Prairie Pest Monitoring Network Weekly Updates – May 18-24, 2011

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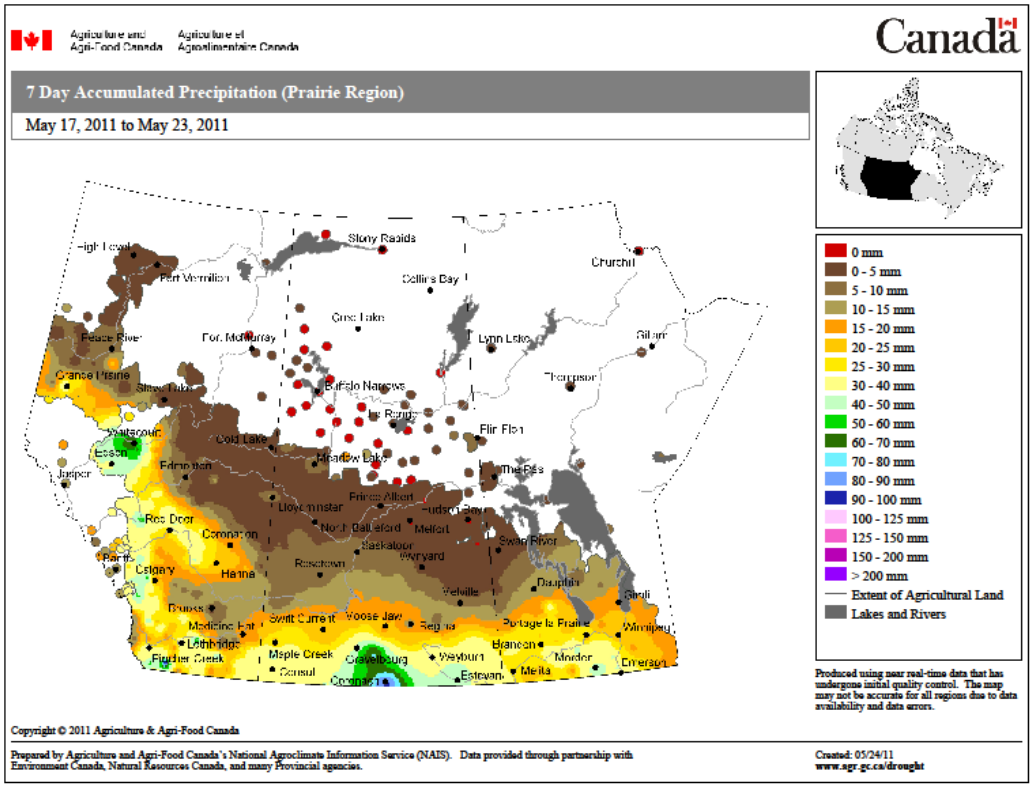
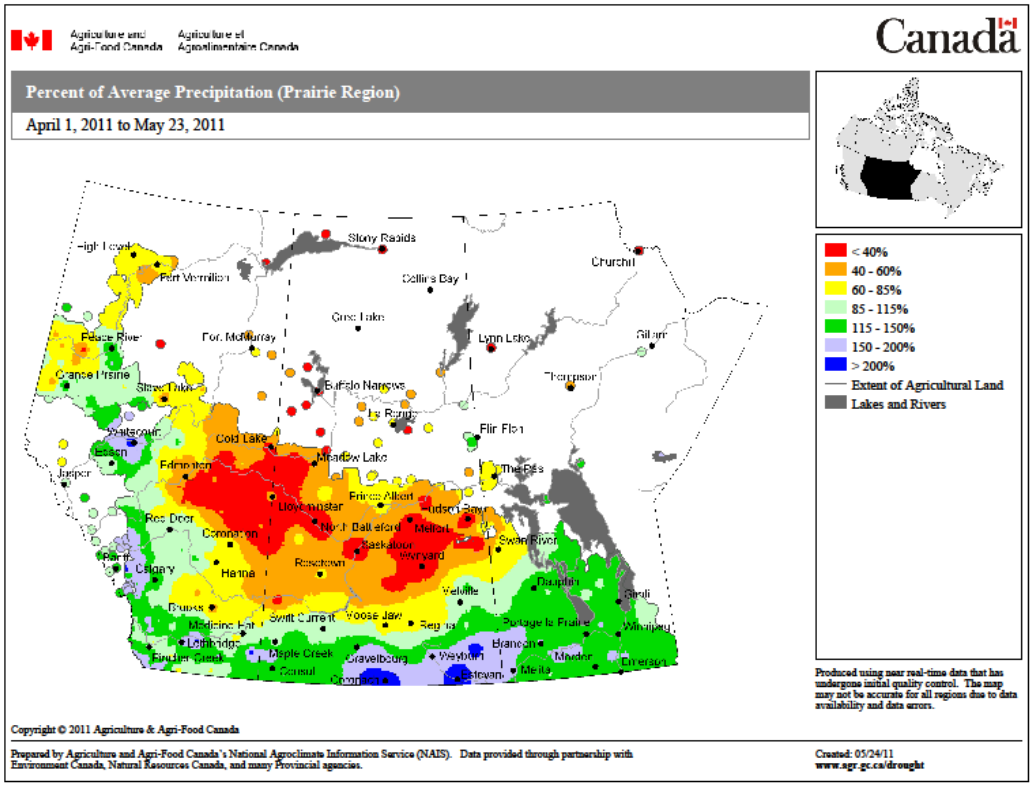
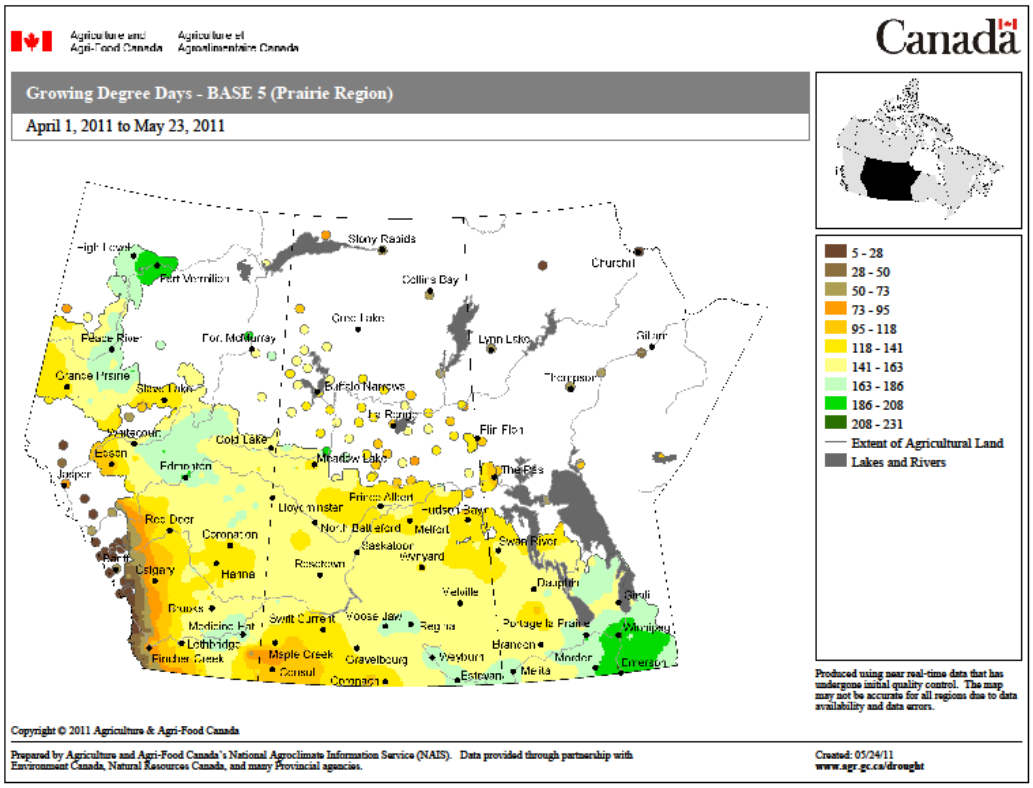
1. **Weather synopsis** – AB, as well as southern SK and MB, received significant rainfall from May 17-23.



