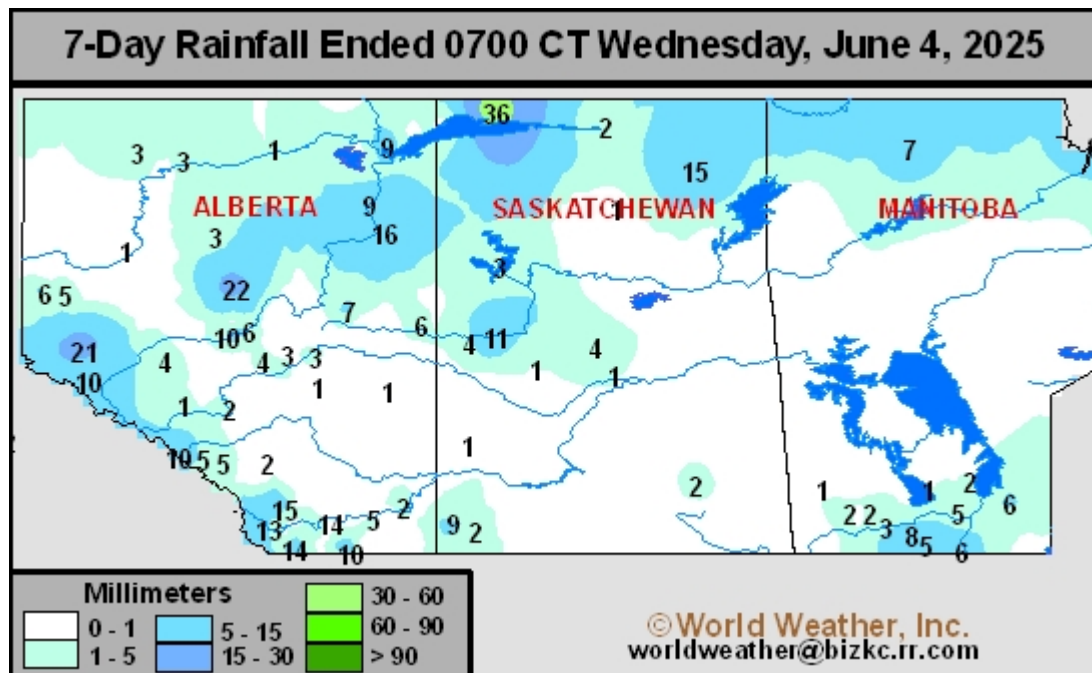


Canadian Prairies Rain Prospects Improving

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, June 5 (World Weather Inc.) – Moisture deficits intensified for a large section of the Canadian Prairies during the past week as rainfall was again limited. Only a few pockets in western and northern Alberta and southern Manitoba received enough rain to briefly limit drying. Fields remain parched and there is a growing concern for production losses due to the lack of moisture. **There is still time for better rainfall to improve crop prospects, though time is running out for some crops.** The Prairies will have several opportunities for rain during the coming week that will start to marginally improve the moisture profile for some. With more rain on the way during the second week of the outlook as well, conditions may start to improve, at least in the short-term. However, rainfall will be too erratic and light to completely fix dryness and much more rain will be needed.

A few locations in southwestern and northwestern Alberta received 0.20 to 0.83 inch of rain for the seven-day period ending June 4. Several areas in southern Manitoba and pockets in southwestern and northwestern Saskatchewan also received up to 0.43 inch of rain. The remaining production areas in the Prairies were either dry or did not receive enough rain to counter evaporation.

