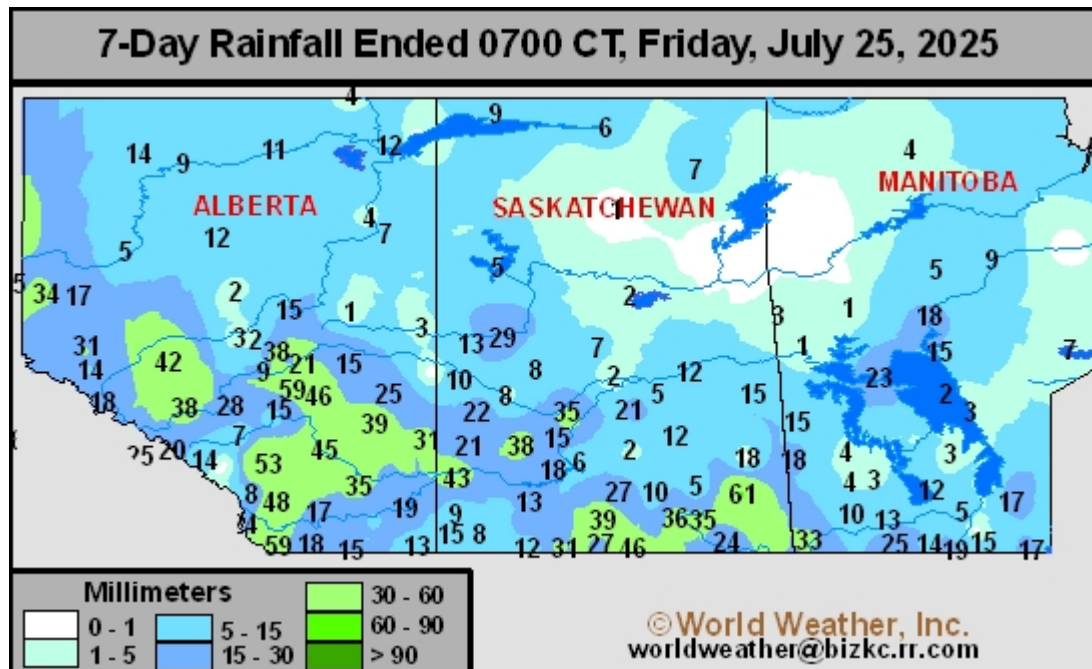


Canadian Prairies Rain Not Enough To Fix Drought This Month

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, July 25 (World Weather Inc.) – After drying down gradually this past spring and earlier this summer, a large section of the Canadian Prairies was struggling with drought or abnormally dry conditions at the end of June. The weather pattern has become more active in July and offered some relief to the dryness for parts of southern Alberta and western and southern Saskatchewan. The rain was welcome and may have slightly improved production potentials for areas that received the greatest amount of rain. Other production areas continued to dry down as drier than normal weather prevailed. **Concern is increasing for significant production losses in parts of Manitoba, northern sections of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and northeastern British Columbia due to the ongoing dryness.** The weather pattern in coming weeks does not offer much in the way of heavy rain and additional drying is expected. The environment will remain less than favorable to poor for new growth in areas already suffering from drought.

