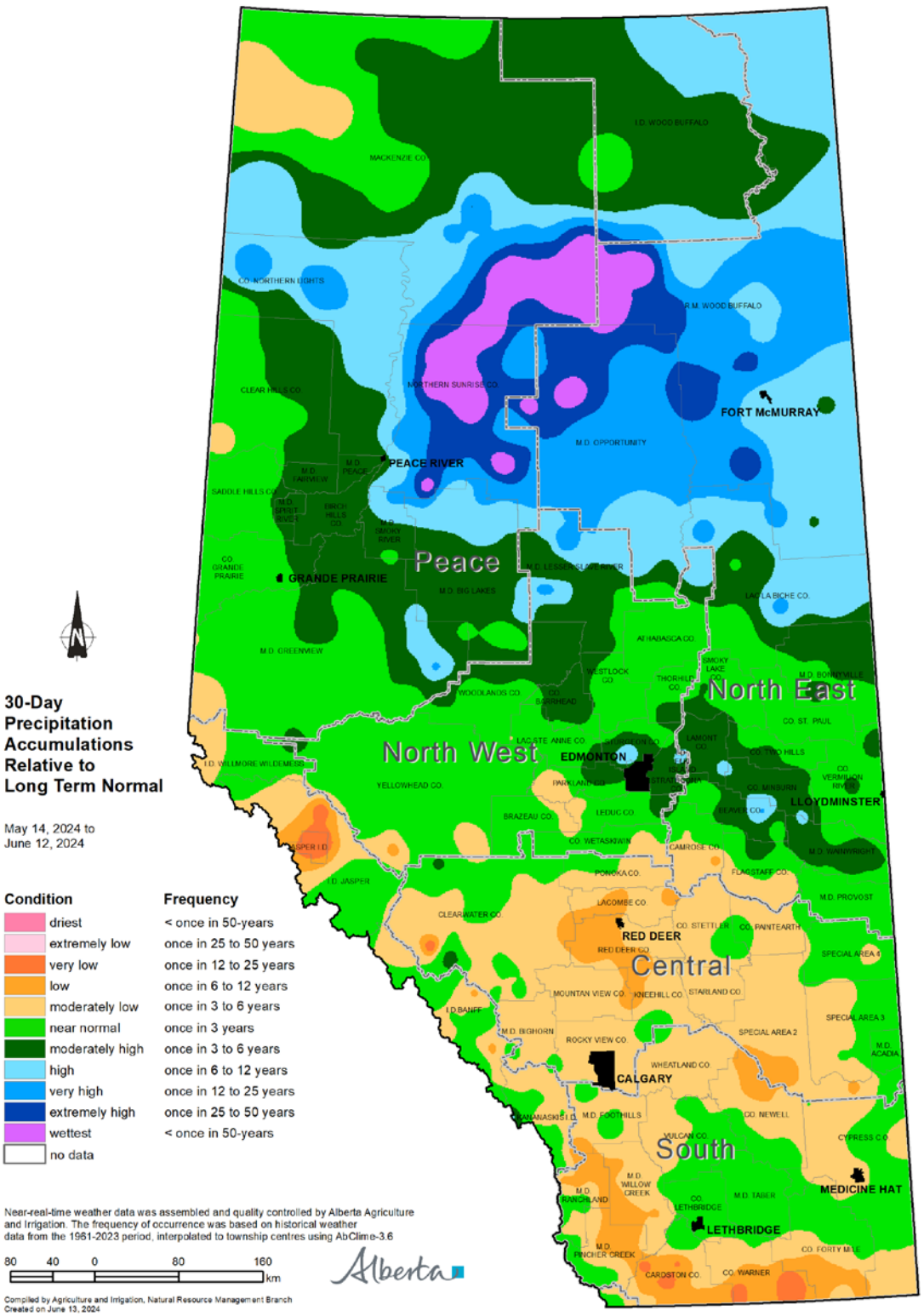
Map 2



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