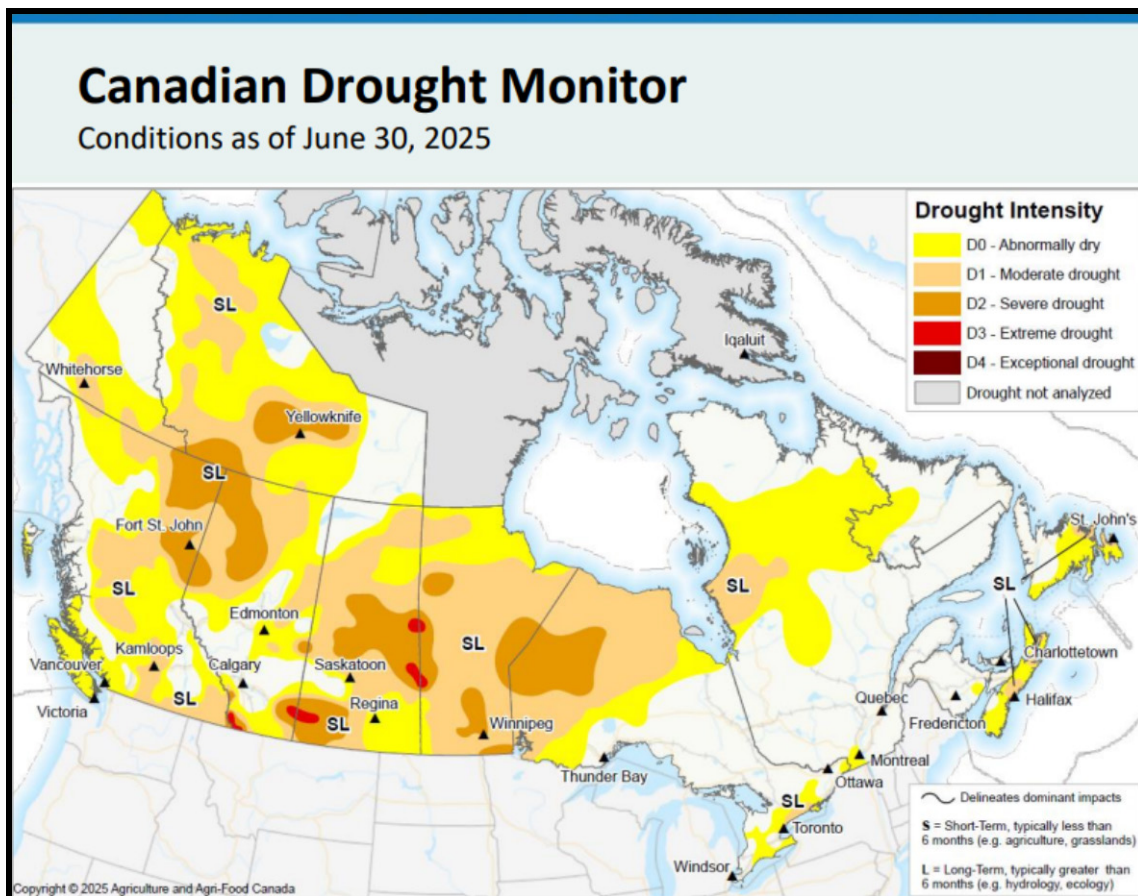


Canadian Prairies To See “Some” Relief From Drought

By Andrew Owen

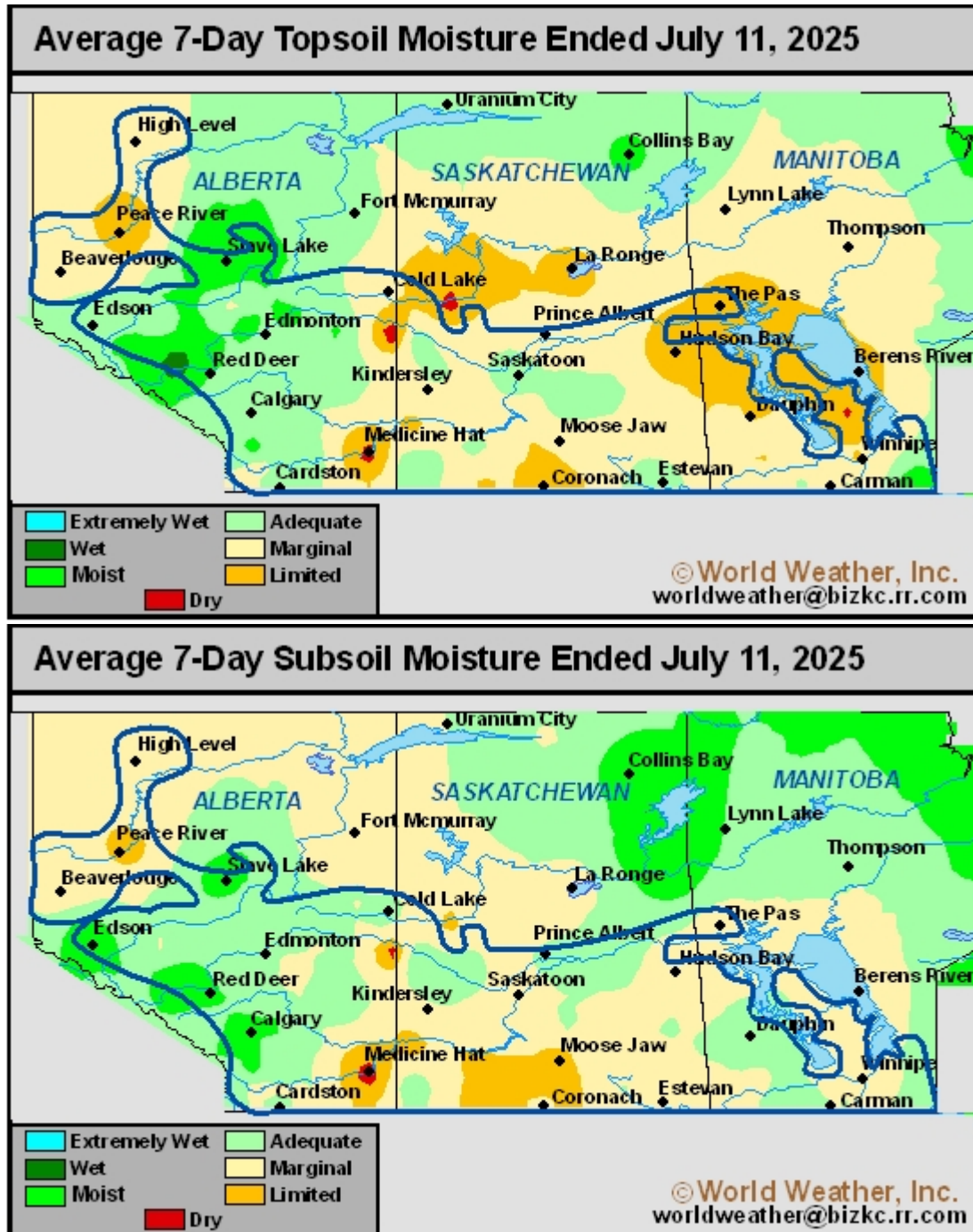
Kansas City, July 11 (World Weather Inc.) – *The most recent Canadian Drought Monitor suggests a large portion of the Canadian Prairies were in drought or abnormally dry at the end of June.* Rainfall has been spotty in recent weeks and the need for abundant rain remains high. Production cuts have already occurred to many crops and there is concern that the losses might get much greater without rain soon. *A relatively active weather pattern during the next ten days to two weeks will bring relief to the dryness for some, though most locations will not receive enough rain to fix long term moisture deficits and there will be an ongoing need for more rain. Some crops may respond favorably to the rain; however, rain in the driest areas may come too late in the growing season for a significant improvement in production potential.*

As of June 30, a large section of the Canadian Prairies was in drought with the intensity of those conditions varying from moderate to severe. Only a few pockets in central Alberta and west-central Saskatchewan were drought-free due to a period of heavy rain in June. A few locations in southern Alberta, southwestern and northeastern Saskatchewan, and northwestern Manitoba were under an extreme drought as well.



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Growing conditions are highly variable across the Prairies due to the uneven distribution of rainfall so far this season. Areas in Alberta and western Saskatchewan that received the greatest amount of rain in June are experiencing relatively good development conditions. The lack of moisture elsewhere is causing uneven or poor development. *Some of the crop has already been permanently damaged and additional losses will be possible if rain does not fall in the near future.*



WEATHER OUTLOOK

Canadian Prairies To See “Some” Relief From Drought

The Prairies will have several opportunities for rain through the end of next week. Light rain will initially be scattered across several locations today and Saturday as a frontal boundary exits the region and a disorganized disturbance advances over the Prairies. A stronger disturbance and frontal boundary will promote more widespread and significant rain while tracking from west to east late Saturday through Tuesday. After a period of drier weather Wednesday, the next system will likely bring spotty rain to portions of Alberta, western Saskatchewan, and northeastern British Columbia later next week.

