

# The Canadian Agriculture Weather Prognosticator

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## WORLD WEATHER ISSUES

- South America Weather Continues To Be Favorable For Early Season Planting Of Corn And Soybeans
- Rain is Needed In Western Argentina
- Rain Coming In Parts Of Western And Eastern Australia Will Offer Temporary Relief, But No Drought Busting Rain
- Northern Europe Drought Is Slowly Easing
- Russia's Volga River Basin Getting Some Timely Rain
- Late Season Monsoon Depression In India Bolstered Topsoil Moisture For Late Season Crops
- U.S. Weather Trends Drier In Southeast And Lower Midwest While Trending Wetter In Oklahoma, North Texas and Upper Midwest
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- SE Canada Corn And Soybean Areas Getting Periodic Rain To Slow Farming Activity

## Patience: Better Days Will Evolve

Eyes will role when the best advice a weatherman can give is to be patient, but that is key to the present insanity. It has been said before, but the Prairies weather can and will change in a flash. Even though snow has already fallen in parts of the Prairies and recent precipitation fell most significantly in areas that need it the least and dryness is prevailing in the south there is reason for hope.

Even though the atmosphere will be colder than usual for the next couple of weeks and some of the coldest air of the season will descend upon the region soon, the arctic will eventually be drained of cold air and warming will take place. The best news is that these are only the last days of September leaving opportunity for better weather in October and November.

It is easy to think back just a couple of years ago when the weather never changed long enough to get crops harvested before winter set in, but before being depressed over that we need to also remember that there have been years in which bad September weather was followed by better October weather

and it was not too long ago that late September and October weather adversity was followed by a tremendously good November.

The forecast does not look all that great at the moment, but the odds are relatively good that changes will come along in time to support some late resumption in harvest progress for the areas that are temporary stuck on hold because of either snow cover or because too much moisture.

The best advice is to be patient and to plan ahead. The window of warmer and drier weather may be narrow when it comes and being prepared to go will be key in successfully beating Mother Nature. There is hope for better weather both with and without El Nino, but its duration may not be long.

One of our "wild cards" for 2018 harvesting is in El Nino. El Nino could bring warmer and drier weather, but it has not evolved yet and if it begins evolving it will do so very slowly. That will result in ongoing cold weather in at least a part of October and precipitation that comes in the resulting cold northwesterly flow pattern aloft will likely persist.

Another misfortunate situation prevailing right now is a large pool of very warm ocean water near the Aleutian Islands in the north-central Pacific Ocean. Not only is the ocean surface water warm there, but anomalously warm conditions were intensifying in the past few weeks.

The warm water is resulting in a strong ridge of high pressure over the eastern Gulf of Alaska and western British Columbia. The presence of these features will reinforce the strong northerly to northwesterly flow pattern aloft that has been prevailing across western Canada recently. That is the primary reason for the recent cold bouts. El Nino, if it ever evolves significantly will displace that high pressure ridge to the east bringing warmer air to western Canada and colder air to the eastern parts of the nation.

Even though there is not much reason to expect a significantly long break in this cold pattern there is reason to believe that short term bouts of improved weather will occur. It is too early in the year for a continuous feed of unusually cold air to pour

# Patience: Better Days Will Evolve (continued from page 1)

through the Prairies. That raises the potential for the cold air to be drained from the arctic at times resulting in short term bouts of drier and warmer weather. It is during these short term bouts of drier and warmer weather that fieldwork is most likely to be accomplished. There is some potential for some warming to occur a couple of times in this next two week period, but they will be brief episodes and conditions for fieldwork will not be ideal. Fieldwork should be able to advance relatively well during these short term breaks in the pattern.

Last week's Prognosticator suggested that some warming would occur late this week and into the first days of October. Well, that is not going to verify for the reason noted above in regard to the warm pool of water and resulting high pressure ridge in the Gulf of Alaska.