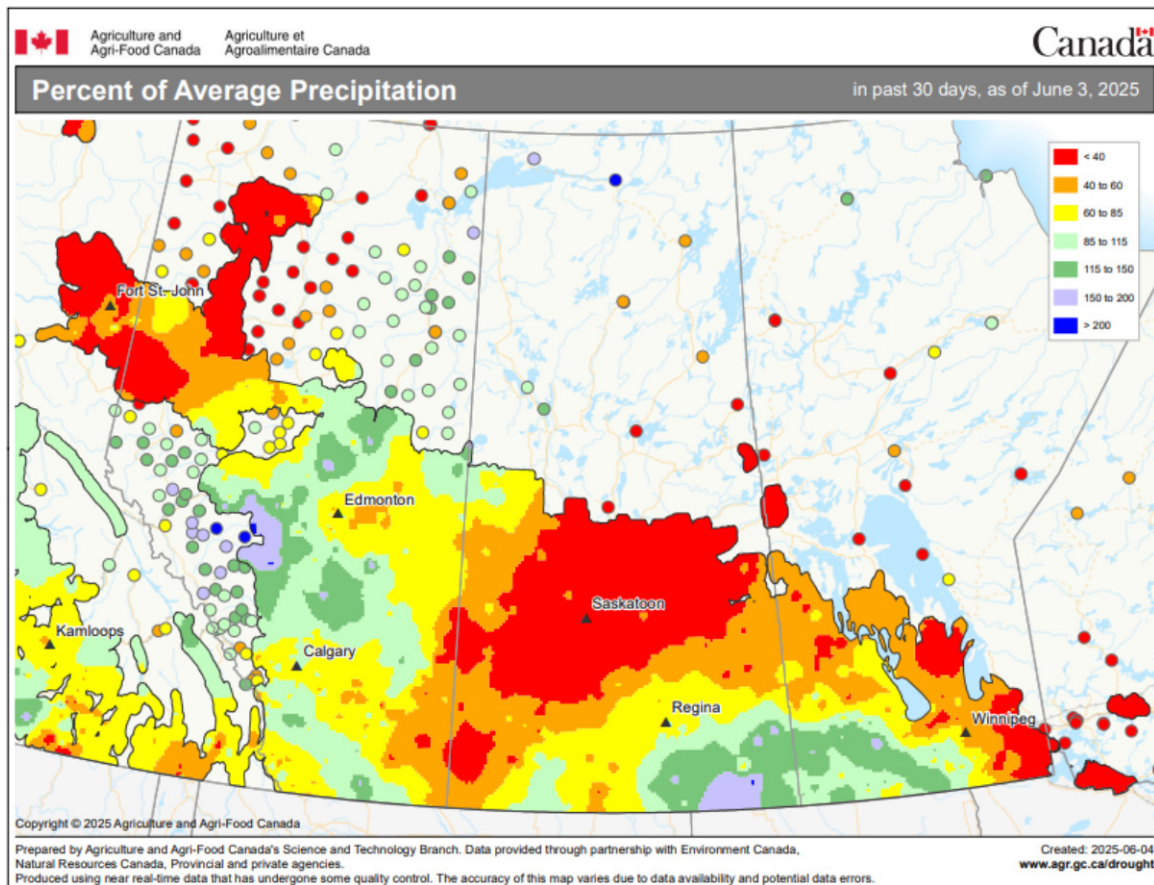


Southeastern Saskatchewan, southwestern Manitoba, and portions of west-central and north-central Alberta were the only areas in the Prairies that received near to above normal rainfall for the 30-day period ending June 3. Some of the most significant rain occurred earlier in May and several fields have started to dry down as a result of the recent drier weather. Precipitation elsewhere was generally drier than usual during the most recent 30 days with many areas in western, central, and northern Saskatchewan, eastern Manitoba, and Peace River country in northwestern Alberta and northeastern Saskatchewan receiving less than 40% of normal precipitation. Some of that dryness extends back months in time.

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The lack of rain and warm weather in recent weeks has severely depleted the ground of moisture. Topsoil moisture is marginally adequate to short in much of the Prairies with several locations in Saskatchewan having a critical shortage of topsoil moisture. Subsoil moisture is adequate or marginally adequate, though many areas in Saskatchewan into southeastern Alberta and Peace River country are starting to dry down too much at the subsoil levels as well.

Planting is nearing completion for the Prairies. As of May 26, 88% of the crop was in the ground, up from 82% for the previous five-year average. Significant progress was likely made in recent days as well. As of June 3, planting was 95% finished in Manitoba, up from 85% for the previous five-year average. Alberta had 89.9% of the crops in the ground as of May 27, up from 81% for the previous five-year average.

