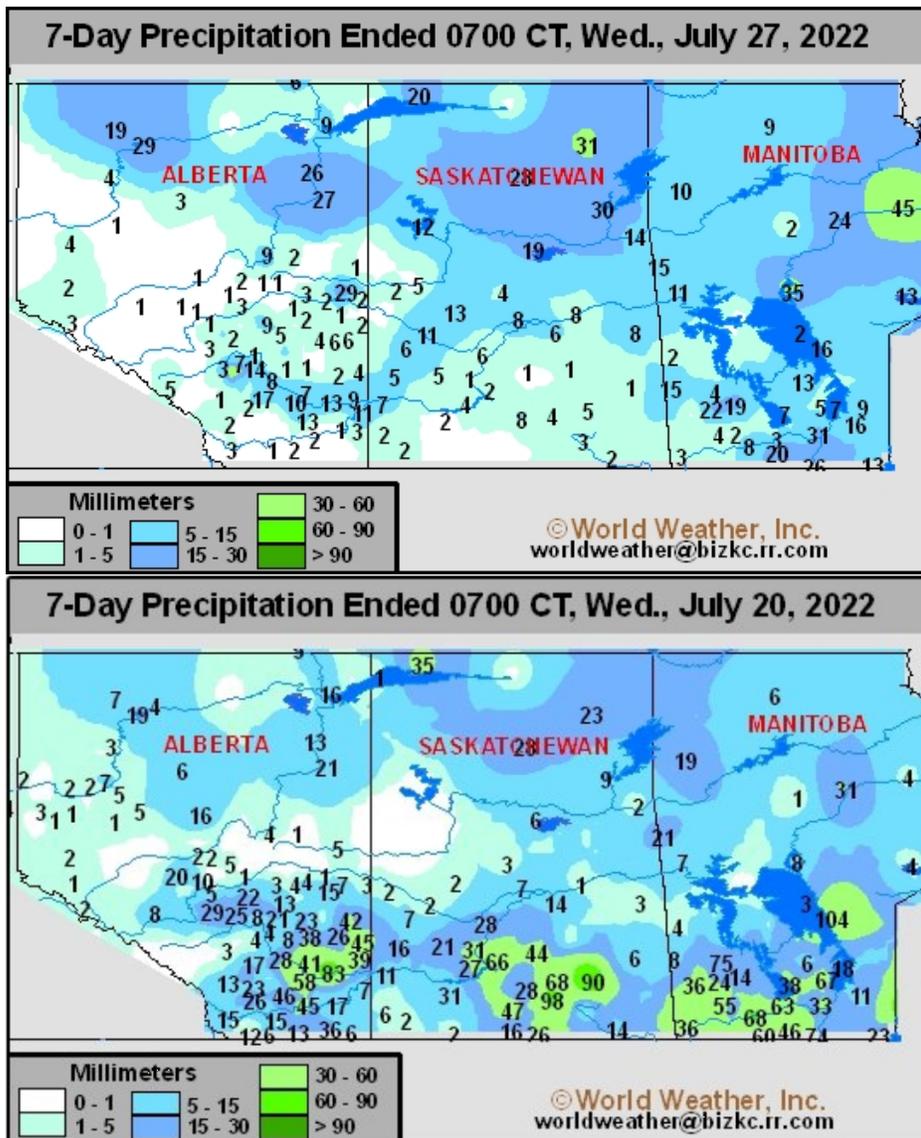


Southwestern Canadian Prairies Drying Out Once Again

By Andrew Owen

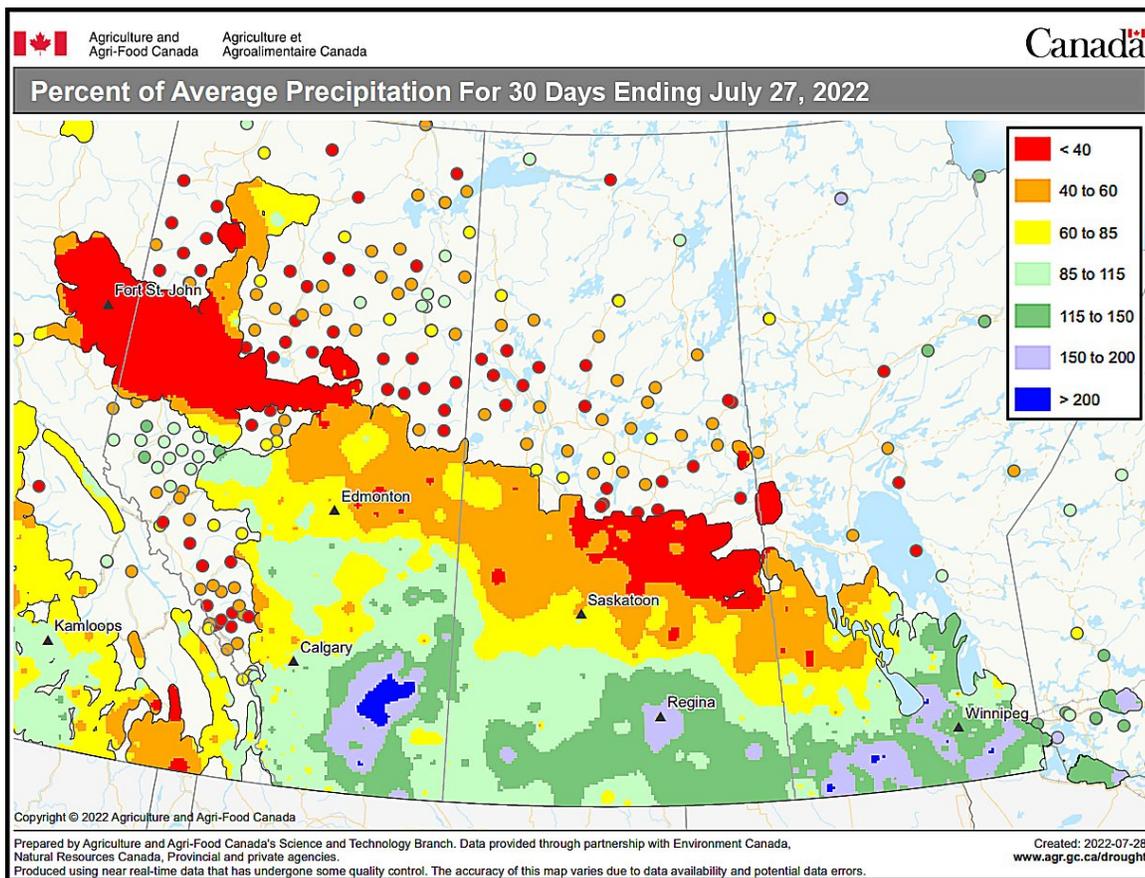
Kansas City, July 28 (World Weather Inc.) – The Canada’s Prairies have experienced a mostly favorable production year with some exceptions. Delayed spring planting in the eastern Prairies resulted in some abandonment and crop development in the region is still a little behind normal. Relief from drought occurred in many areas across the region earlier this growing season and alternating periods of rain and sunshine have supported some fine looking crops with a few exceptions. There are still some locations in the southwestern Prairies that have not seen enough rain to seriously improve production for this year, but those areas are few in number. [A trend change is now underway resulting in a weather pattern similar to that of last year resulting in a general drying trend from the central through southwestern parts of the Prairies and this should continue for a while along with warmer temperatures which may lead to some crop moisture stress in the driest areas.](#)



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Rainfall varied across the Prairies during the past two weeks. Manitoba, central and southern Saskatchewan and southern and portions of west-central Alberta received 0.75 to 4.00 inches of rain with locally greater amounts for the 14-day period ending July 26. However, portions of southwestern Saskatchewan and southern Alberta only received 0.20 to 0.75 inch of rain. The remaining production areas in Alberta and northern Saskatchewan received trace amounts of moisture to 0.75 inch of rain.