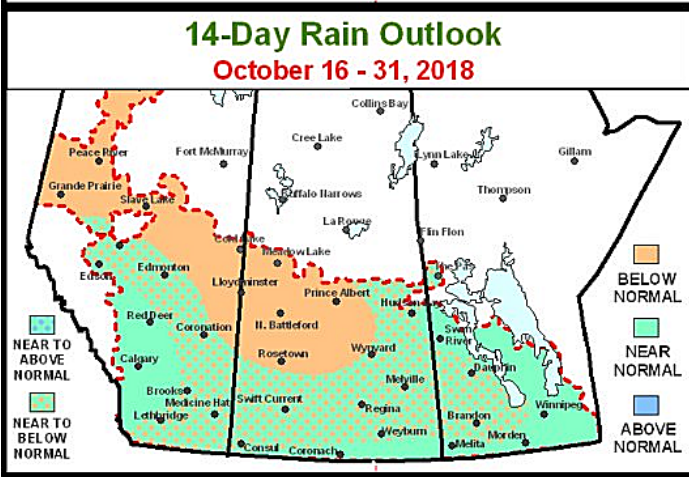
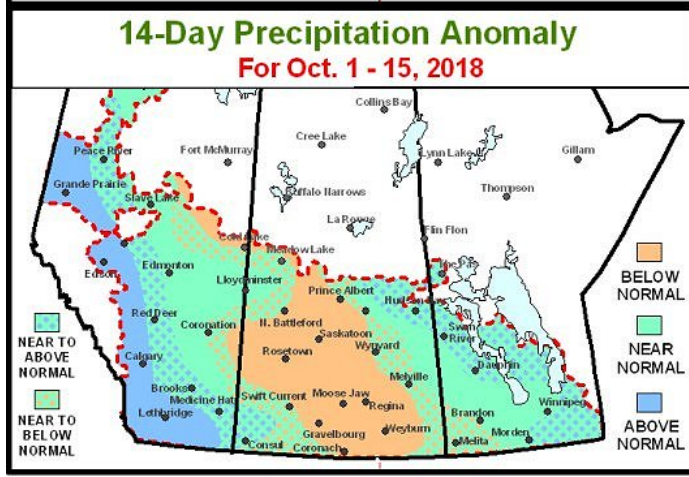
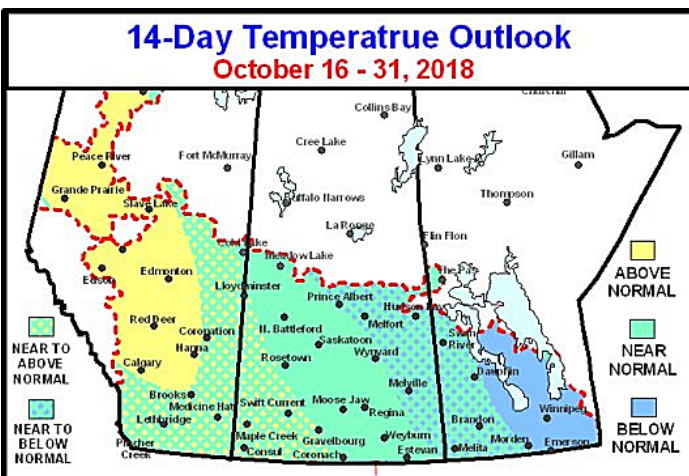
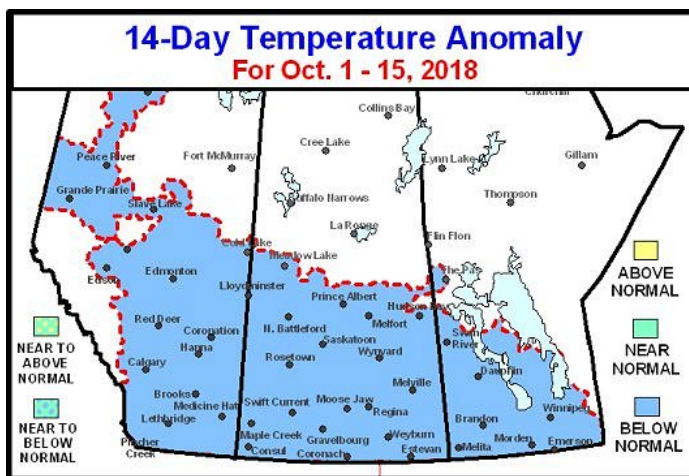
This week's forecast maps for October are going to keep the cooler than usual temperature bias in place into the third week of October. Certainly the first half of the month will have a colder bias. Some warming will begin in the west in the third week of the month and things will get better toward the end of the month.

