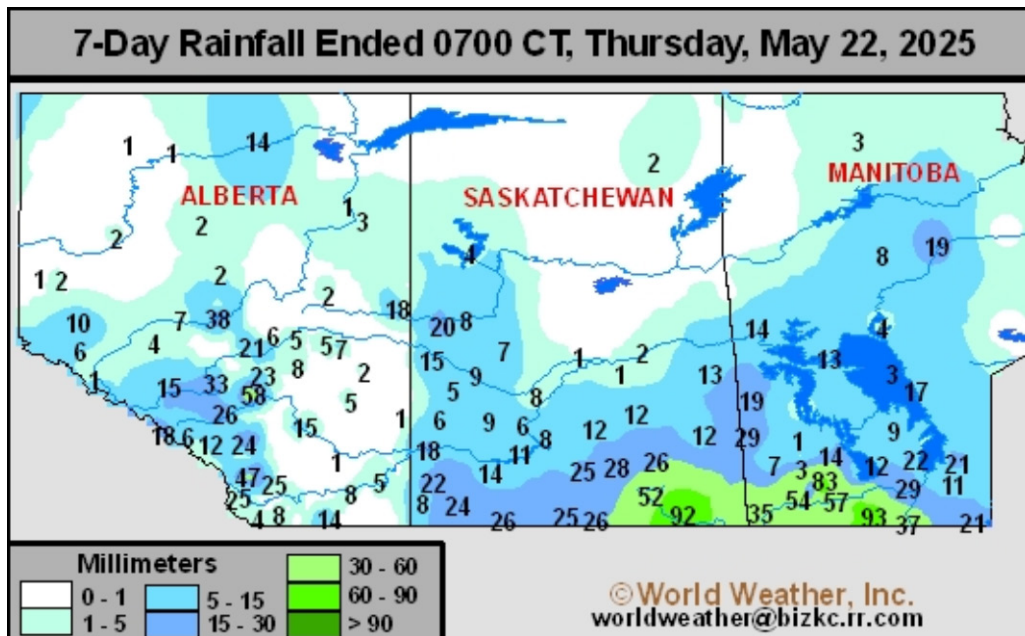


Canadian Prairies Face More Aggressive Drying

By Andrew Owen and Drew Lerner

Kansas City, May 22 (World Weather Inc.) – Precipitation varied across the Canadian Prairies in recent weeks with some receiving timely rain and others trending much drier than usual. Portions of Alberta and Saskatchewan are drying down a little too much or remain too dry for favorable germination and establishment. Precipitation will be limited for the next seven days with only a few light showers and isolated thunderstorms slated for portions of Alberta, northeastern British Columbia, and Saskatchewan. **Net drying is slated across the Prairies with aggressive drying expected next week once temperatures surge above normal. The need for timely rain will steadily increase into June to reduce worries over production impacts as the ground firms.**

Precipitation varied significantly across the Canadian Prairies during the past week. Southeastern Saskatchewan into southwestern and south-central Manitoba received anywhere from 1.00 to 3.66 inches of moisture for the seven-day period ending this morning. West-central Alberta and pockets in southwestern, central, and north-central Alberta received 0.47 to 1.50 inches of rain with local amounts up to 2.28 inches. Other areas in southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba, along with western Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan, received 0.43 to 1.14 inches of moisture. The remaining production areas in Saskatchewan and Manitoba received trace amounts to 0.51 inch of rain. Most other locations in Alberta and northeastern British Columbia were either dry or did not receive enough precipitation to impact long-term soil conditions.