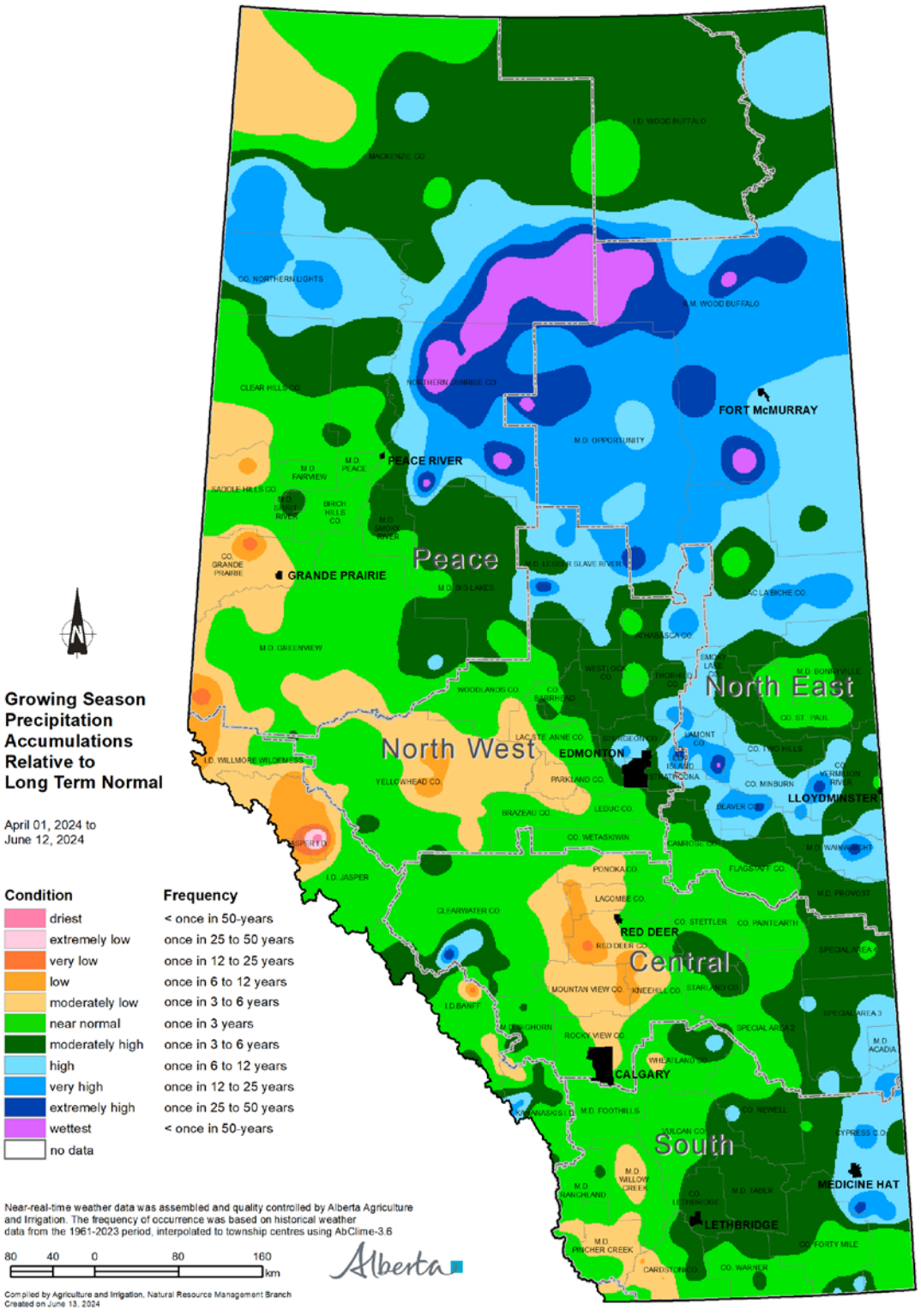
Map 3



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