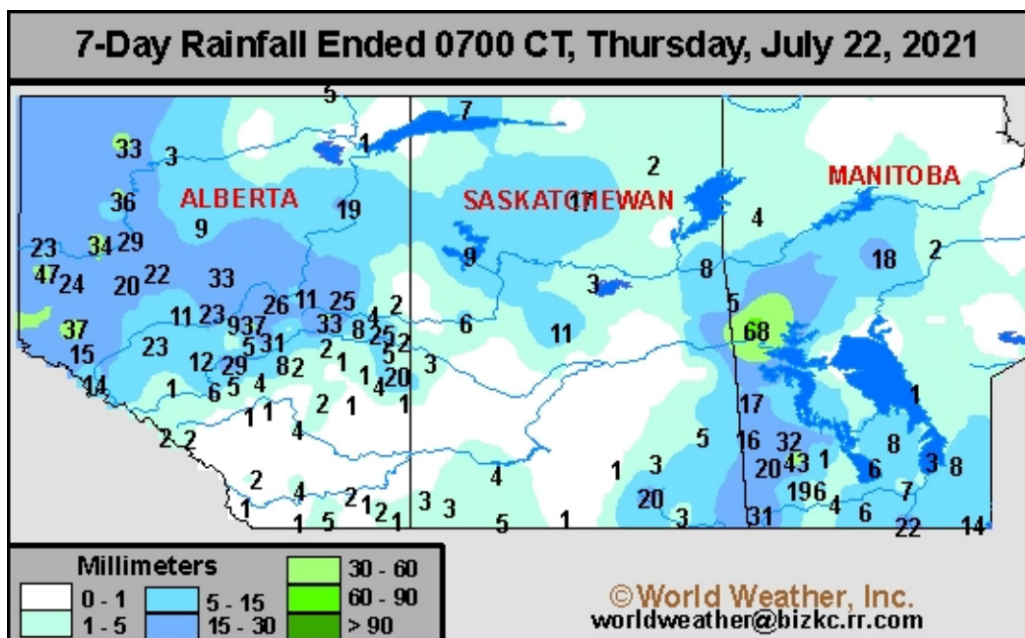


Canadian Prairies Will Not See Much Relief From Dryness

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, July 22 (World Weather Inc.) – [Temperatures in Canada's Prairies have cooled off this week reducing crop moisture stress; however, rainfall continued lacking in many areas leaving drought status mostly unchanged.](#) Drought has forced crops to advance in development faster than usual at the expense of potential yield and quality. Rain was reported in western and northern Alberta where the best improvement in soil moisture and crop conditions has occurred recently. That same region will receive additional rain while temperatures stay mild resulting in good crop development potential. [Most other areas in the Prairies will experience ongoing dryness that will maintain crop stress, despite less oppressive heat.](#) There was enough rain this past week in western Manitoba to lift topsoil moisture and reduce crop stress briefly.

Northern and far western Alberta saw several waves of rain over the past seven days with totals ranging from 0.43 to 1.46 inches through this morning. Pockets in central Alberta received 0.16 to 1.14 inches of rain, though most locations were dry. Several areas in western Manitoba also received 0.75 to 1.69 inches of rain while other areas in Manitoba and southeastern Saskatchewan reported 0.20 to 0.87 inch of moisture. The remaining portions of Alberta and Saskatchewan were dry or mostly dry.