During the most recent 30-day period, southern sections of the production region received near to above normal rainfall. Precipitation for the 30-day period ending July 26 ranged from 85-200% of normal with wetter pockets in southern Alberta. Central Alberta received near to slightly below normal rainfall while the remaining production areas were drier or much drier than normal.

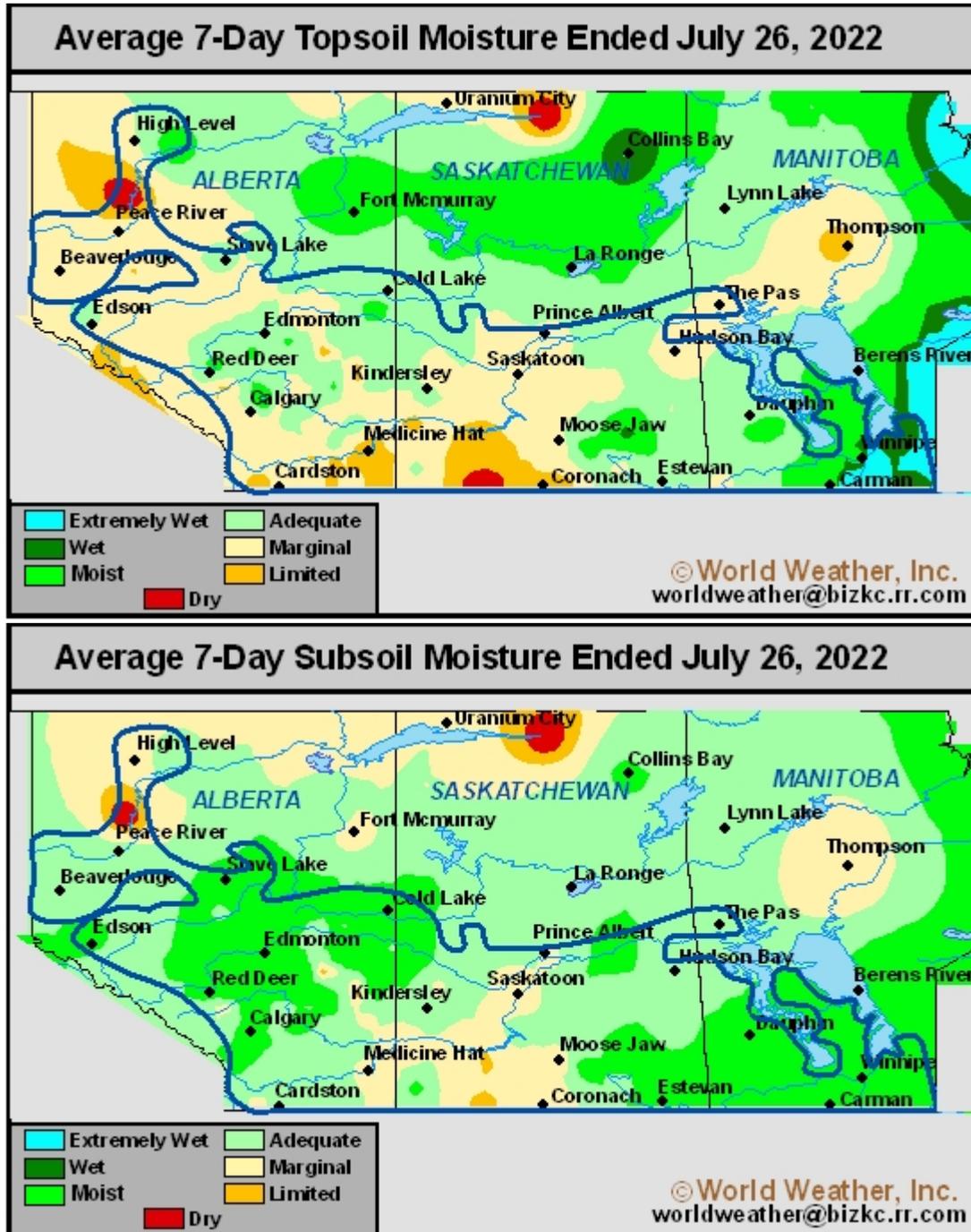


The most recent soil assessment has shown dryness is returning to portions of southern Alberta and southwestern and south-central Saskatchewan. These areas still have adequate subsoil moisture to carry on normal crop development while the topsoil continues to dry out. The remaining production areas generally have adequate amounts of moisture. Dryness is also continuing in a small part of north-central Saskatchewan where the bigger rain event that occurred earlier this month largely failed to bring some relief.

