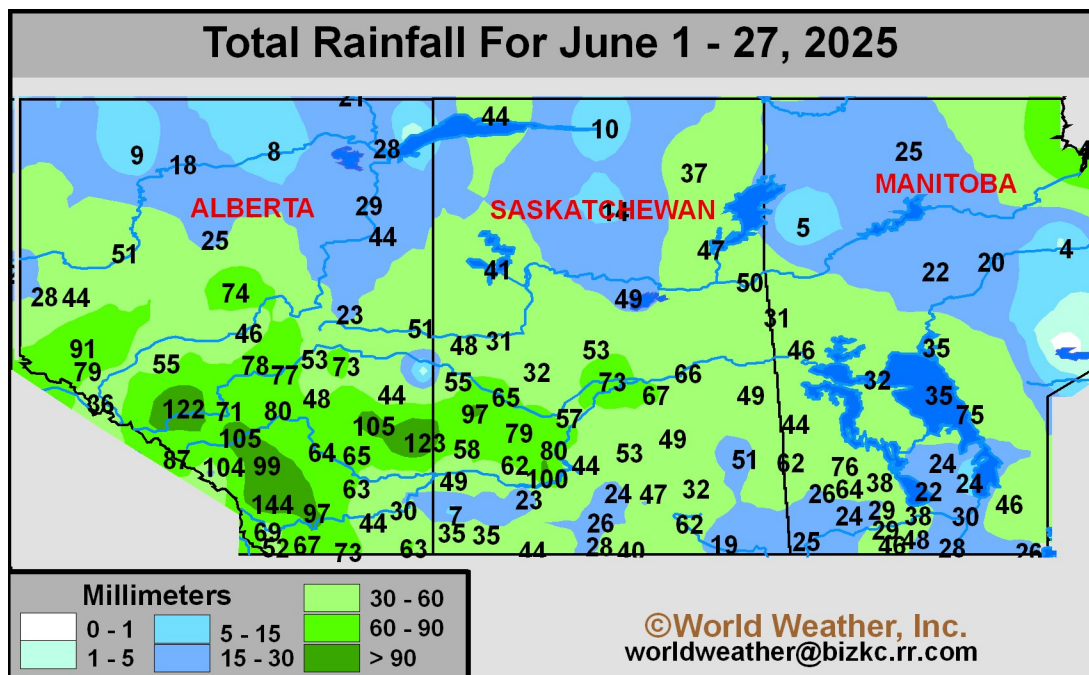


Canadian Prairies Rain Brings Relief To Some Areas, Not All

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, June 27 (World Weather Inc.) – *Last weekend's rain event in portions of Canada's Prairies was a Godsend for many producers and their crops easing a notable shortage of soil moisture and greatly reducing plant stress. As great as the precipitation event was, however, the region still has moisture shortages down deep in the ground warranting follow up moisture soon.* The greatest relief occurred in the west and north leaving many areas in southern and east-central Saskatchewan and Manitoba in need of additional moisture. Some production has already been cut from the southwestern Prairies because of crop failings prior to the rain event and there are other fields of wheat, lentils and peas that will yield poorly because of previous dryness. Additional crop injury came with the past week of frost and light freezes that also impacted the region after the rain event.

An active weather pattern will promote waves of erratic rain for much of crop country through the end of next week. Portions of southern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan will miss out on much of the rain while other production areas receive at least light amounts. Short-term conditions may improve in areas that receive the most rain.