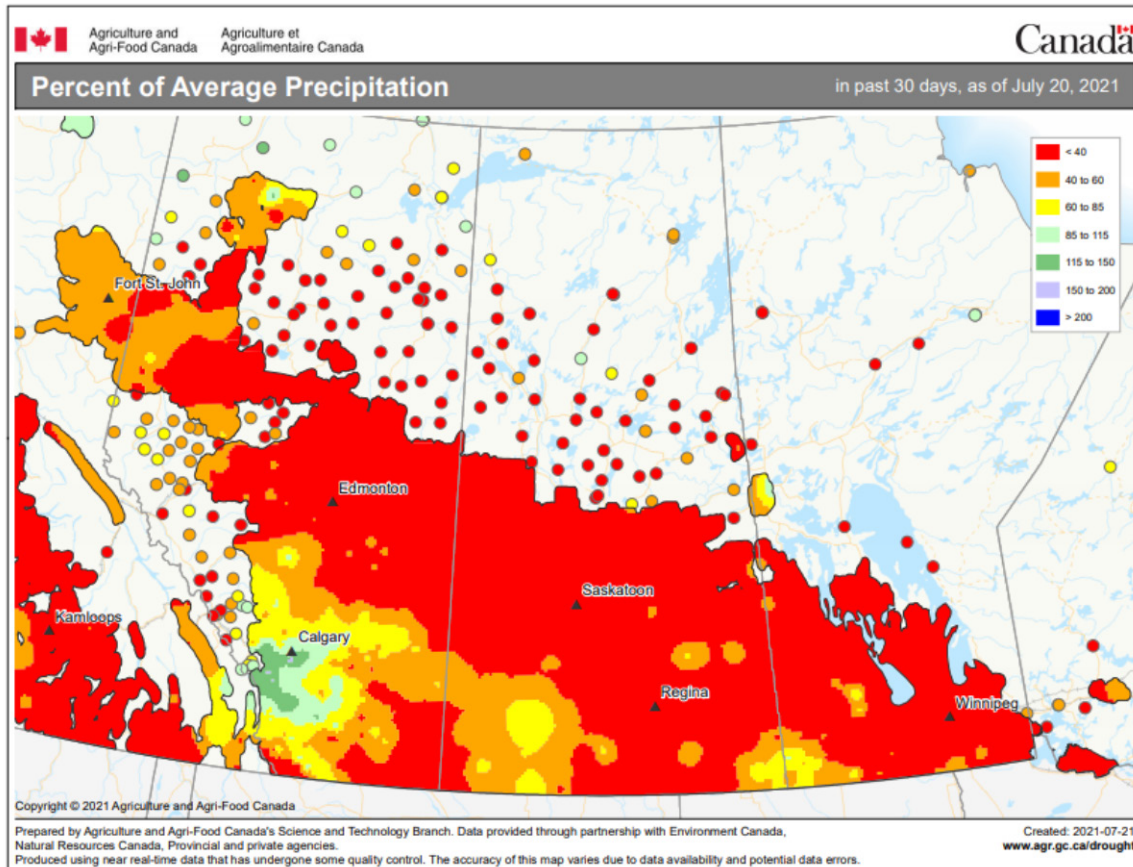


A large portion of the Prairies were drier biased during the past month. However, a few pockets near Calgary, Alberta received 85-150% of normal rainfall for the 30-day period ending July 20. Most other production areas received less than 60% of normal precipitation during this time with pockets near the U.S. border in Saskatchewan and Manitoba that reporting 65-80% of normal precipitation.

Temperatures were also warmer than normal during the past month. A heatwave at the end of June and early July evolved as a strong high-pressure ridge built over western North America. Although the warmest conditions were noted in British Columbia and the

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U.S. Pacific Northwest, Alberta saw daytime highs often warm well into the 90s Fahrenheit with pockets in the west and south warming above 100 degrees. Saskatchewan often warmed to the upper 80s and 90s while many areas in Manitoba warmed to the 80s and lower 90s. Temperatures since that heatwave have fluctuated between near and above normal. A few days this week in western and northern Alberta reported highs in the 60s and lower 70s and there has been no excessive heat in any other part of the Prairies with the warmest afternoon temperatures getting to the lower 90s Fahrenheit.