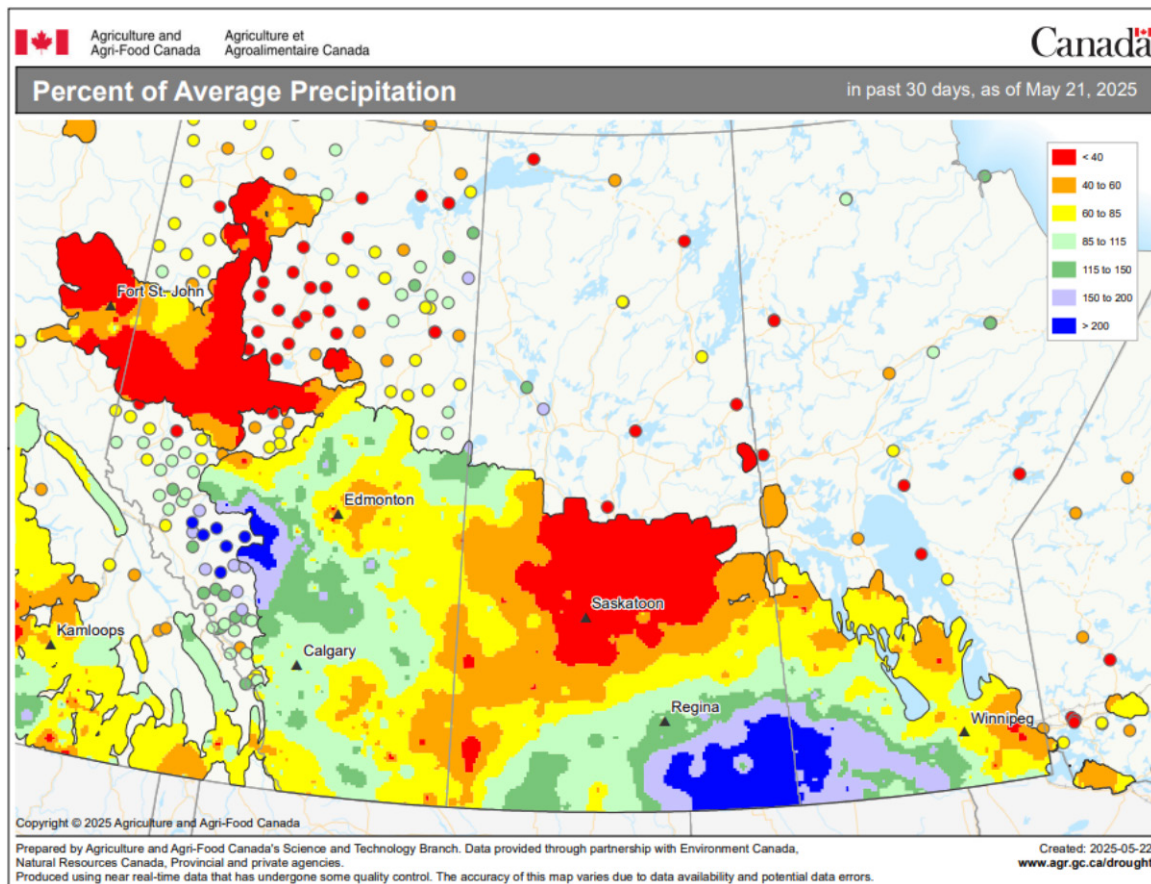


In the most recent 30-day period ending May 21, southwestern Manitoba, a large section of southeastern and south-central Saskatchewan, and west-central Alberta received near or above normal rainfall. Other locations saw precipitation trend near to below normal with many areas in northern and central Saskatchewan, along with Peace River country in northwestern Alberta and northeastern British Columbia, receiving less than 40% of normal

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rainfall. Some of the crop areas in the Peace River region and across the northern parts of Saskatchewan have received very little rain since early this calendar year and such dryness is okay during the winter when evaporation rates are low, but in the warm season this can quickly fester into a real problem.

Periods of cooler than usual conditions were noted in the Canadian Prairies in recent days. Several locations in Manitoba, eastern and northern Saskatchewan, northern and central Alberta, and northeastern British Columbia saw temperatures cool enough for frost and light freezes. Crop emergence was generally minimal and no major production impacts were suspected. Only minor leaf burning was suspected for the most advanced crops, though some of the crops that were damaged may need to be reseeded. Cooler weather in recent days combined with the precipitation and cloudiness otherwise limited aggressive drying, but that will soon change as much warmer conditions return next week.