West-central and southern Alberta, extreme southwestern Saskatchewan, and portions of southern Manitoba will receive 0.50 to 2.00 inches of rain with local amounts of 3.00 inches or slightly more by next Friday morning. The greatest rain may be in southwestern Alberta. Other locations will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain with local amounts over 1.00 inch in northeastern British Columbia and pockets in other portions of southern Saskatchewan. Northeastern Alberta and northern Saskatchewan will be driest.

Temperatures through the end of next week will vary due to the active weather pattern. Highs today and this weekend will initially reach the 70s and lower 80s Fahrenheit with several pockets in southern Alberta and Saskatchewan warming to the upper 80s and lower 90s Sunday. Pockets in northern Alberta and neighboring areas will only warm to the 60s later this weekend as cooler air moves into the region. Highs Monday through Wednesday will drop to the 60s and lower 70s before slightly warmer air returns later next week. Low temperatures will be in the 50s and lower 60s with portions of Alberta cooling to the 40s next week.

The active weather pattern may persist for the Prairies July 19 – 25. A weak upper-level trough may build over central Canada during this time and could help send disturbances near or into the Prairies at times. Rainfall during this time will likely be too light and erratically distributed to significantly improve the moisture profile. Only minor improvements are expected. Temperatures will likely be mild as well and could lower drying rates.

Waves of rain coupled with periods of mild weather may help improve soil moisture for “portions” of the Prairies in the coming weeks. Most locations will not receive enough rain to fix the moisture deficits or support ideal long-term crop conditions. Additional rain will still be needed late this month into early August to help maintain better crop conditions, though several locations will remain too dry for aggressive growth. Production may continue to be reduced in the drier fields.

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