Crop conditions are generally favorable for much of the Prairies. Development is a little behind normal in portions of Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan due to delayed planting this spring, though some warmer weather in recent weeks has helped promote more

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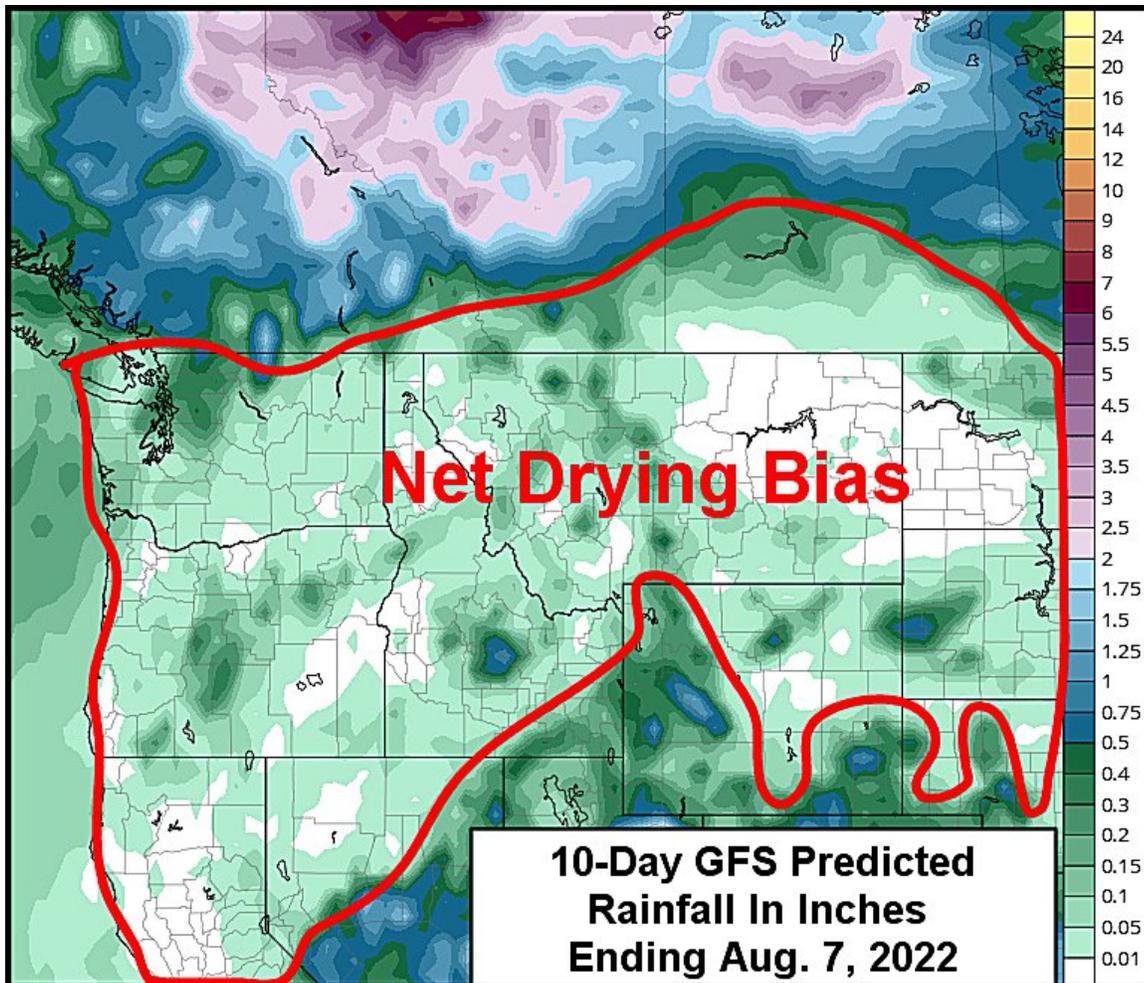
aggressive growth. Wet weather diseases have been a concern as well due to excessive moisture and standing water in some areas, but no significant production impacts were suspected. In the meantime, development may also be a little behind normal in portions of southern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan due to dryness earlier in the growing season.