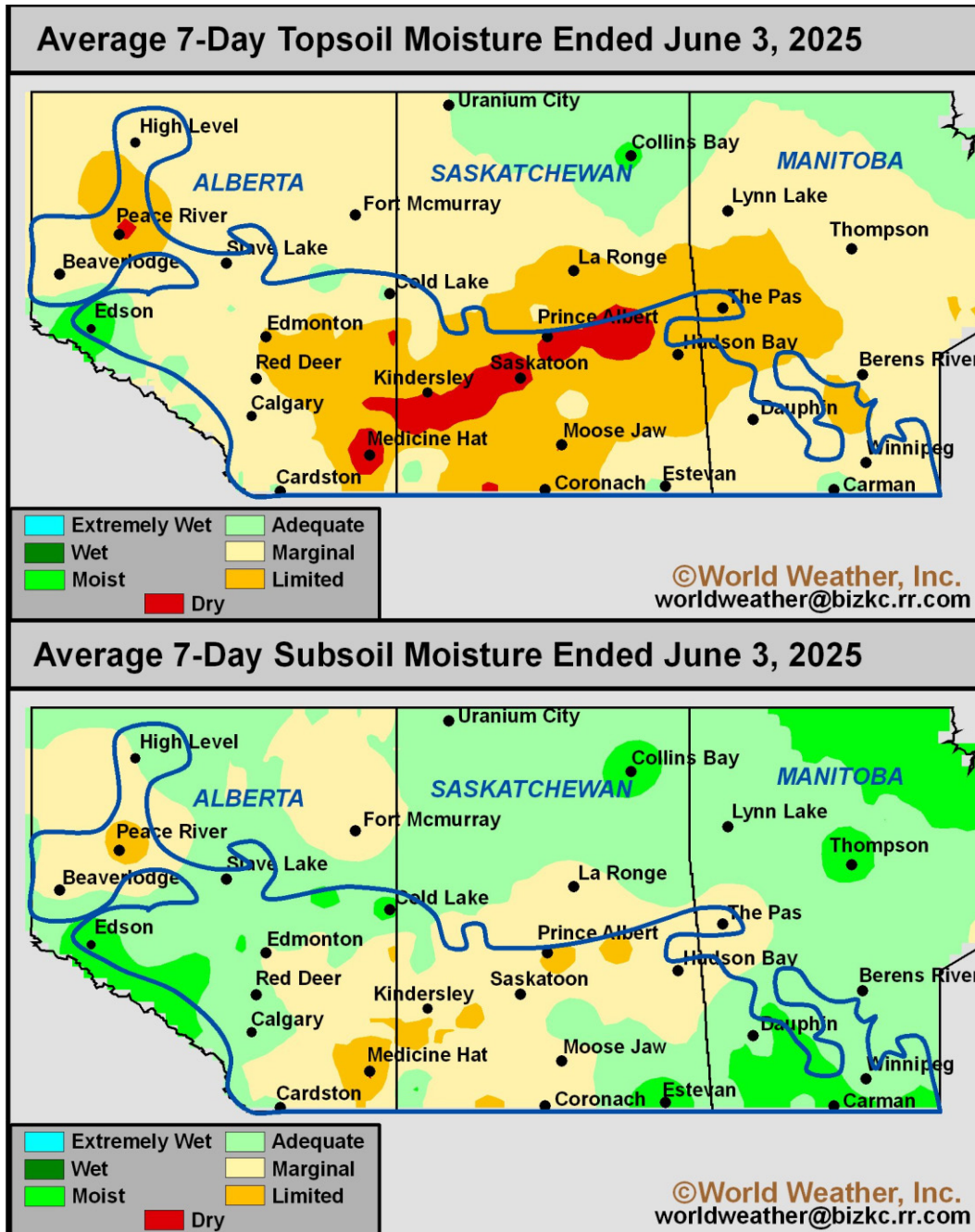


The main concern across the Prairies is the intensifying dryness. Many areas in southwestern Manitoba, southeastern Saskatchewan, west-central and north-central Alberta, and neighboring locations still have enough moisture to support relatively good establishment and early-season growth. The ground is too dry elsewhere for favorable crop conditions and producers are worried production may already be reduced due to the dryness. There is a pressing need for rain in the near future to avoid any further production cuts.