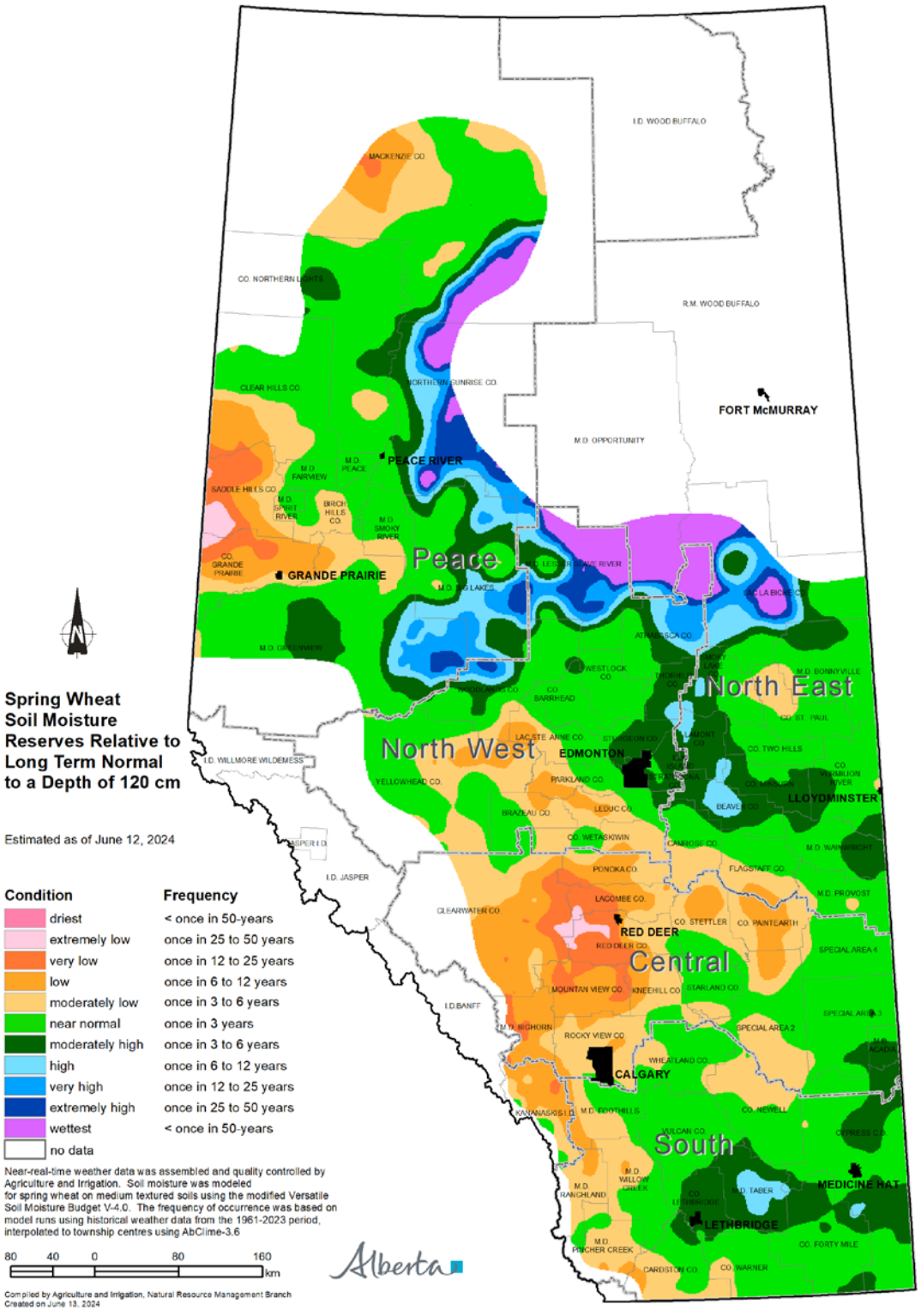
Map 4



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