Going forward, timely rain intertwined with warm weather would be welcome to maintain ideal crop conditions in areas with favorable soil moisture, but some of the drier

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biased areas will need greater rain much sooner. Another week or two of dry weather and warm temperatures from southeastern Alberta into southwestern and south-central Saskatchewan would not go over very well because that region already has a shortage of moisture and crop stress may already be under way.



Rainfall will be highly variable across the Prairies through the middle of next week. Southern sections of Alberta and Saskatchewan will generally trend drier and warmer than normal. A weak high-pressure ridge will initially limit precipitation through early this weekend. Rain potentials will not increase significantly later this weekend or into early next week either as the ridge begins weakening and shifting east.

Daytime high temperatures **in the drier areas** will turn warmer rising from the 70s and 80s Fahrenheit in the next couple of days to readings in the 90s at times late this weekend and next week. Aggressive drying is slated for these locations through at least the middle of next week. Precipitation may also be limited August 4 – 10, which will promote additional drying. Crop development will advance with few concerns during the next few days in areas that are still benefiting from recent past rain, but for the driest areas in both the northwestern U.S. Plains and southwestern Canada's Prairies stress will only intensify from this point forward until significant rain falls. Crop conditions in the wetter areas of the central and southwestern Prairies may start to deteriorate toward mid-August if

Southwestern Canadian Prairies Drying Out Once Again

the drier than normal environment persists while enough stress near the U.S. border and areas southward into Montana and western North Dakota may be threatened with lower yields much sooner.

The remaining production areas in the Prairies will see a mix of rain and sunshine during the coming week. A disturbance and associated frontal boundary will promote more widespread rain to western, northern and far eastern parts of the Prairies today into Saturday with more disturbances bringing rain to the region later this weekend and the first part of next week. Moisture totals by next Wednesday morning will range from 0.25 to 1.50 inches with portions of central and northwestern Alberta receiving 2.00 to 3.00 inches of rain.

Temperatures will be seasonable with highs in the 70s and lower 80s most days, though portions of central Saskatchewan and southern Manitoba will warm to the upper 80s and lower 90s on occasion.

Although some drying is expected in southern and central Manitoba into portions of central Saskatchewan through the middle of next week, these areas will still have enough moisture to maintain aggressive crop growth. Soil moisture will either increase or remain at adequate levels in northern and central Alberta and northern Saskatchewan. The environment will remain generally good for crops produced in these locations, although *some of the more recent weather data suggests excessive rain will be possible in western and northern crop areas of Alberta resulting in some local flooding. World Weather, Inc. believes some of the rainfall advertised over the next ten days is overdone and future model runs will reduce some of the precipitation. If the wet bias verifies some issues with local flooding could result.*

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Frequent waves of rain have helped support a good environment for much of the grain, oilseed, pulse and other crops produced this time of year in the Canadian Prairies. Periods of warm weather have also expedited development rates. Several crops in Manitoba, eastern and southwestern Saskatchewan, and southern Alberta are still developing a little behind normal due to adverse conditions earlier in the growing season. However, prospects are generally favorable across the Prairies. Drier weather with periods of warmer weather will now promote aggressive drying from southern and east-central Alberta into portions of western and southern Saskatchewan through the middle of next week. These locations will initially have enough moisture to maintain aggressive growth during the next several days. However, development may start to slow later this weekend into next week as the ground

Southwestern Canadian Prairies Drying Out Once Again

firms. The need for rain will increase later in August to limit production impacts. The remaining portions of the Prairies will receive enough rain to maintain generally favorable conditions through the middle of next week despite several areas drying down marginally.