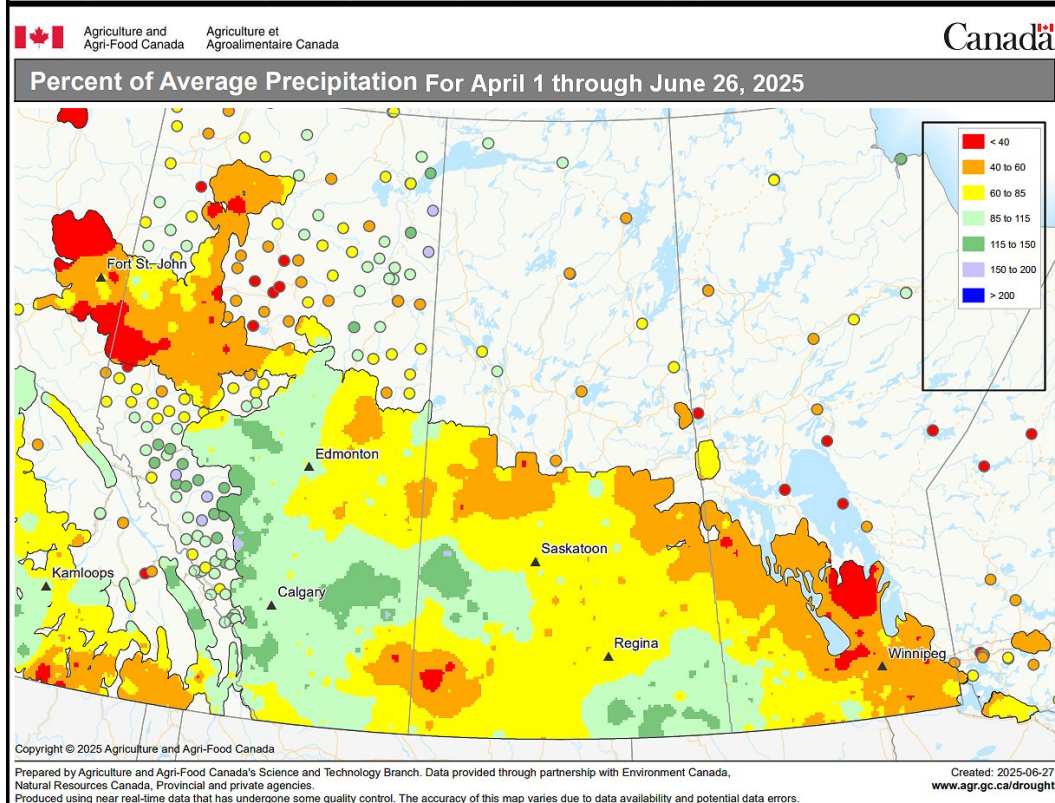
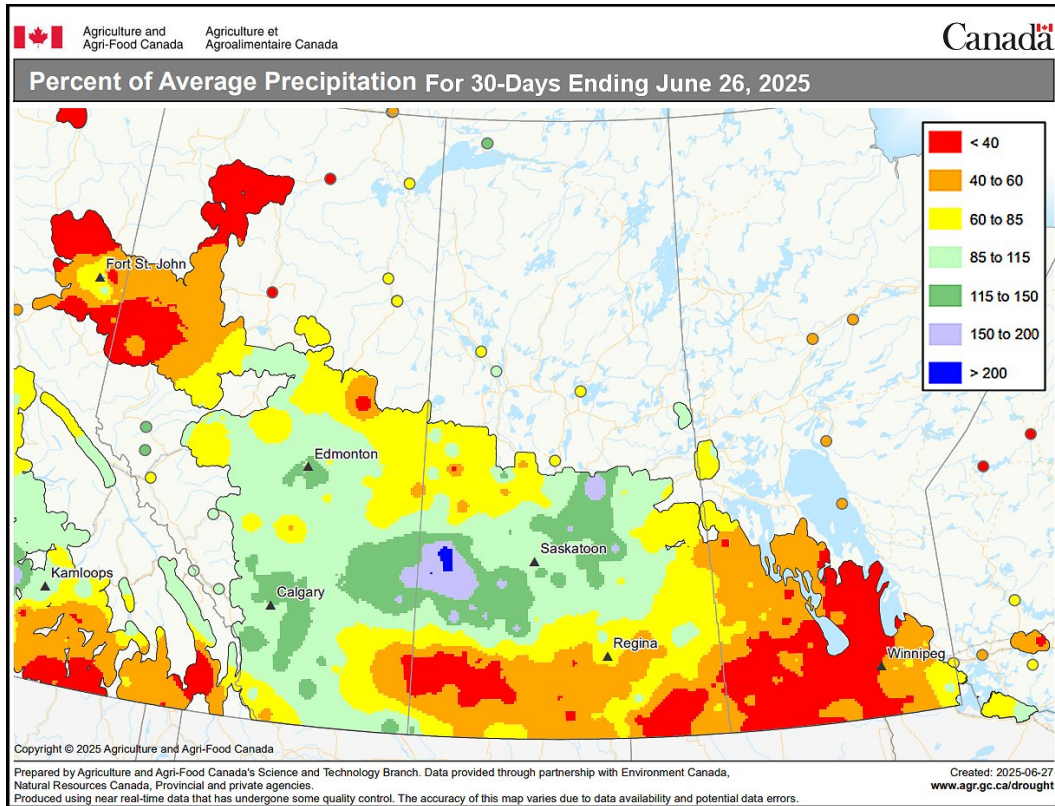


In the recent 30-day period ending June 25, a large section of central and southern Alberta into portions of west-central, central, and north-central Saskatchewan received near to above normal rainfall. Pockets in west-central Saskatchewan received more than two times' normal precipitation as a significant storm system made its way into the Prairies during mid-June. The remaining production areas in the Canadian Prairies were generally drier than usual. Several areas in Manitoba, southern Saskatchewan, and Peace River country in northwestern Alberta and northeastern British Columbia received less than 40% of normal precipitation.