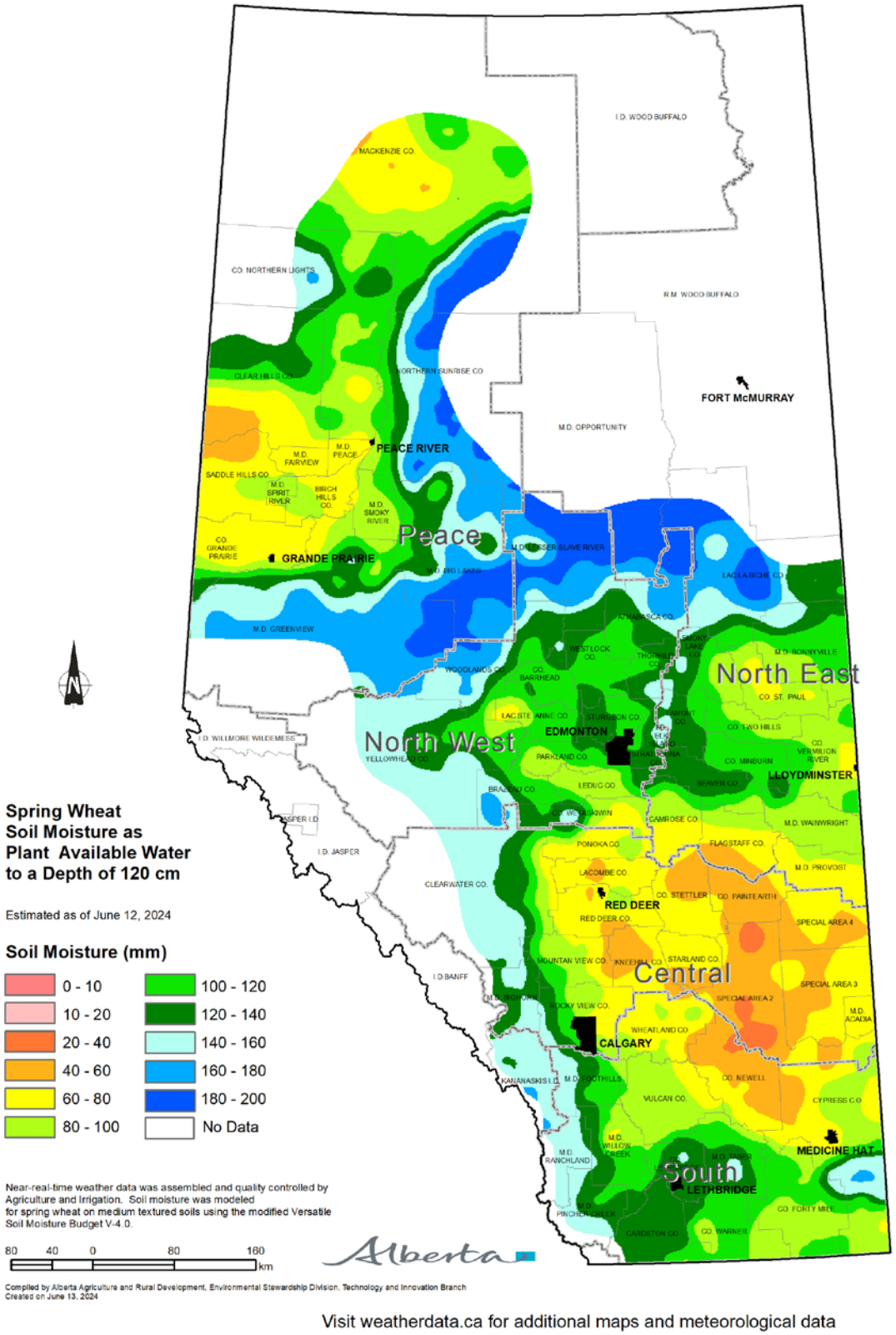
Map 5



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