Be careful here. There will be some temporary bouts of warming over the next couple of weeks, but they should quickly be followed by more cold weather. These quicker bouts of warming will be separated by short bouts of precipitation, but we believe there will be a longer period of improved weather forthcoming later in the month of October. Patience will be a virtue in this situation.

Some producers residing in the central Prairies will not be bothered by precipitation nearly as much as other areas in the far west and eastern

parts of the region. Fieldwork should advance relatively well in the heart of Saskatchewan, but that is an area that has had quite a bit of success with farming activity already. Western and southern Alberta will be one of the areas that receives precipitation often enough to disrupt fieldwork periodically. The Peace River region is another area of possible on going bouts of precipitation. Far northeastern Saskatchewan and portions of Manitoba is another area that may be frustrated over the precipitation pattern, but be patient and a break in the pattern should eventually evolve.

The bottom line is one for improvement in the second half of October with temperatures trending warmer and precipitation lighter as time moves along. Snow cover will decrease and fieldwork will increase.



# China Soil Conditions A little Mixed For Farming

China weather over the past couple of weeks has been favorable in the vast majority of crops produced in the nation. Most all areas have received rain at one time or another and sufficient amounts have occurred to maintain favorable conditions for winter crop planting and late summer crop development.

Pockets of dryness are present. The largest region of dryness is in Liaoning and Hebei along with areas of Inner Mongolia located to the immediate north. Topsoil moisture in these areas is short to very short. A portion of the dry region will get rain in this coming week to help ease the situation, but most of that will fall in Liaoning and Jilin leaving Hebei dry.

The northeast corner of China produces a large portion of the nation's soybeans and corn. The area has been a little wetter biased at times this month resulting in a slow down in summer crop maturation rates and harvesting. A dry and warm weather bias is desired to expedite field progress. Instead, the region is going to see a moisture boost over the next few days further delaying farming activity.

The ground in Jilin and Heilongjiang will become saturated with moisture once again and portions of Liaoning will become more favorably moist by this time next week.

In the meantime, a large part of

east-central China will experience little to no rain and warm temperatures resulting in a net loss in soil moisture. The drier conditions will be very good for advancing summer crop maturation and early season har-

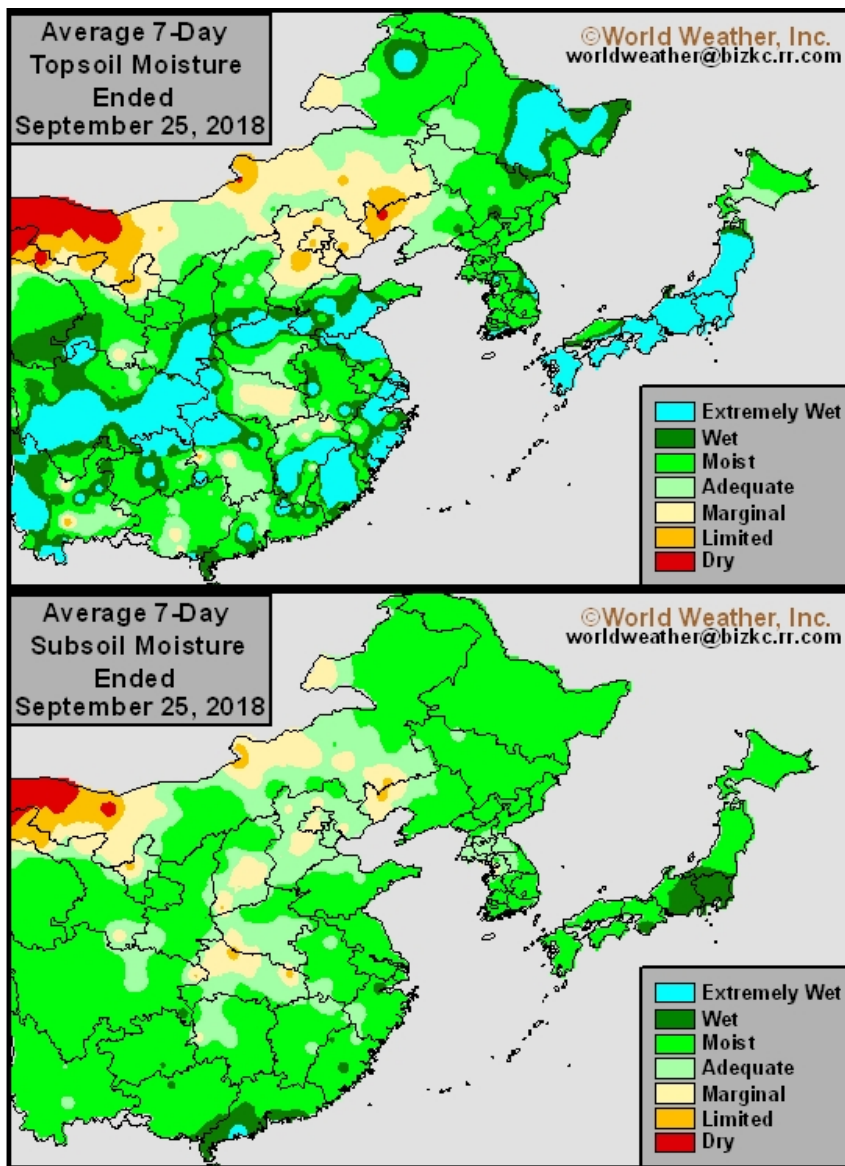
vesting. some areas running a little dry not too far from areas that are slightly wet. There has not been much damage from tropical cyclones this season, but Typhoon Mangkhut reached the southwest part of the nation im-