From April 1 – June 25, only a few locations in southern, west-central, and north-central Alberta, west-central and southeastern Saskatchewan, and extreme southwestern

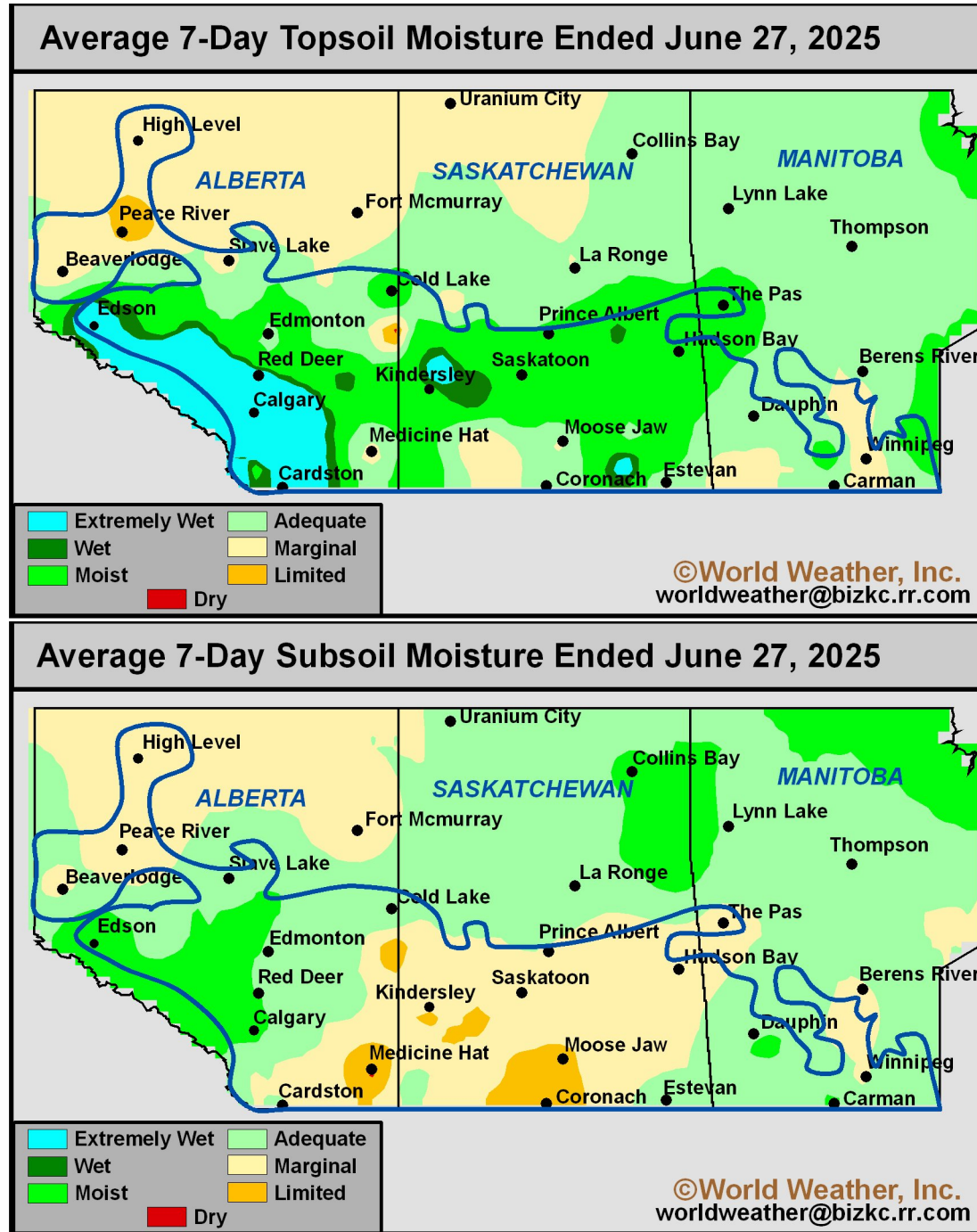
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Manitoba received near or slightly above normal rainfall. The remaining production areas were drier than usual.