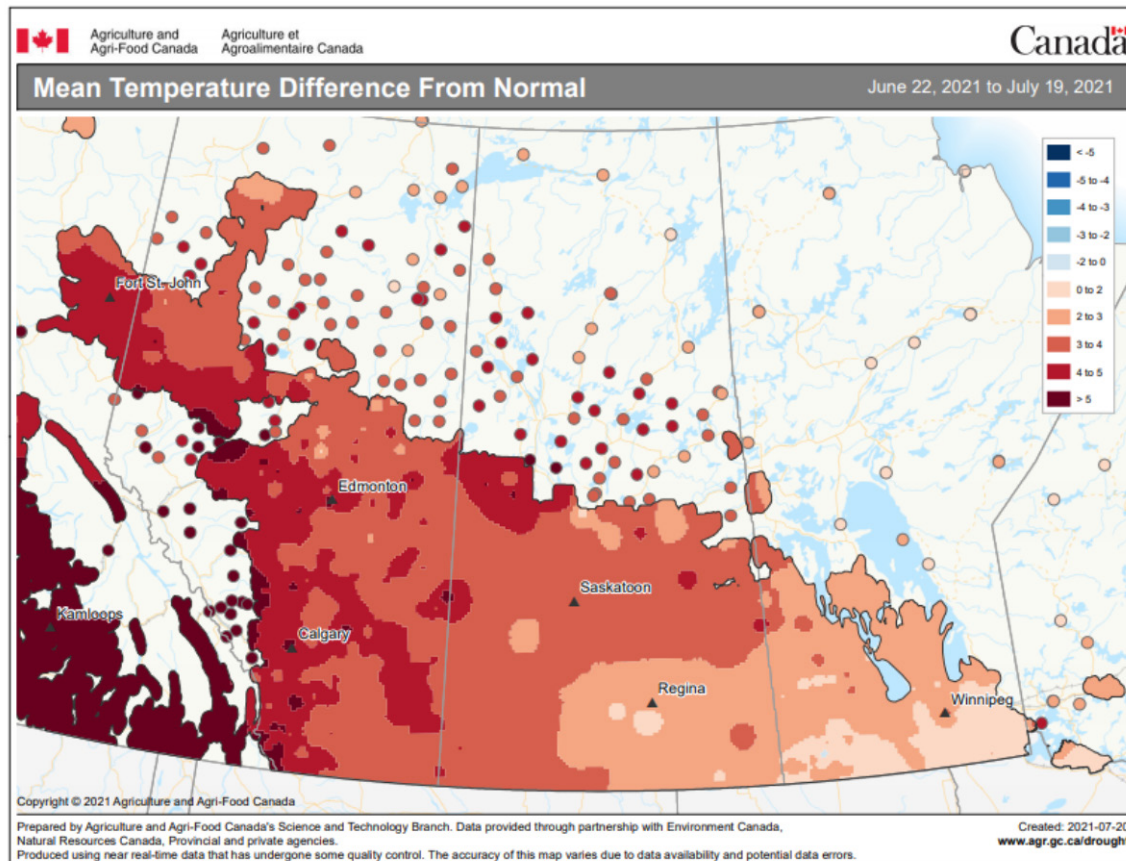
Portions of west-central and northern Alberta have marginally adequate to short topsoil moisture due to periods of rain during the past week. Southeastern Manitoba also received enough rain during the past week to bring soil moisture to similar levels. All other areas in the Prairies have short to critically short soil moisture.

Crop conditions have continued to deteriorate across the majority of southern and east-central Alberta through much of Saskatchewan and in a few areas in Manitoba over the past week. The dryness has caused many crops to develop ahead of normal with reduced yields. Quality has also deteriorated in many areas due to the warmer than normal weather. Production cuts have already occurred in many areas and more declines are expected as the dry weather prevails. There is still time for crop and production improvements if rain begins to fall immediately and prevails periodically through August, but that does not seem very probable.

A series of disorganized disturbances will advance over the southern Prairies and U.S. northern Plains during the coming week. These disturbances will generate erratic

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rainfall that will only offer minor relief in a few production areas. Northern and central Alberta will see the most frequent precipitation with totals ranging from 0.25 to 1.50 inches and locally more by next Thursday morning. Portions of southeastern Manitoba will also receive 0.25 to 1.00 inch of rain Friday as the first disturbance and trailing frontal boundary track over the Prairies. The remaining production areas will not receive enough rain to counter evaporation or impact long-term soil conditions.