Rainfall amounts for April 1-May 23 continue to be below normal for central regions across AB and SK while conditions are wetter than normal across the south and in MB.



Growing degree day (GDD) (Base 5C, April 1 – May 23) indicate that the warmest conditions have been in southern MB and northwest AB.



2. **Wind trajectories** – For the week of May 18-24 there were 17 prairie locations (mainly AB) that had wind events that originated over Washington and Oregon. There were seven locations (Beiseker AB, Regina SK, Gainsborough SK, Grenfell SK, Portage MB, Selkirk MB and Carman MB) that had wind events that originated in Texas and Mexico. These locations were further west than reported locations for May 12-17.

3. **Flea beetles** – With seeding underway or nearly completed on accessible fields on the prairies, scouting for flea beetles, cutworms and wireworms should be well underway.

4. **Cutworms** – Cutworms have been observed in the south Peace on some isolated fields, so far; 4-5 species were collected near Nampa AB in timothy grown from compressed hay (May 10) and this week (May 25) cutworms were observed in a field of newly seeded canola near Wanham AB. The latest situation involved canola on canola with cutworms (1.5-2.0 cm long) concentrated on the volunteer canola patches in the field. Seeding took place only 4-5 days before these larvae were retrieved so the situation is being monitored closely.

   Efforts have been made to establish new cutworm research capacity this winter. Interest and capabilities are still being established but, for 2011, provincial entomologists are being asked to watch for healthy, vigorous cutworm specimens and forward the information, photos, or specimens by contacting Jennifer Otani (jennifer.otani@agr.gc.ca). Essentially, there are interested researchers but limited resources and funds in place for a concerted survey in 2011. Refer to the attached for a collection and preservation guide that will be updated as researchers and resources can be defined.

5. **Grasshoppers** - The past week warmer conditions resulted in a marginal increase in grasshopper egg development. Egg development was greatest in AB, particularly in the Fort Vermillion region. **The model also predicted that grasshopper hatch is just beginning in most locations.**

6. **Bertha armyworm** - BAW pupae require 352 DD using a threshold of 7°C (Bailey 1976; Can. Ent. **108**:1339-1344). So far, 80% of DD for BAW pupation is anticipated to occur on June 14 in Saskatoon with *100% of DD estimated to accumulate by June 22*. In comparison, Fort Vermilion AB is anticipated to accumulate 80% of DD by June 10 and *100% of DD necessary for BAW pupation by June 17*.

   Next week the DD estimates will be generated for all the available weather stations so cooperators can then deploy their pheromone traps in time to intercept BAW moths.