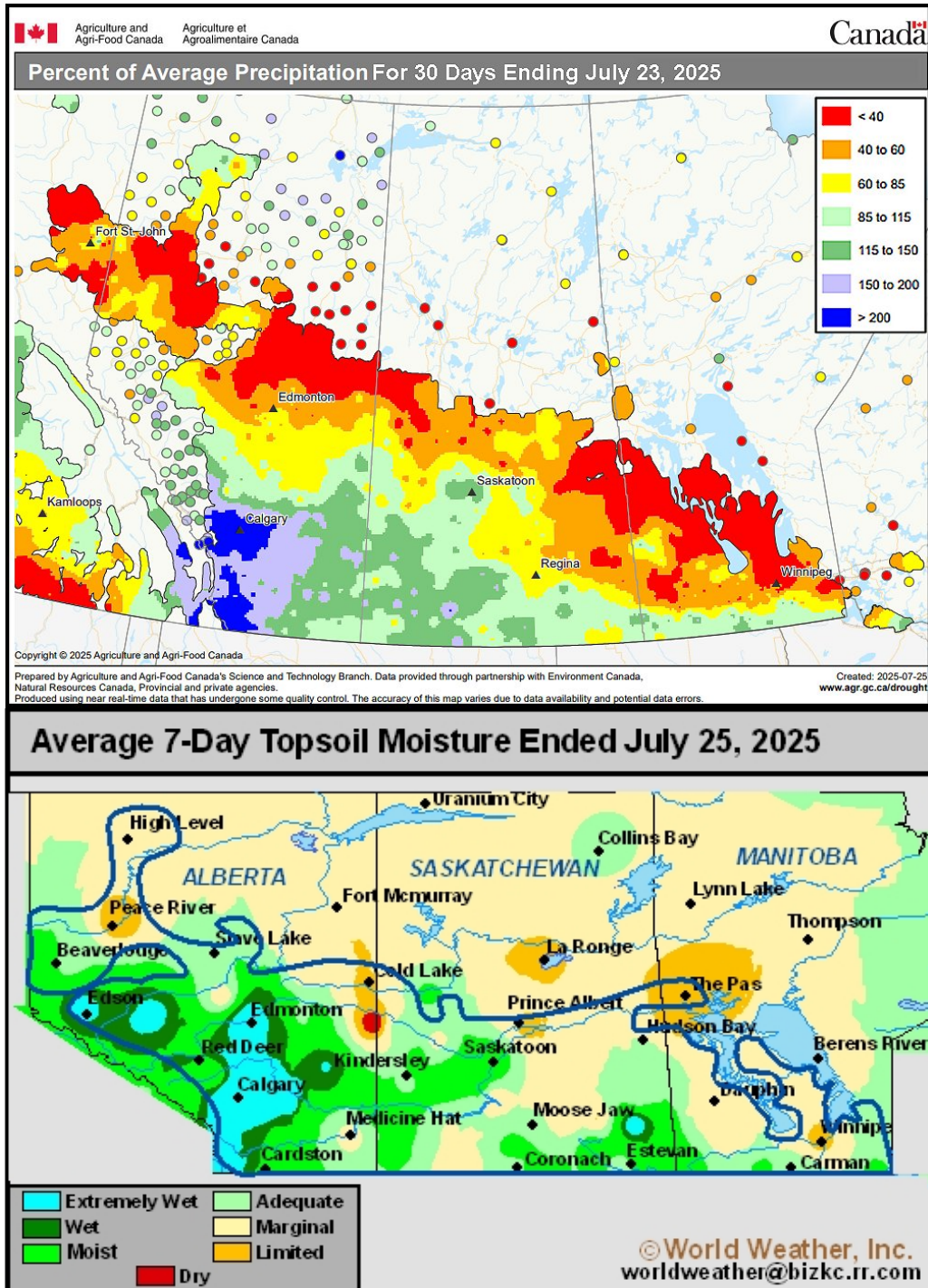
Varying amounts of rain were noted across the Canadian Prairies during the past week. Alberta and northeastern British Columbia through west-central, south-central, and southeastern Saskatchewan and into southwestern Manitoba received 0.51 to 2.32 inches of rain for the seven-day period ending this morning. The remaining locations in Manitoba and Saskatchewan received 0.20 to 1.14 inches of rain. Temperatures were generally mild during the past week with highest readings generally in the 70s and 80s Fahrenheit from July 17 – 23.



Southern Alberta into portions of southern and west-central Saskatchewan and extreme southern Manitoba received near to above normal rainfall for the 30-day period ending July 23. Portions of southwestern Alberta received 150% to over 200% of normal rainfall during this time. Other locations were drier than usual with many areas in northern