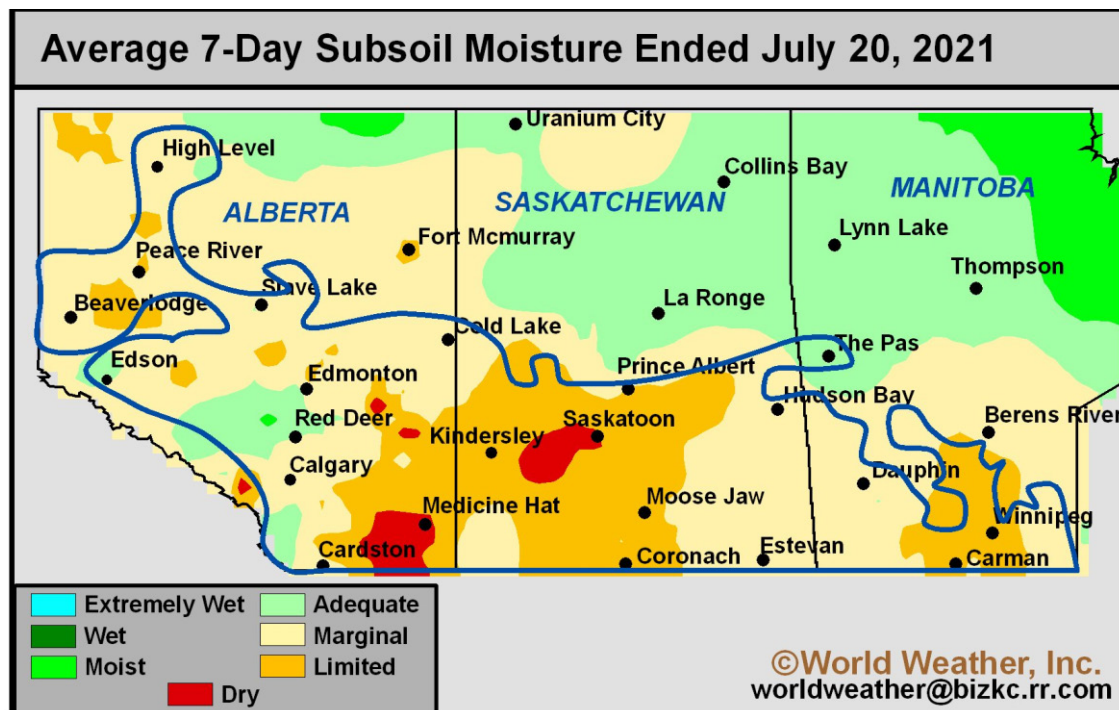
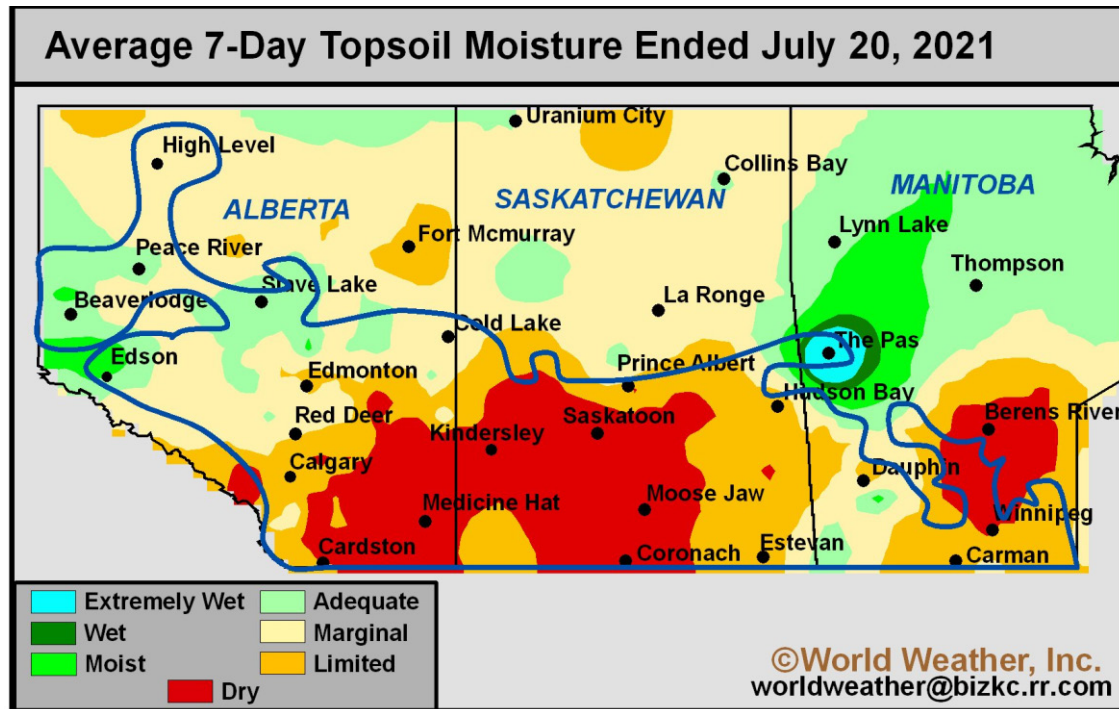


Temperatures will trend near to above normal in most locations with daytime highs peaking in the upper 70s and 80s most often. Portions of southern Saskatchewan and neighboring areas will often warm to the 90s as well while portions of northwestern Alberta and neighboring areas only warm to the upper 60s and lower 70s during the next few days. A similar weather pattern is expected for the Prairies July 30 – August 5.

Rainfall in northern and central Alberta will be enough to keep soil moisture near current levels in most locations by the end of next week. There will be some moisture to support new growth, though the environment will remain far from ideal. Development conditions will otherwise deteriorate in the remaining portions of the Prairies as the ground continues to firm. Production declines will continue until a significant soaking of rain takes place.

Most of the early season crops have already finished out enough that there is little to no potential for a significant boost in production if rain falls. However, corn, soybeans and flax development will continue through August leaving those crops with the greatest potential for change if there is significant rain.

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