The Prairies will have several opportunities for precipitation during the coming week. Light rain will initially be scattered across a few locations today. An upper-level disturbance will advance southeasterly over the Prairies Friday and this weekend that will

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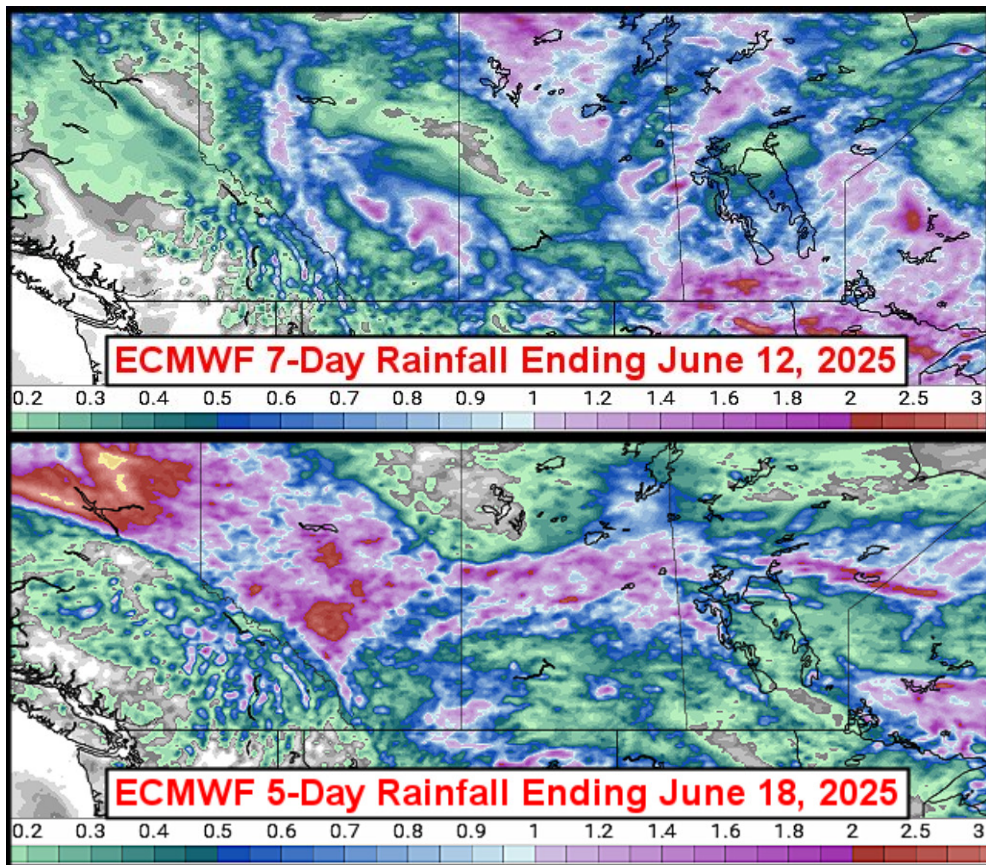
bring varying amounts of precipitation to portions of crop country. Another disturbance will generate light rain in a few pockets Monday with more rain likely Tuesday and next Wednesday as more disturbances track near or into the region. Moisture totals by next Thursday morning will range from 0.25 to 1.50 inches with local amounts over 2.00 inches possible from northeastern Saskatchewan and northwestern Manitoba into southeastern Manitoba. Pockets in Alberta and western Saskatchewan could receive more significant rain toward the middle of next week, though confidence is low. **A weak trough could then build over western North America June 13-19, which could again promote a wet weather pattern for much of the Prairies.**



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The temperature profile will trend near to slightly above normal for much of the Prairies during the coming week. High temperatures will peak to the upper 60s and 70s Fahrenheit today and the 70s and 80s Friday. The upper-level low will bring cooler air to the region Saturday with highs returning to the 60s and 70s. The coolest air will shift into Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan Sunday with highs dropping further to the 50s and 60s. The remaining production areas will warm to the 60s and 70s with portions of Alberta warming to the 80s later this weekend. Highs will generally settle to the 70s and 80s next week with pockets only warming to the 60s. Seasonable to seasonably cool weather is slated for most locations June 13-19, though Manitoba could briefly warm slightly above normal at times.

Waves of rain in the coming weeks will slowly improve the moisture profile for at least parts of the Prairies. Resulting rainfall will be too light to completely fix the dryness and there will still be a need for significant rainfall later this month and early July. Crops will still react favorably to the precipitation. Development conditions will improve, at least for the short-term. However, new growth may advance unevenly or poorly in areas that miss out on the most significant rain.



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