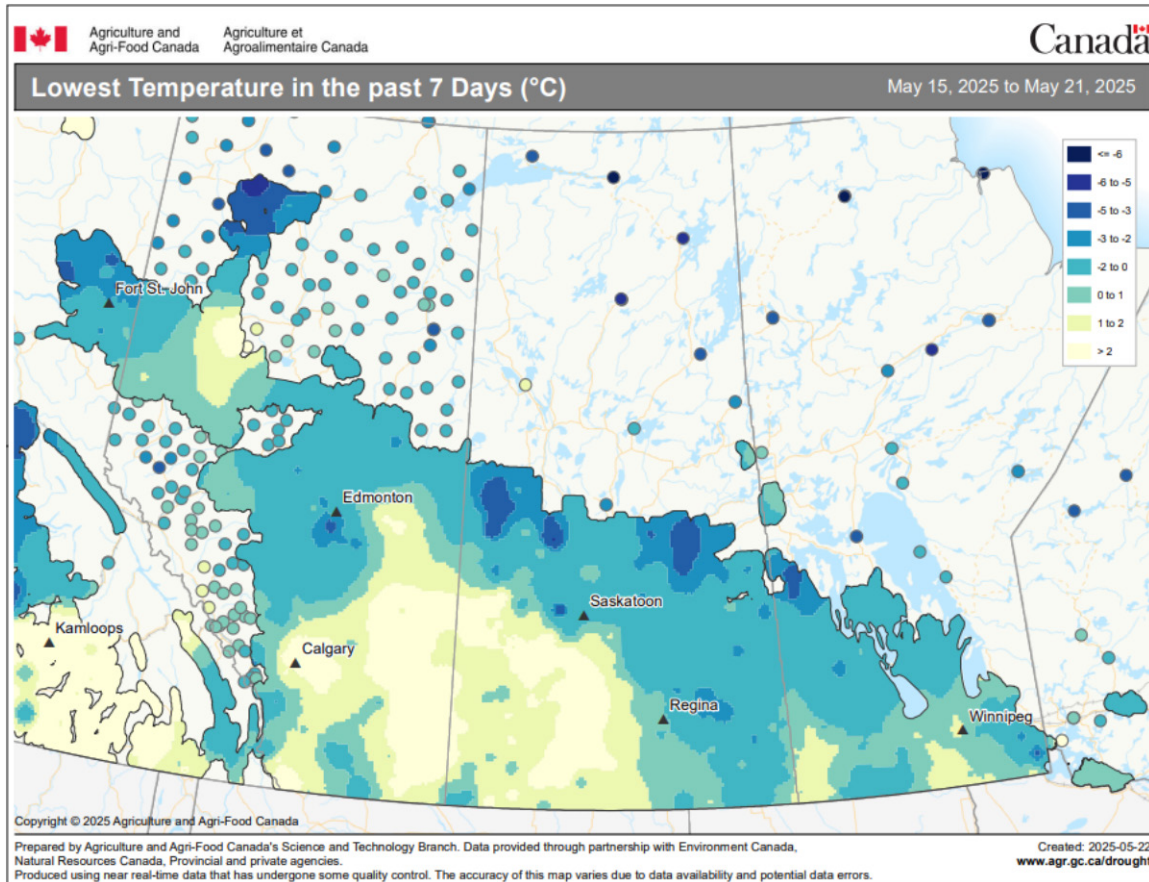


Many areas in Alberta, western and northern Saskatchewan, and northeastern British Columbia have a shortage of moisture despite some spotty rain in recent weeks. Dryness has not developed into drought, "yet", but there is concern for such conditions in the next week to ten days if significant rain fails to evolve. Other locations in the Prairies generally have adequate or marginally adequate moisture.

Planting conditions have varied across the Prairies this spring. While many areas received enough rain to support favorable establishment and growth some have been relying upon residual moisture from melted winter snow to support planting. These latter areas have not seen much precipitation recently which has raised the level of concern

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about the return of drought later this year. The precipitation pattern this spring has been too erratic for ideal conditions across the Prairies and a general soaking is needed in many areas outside of the southeast. There is still sufficient time to improve germination and establishment conditions; however, some of the driest fields need rain now and another ten days of dry and eventually hot weather could lead to a negative impact for production potentials.