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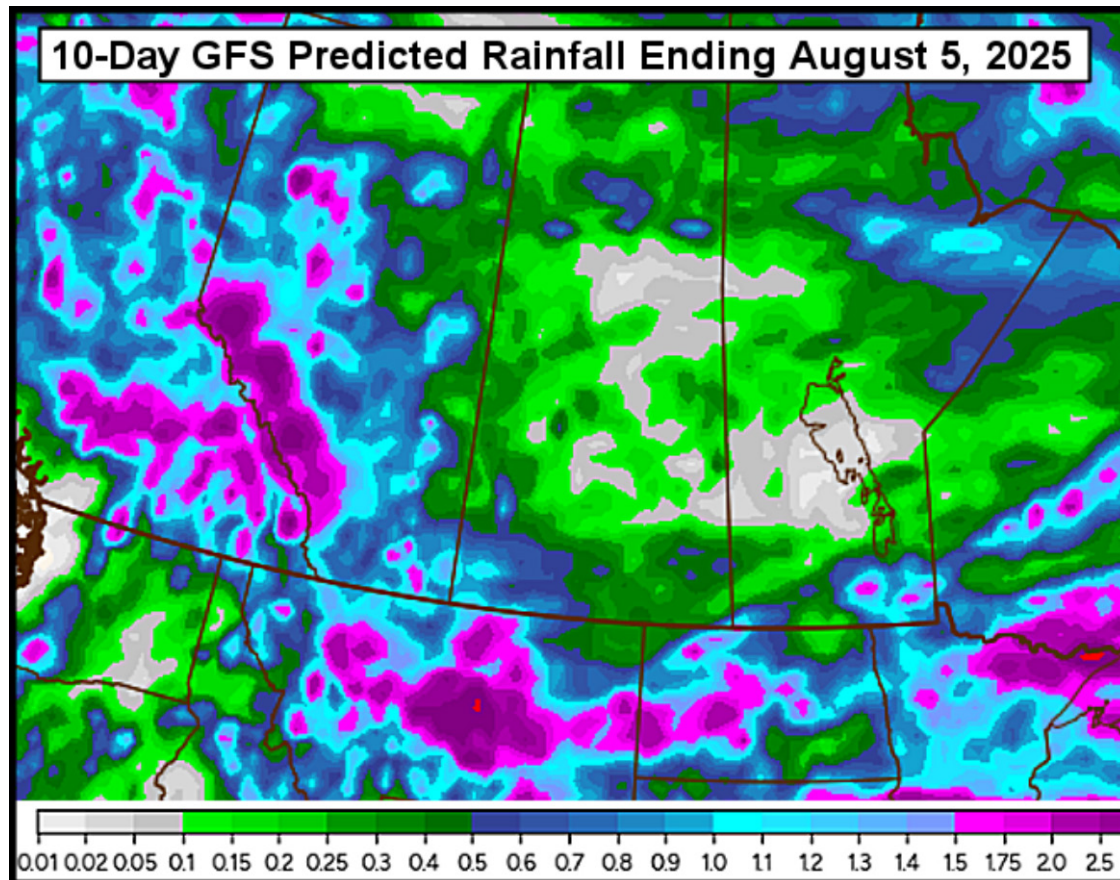
Alberta, northeastern British Columbia, northern and east-central Saskatchewan, and central and northern Manitoba receiving less than 40% of normal precipitation.



Soil moisture is highly variable across the Prairies after recent rain. Several areas in central and southern Alberta into west-central and southern Saskatchewan have adequate or even excess amounts of moisture. Other locations have marginally adequate to short soil moisture.

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Grain, oilseed, pulse, dry bean, and other crop conditions are highly variable across the Prairies. Central and southern Alberta into portions of western and southern Saskatchewan received enough rain in recent weeks to support relatively good development conditions, even with periods of drier and warmer weather. Other production areas have been struggling with drought or abnormally dry conditions for too long to support ideal development. Production potentials have already been lost in the driest areas of Manitoba, northern Saskatchewan, and northern Alberta. Rain would still be welcome across the Prairies to improve late-season development.



WEATHER OUTLOOK

The Prairies will have a few opportunities for erratic rainfall through the end of next week. A disturbance will initially generate scattered showers and thunderstorms when tracking over the region today. Erratic rain and isolated thunderstorms will prevail over the weekend as disturbances pass nearby. Only a few light showers will occur Monday and Tuesday as higher pressure builds over the region. The next round of rain and thunderstorms will then occur late Wednesday and Thursday as a new disturbance evolves over western North America. Portions of western and southern Alberta, northeastern British Columbia, and southern Manitoba will receive 0.50 to 1.50 inches of rain with locally greater amounts by next Friday morning. Other locations will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain, though many areas in northern Saskatchewan and northern Manitoba will be mostly dry through the end

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of next week. Alternating periods of erratic rain and sunshine will prevail August 2-8. However, resulting rainfall will be unable to significantly improve the moisture profile.

The temperature profile will trend near to slightly above normal for the Prairies through the end of next week. Daytime highs will peak to the 70s and 80s most often, though many areas in Alberta, northeastern British Columbia, and western Saskatchewan will only warm to the 60s through early next week. Seasonable to seasonably warm weather will prevail most days August 2 – 8.

Portions of central and southern Alberta into west-central and southern Saskatchewan will have some moisture to maintain new growth during the next several days. The ground may become too dry for ideal conditions by early August and the need for timely rain will remain high. Drought or abnormally dry conditions will prevail elsewhere and will likely intensify. Crop conditions will continue to deteriorate and production potential will continue to decline as well.

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