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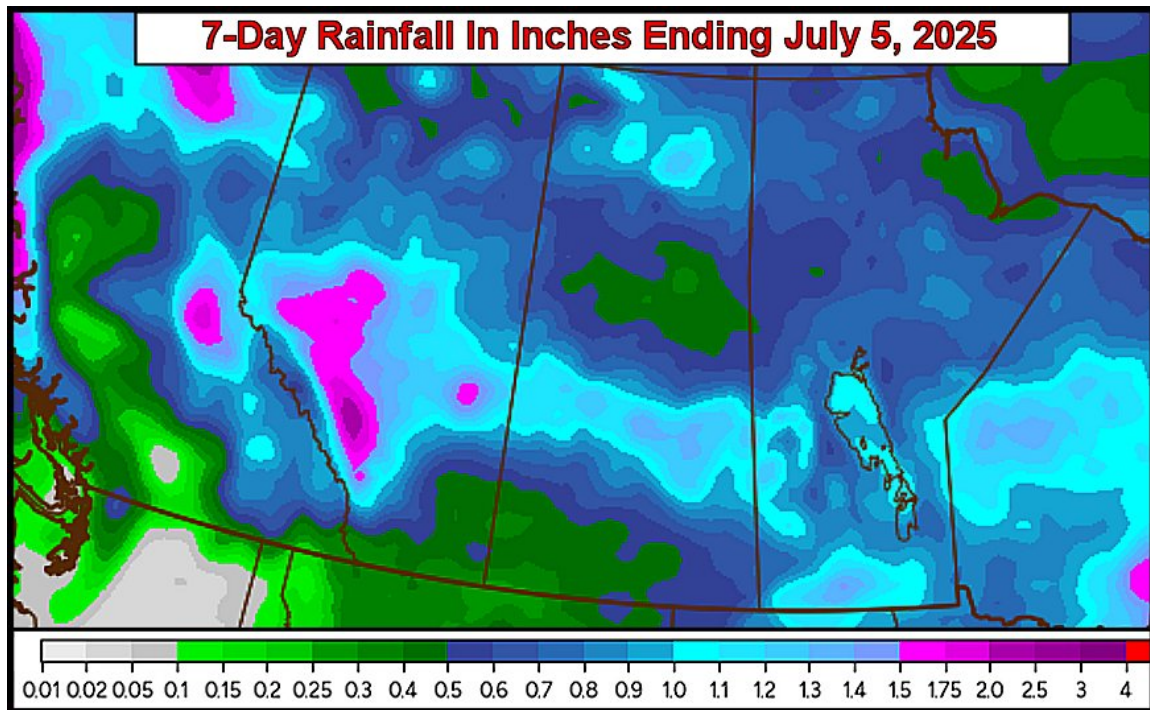
Topsoil moisture increased to adequate or excessive levels in portions of central and southern Alberta and west-central Saskatchewan where rainfall of 1.00 to 3.00 inches and local totals over 4.00 inches resulted over the past week. The remaining production areas have marginally adequate to short topsoil moisture. Subsoil moisture is still rated marginally adequate in the wetter areas of Alberta and southern Manitoba and marginally adequate to very short in Saskatchewan and the Peace River region.



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Crop conditions are highly variable across the Prairies. Recent rainfall has brought some significant relief to a part of the previously driest areas in Alberta and Saskatchewan; though, the rain was too spotty and variable to improve conditions in other areas.

Significant moisture deficits lingering in some far southern and northwestern Alberta, Manitoba, northeastern British Columbia, and portions of Saskatchewan crop areas continues to promote less than favorable to poor development. Some crops have already failed due to dryness over the spring, primarily in northern and far southwestern Saskatchewan and neighboring locations. Other crops were teetering on disaster when rain finally fell last weekend. Some crops have also been damaged by strong to severe thunderstorms, frost, and light freezes in recent weeks.