acting some rice and sugarcane, but damage to those crops was not as great as expected.

East-central China will go through much of the next two weeks without significant precipitation. The primary reason for this is tropical activity. Typhoon Trami will move through western and southwestern Japan over the next few days producing torrential rain and flooding from the Ryukyu Islands into western Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu.

A second tropical cyclone will develop soon to the south southeast of Guam and that storm will move through the Ryukyu Islands of Japan a week from now and then possibly move farther to the northeast impacting South Korea while skirting portions of western Japan.

The two large tropical cyclones impacting Japan and the Korean Peninsula will leave high pressure in place over eastern China resulting in the drier and warmer biased weather for the next ten days to two weeks. Farming activity should advance well during the two weeks because of the drier bias.

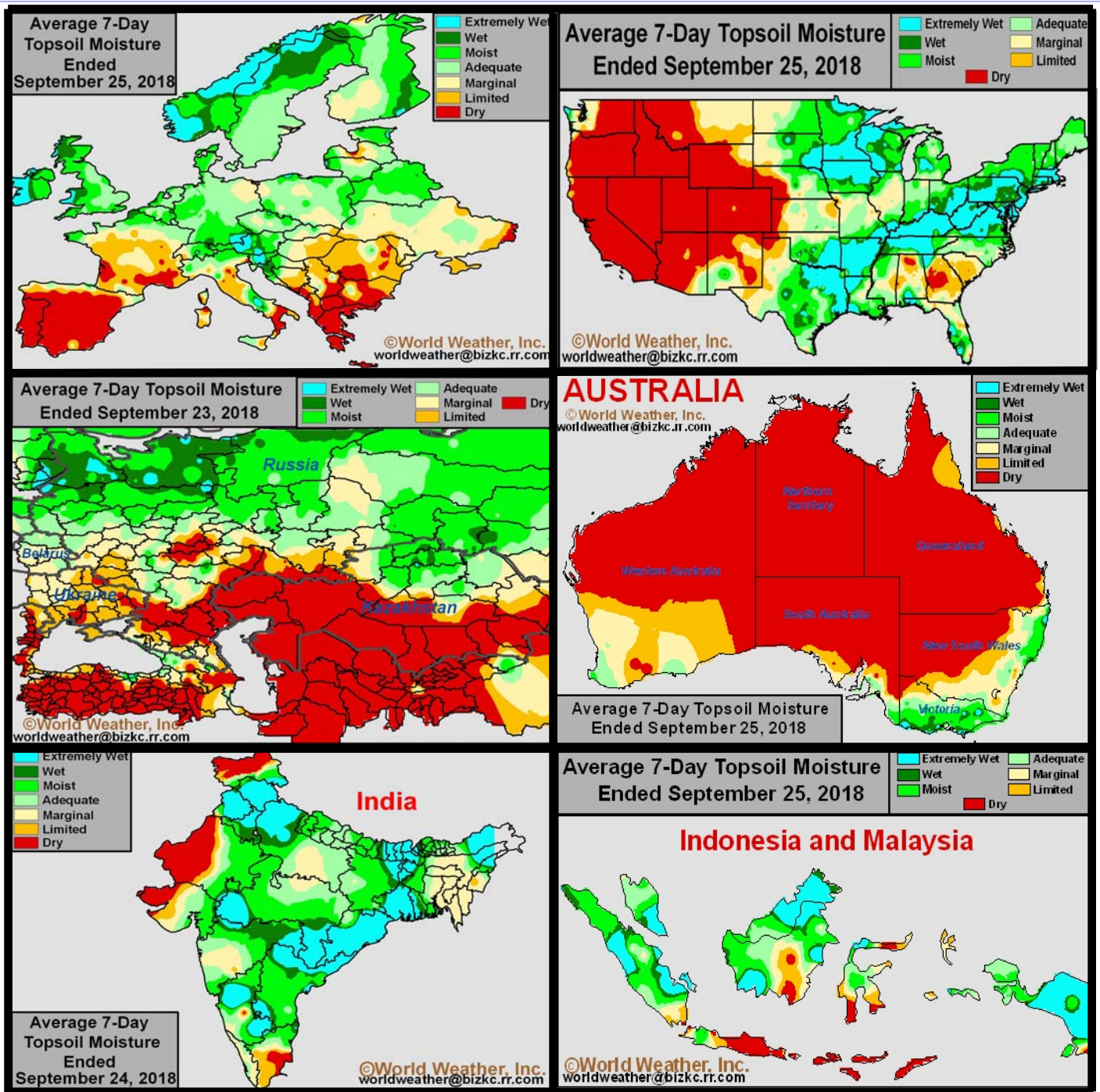


vesting.

There is enough soil moisture present in east-central China to support wheat planting, as well, although some need for more moisture will evolve soon.

Soil moisture in other parts of eastern China are more mixed with

# Selected Weather Images From Around The World



Relief from dryness is coming ever so slowly in Europe and the western Commonwealth of Independent States. Topsoil moisture has improved in the past week in portions of northern Europe and Russia's upper and middle Volga River Basin, but subsoil moisture in both regions is still very low suggesting much greater amounts of moisture will need to fall before the entire soil column is restored with moisture. Some relief to dryness is likely in southeastern Europe this coming weekend. Australia may also get some relief from dryness in the west this weekend and during