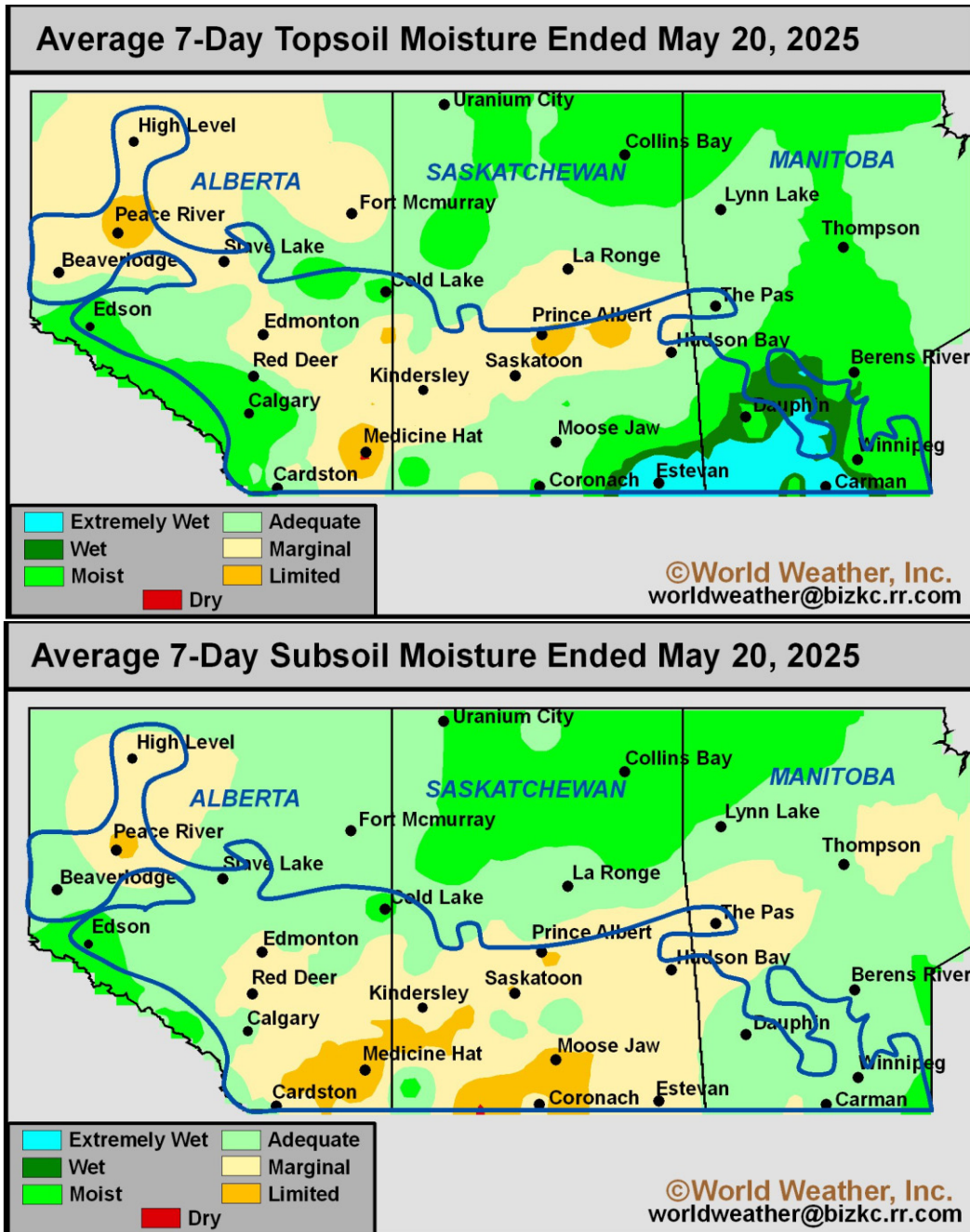
WEATHER OUTLOOK

A large section of the Prairies will trend drier than usual during the coming week. Disturbances will still generate scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms for portions of Alberta, northeastern British Columbia, and western and southern Saskatchewan today and Friday. A high-pressure ridge will then build over western North America this weekend and will slowly shift into central North America next week. Disturbances tracking around the ridge will still bring spotty rain to portions of Alberta and northeastern British Columbia while Saskatchewan and Manitoba receive little to no rain. Alberta, northeastern British Columbia, and a few locations in southern Saskatchewan will receive trace amounts to 0.50 inch of rain with locally greater amounts by next Thursday morning. Little to no rain will occur elsewhere. The Prairies will then have a few opportunities for more widespread rain May 30-June 5, though not enough rain will occur to completely reverse the drying trend.

Temperatures will also surge above normal in the coming week once a high pressure ridge establishes over North America. Daytime highs will initially reach the upper 50s and

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60s Fahrenheit today and Friday with pockets warming to the 70s. Highs over the weekend will reach the 60s and 70s. Alberta and western Saskatchewan will then warm to the 70s and 80s most often next week while highs elsewhere are generally in the upper 60s and 70s. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather will be most common May 30 – June 5.



Aggressive drying is slated for a large section of the Prairies for at least the next seven days. Planting and general fieldwork will advance with few disruptions outside areas impacted by rain and thunderstorms in Alberta and northeastern British Columbia. Dryness will otherwise spread and intensify. Many areas in southern Saskatchewan and

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Manitoba will still have enough moisture to support good establishment and early-season growth. Conditions will further deteriorate elsewhere.

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