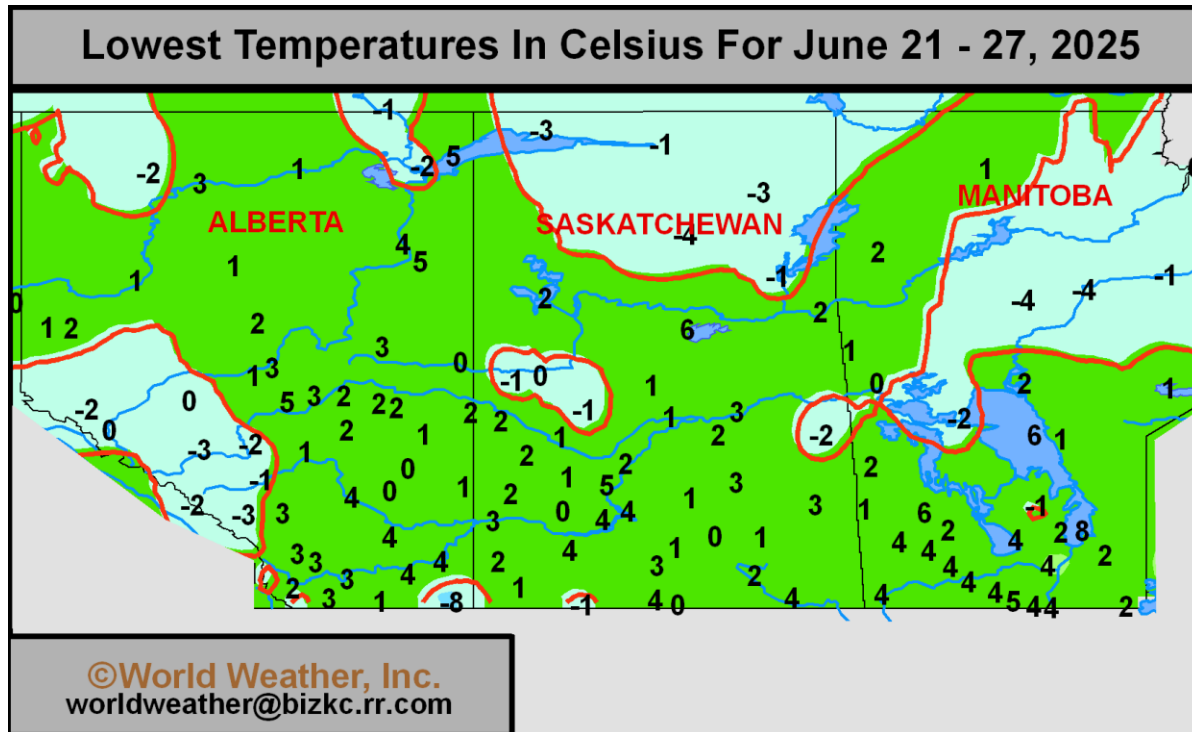
WEATHER OUTLOOK

An active weather pattern is slated for the Prairies for at least the next seven days. A disturbance that brought rain to the region the past few days will continue to generate rain and thunderstorms for portions of the Prairies today. Severe storms will be possible in Manitoba that could generate flash flooding, damaging winds, and hail. Another disturbance will bring rain and isolated thunderstorms to the Prairies over the weekend. Other than a few light showers, drier weather will briefly evolve Monday. The next disturbance will bring rain and thunderstorms mostly to western parts of the Prairies Tuesday into Thursday with a few showers of limited significance Wednesday through Friday in the remainder of the Prairies.

Moisture totals by next Friday morning will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches from central, north-central, and northeastern Alberta through portions of Saskatchewan (outside the southwest corner) and in much of Manitoba. Local rain totals of 3.00 inches or more will

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also be possible from north-central and northeastern Alberta into northern Saskatchewan, along with southern Manitoba. Southern Alberta, southwestern Saskatchewan, and Peace River country will only receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain with pockets that may trend mostly dry.



A low-amplitude ridge will meander around North America July 5-11. Disturbances will advance over the ridge and into the Prairies on a periodic basis resulting in some periodic waves of rain and thunderstorms. Southern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan may miss out on much of the rain due to the axis of the ridge settling over the region.

The temperature profile will be near to slightly above normal for much of the Prairies through the end of next week. Daytime highs will peak to the 70s and lower 80s Fahrenheit with pockets in Alberta and northern Saskatchewan only warming to the upper 60s through the end of the weekend and toward the end of next week. Portions of southern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan could also warm to the upper 80s and lower 90s Monday into Wednesday. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather will prevail July 5 – 11.

The periods of erratic rainfall during the next week to ten days will either keep soil moisture near current levels or marginally bolster soil moisture for a large section of the Prairies outside southern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan. The rain will either improve or maintain a good environment for the crops in the short-term. There will still be a need for additional rainfall later in July to maintain a better outlook for the crops. Stress will otherwise be a concern for southern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan due to the lack of rain and periods of warmer than usual weather in the coming weeks.

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