the middle part of next week. No general soaking is expected, but enough rain will fall to help improve reproduction and filling of wheat, barley and canola. Some rain from western Australia will reach the east next week, as well. India experienced a late season monsoon depression that brought widespread rain to the nation during the past weekend and topsoil moisture has been improved in many areas. U.S. weather has been mixed recently with warm temperatures and limited precipitation in the lower Midwest and southeastern states. Some rain is needed in the Plains.

# Despite Prairie Weather Woes Drought Prevails

Much of the moisture problem in Canada is tied to the cooler than usual weather that has recently evolved. Soil conditions are not too wet in the absolute sense—at least not in a broad manner across the Prairies.

Certainly western, Central and northern Alberta has had too much moisture through much of the late summer and that is why so much of the crop was green with the season's first killing frost and freezes impacted the region. Northwestern Saskatchewan and pockets from northeastern Saskatchewan into Manitoba have also trended wetter recently.

The precipitation pattern has not changed much from that which prevailed all summer and for that matter the pattern looks similar to that of last year, as well. Even though the precipitation biases remain unchanged the temperatures have cooled off significantly reducing evaporation and increasing drying times.

The cool weather has left some moisture surpluses around in the wetter biased areas noted above and allowed some snowfall to impact the region. The combination of these two influences has resulted in the very frustrating environment plaguing

parts of the Prairies today.

Recent rainfall in the Prairies has brought up topsoil moisture in some locations in southernmost Saskatchewan, near the U.S. border. Some re-

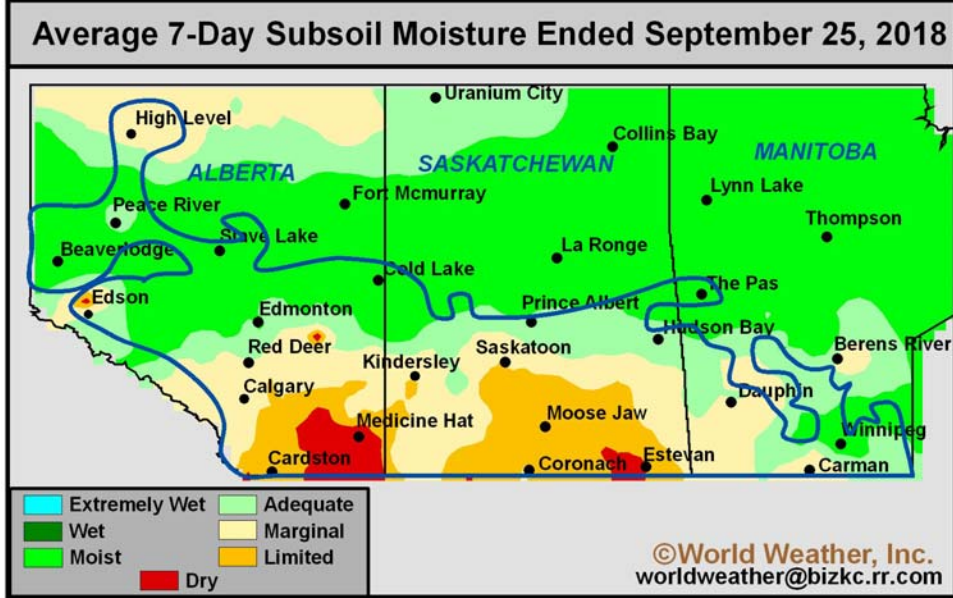
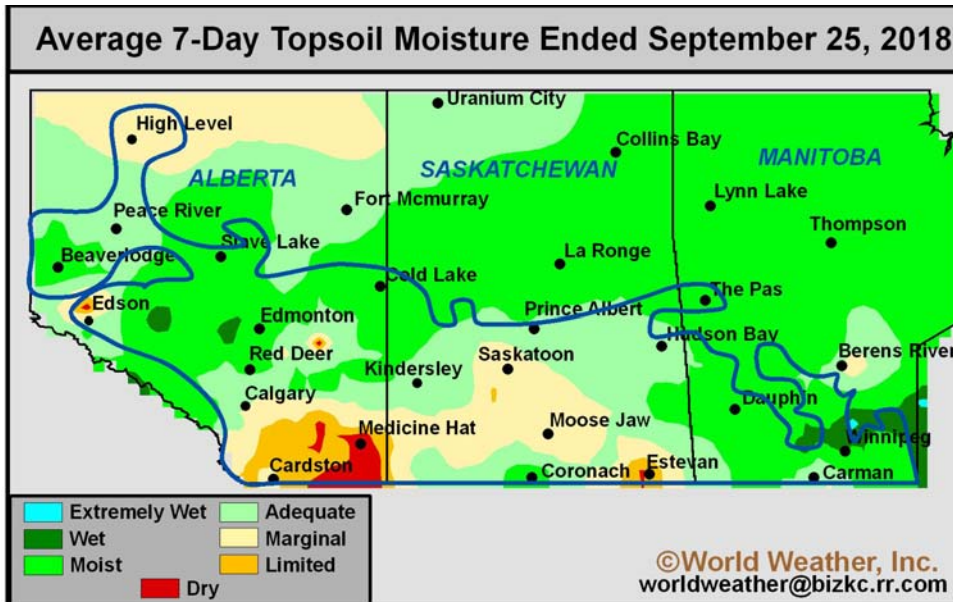
much precipitation in September is , once again, the region from far southern Alberta into central portions of Saskatchewan. Topsoil moisture has seen some improved moisture in recent weeks, but subsoil conditions are still too dry. Drought conditions are prevailing.

The next two weeks of weather will appear very similar to that which has dominated the Prairies for the past two growing seasons and that does not offer a general soaking of rain to the drought impacted areas.

Farmers do not want such a soaking rain right now. Too much moisture for late season harvest areas would not go over well, especially with colder than usual temperatures in Place. However, the lack of moisture present today does raise some concern that there may not be enough time this autumn to get sufficient moisture into the ground to prevent

a third spring of dryness in 2019.

Once the Prairies freeze up the precipitation that occurs through the winter will only have a minor impact on spring soil moisture because the moisture might not soak into the ground if there is a great amount of frost in the ground.



duction in dryness has occurred in other areas in Saskatchewan and central Alberta, but especially in Manitoba. Topsoil moisture in Manitoba is now adequately rated after being quite dry in recent weeks.

The one region that has not seen