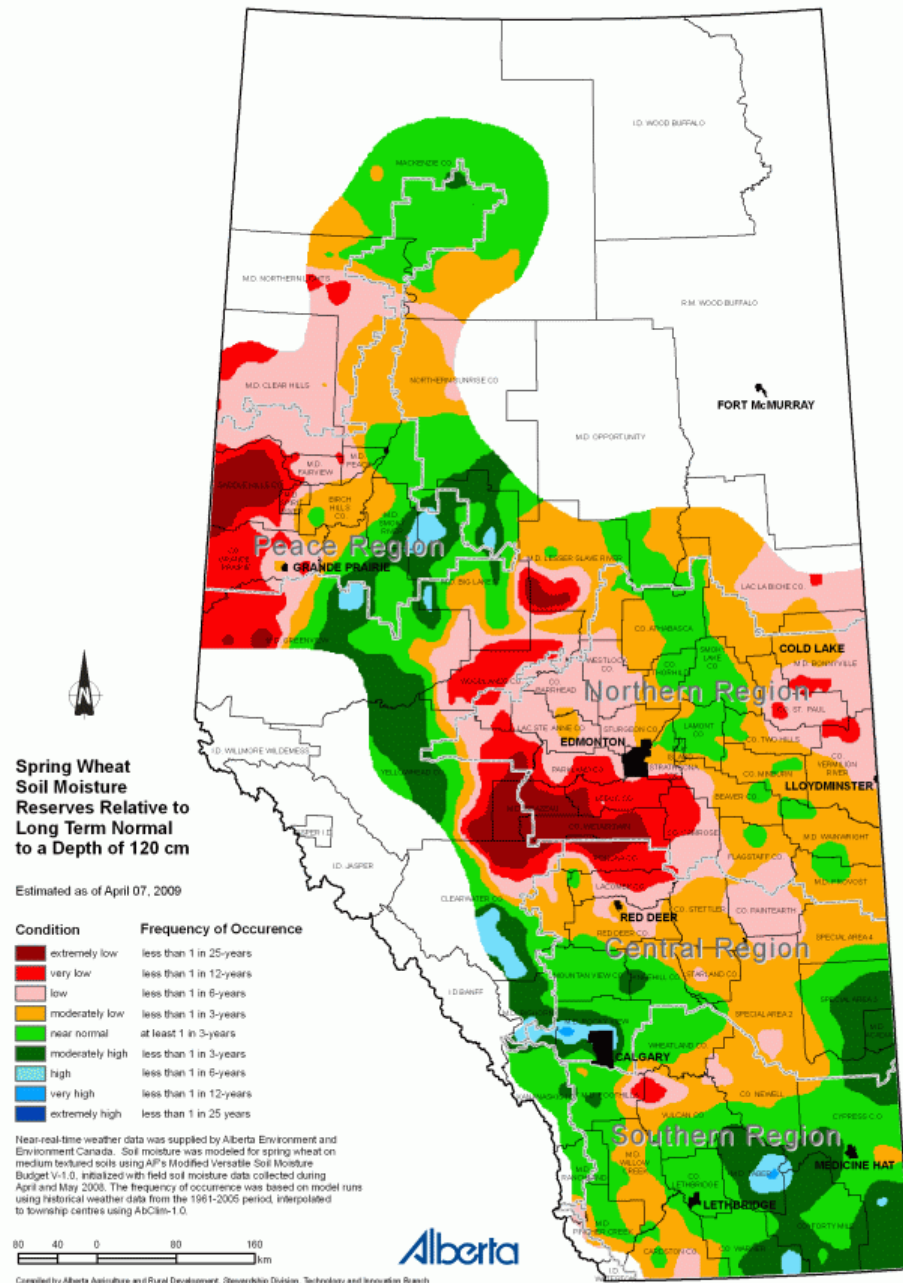


Alberta's 2009 Canola Crop



Murray Hartman
Oilseed Specialist
Alberta Agriculture and Food,
Lacombe

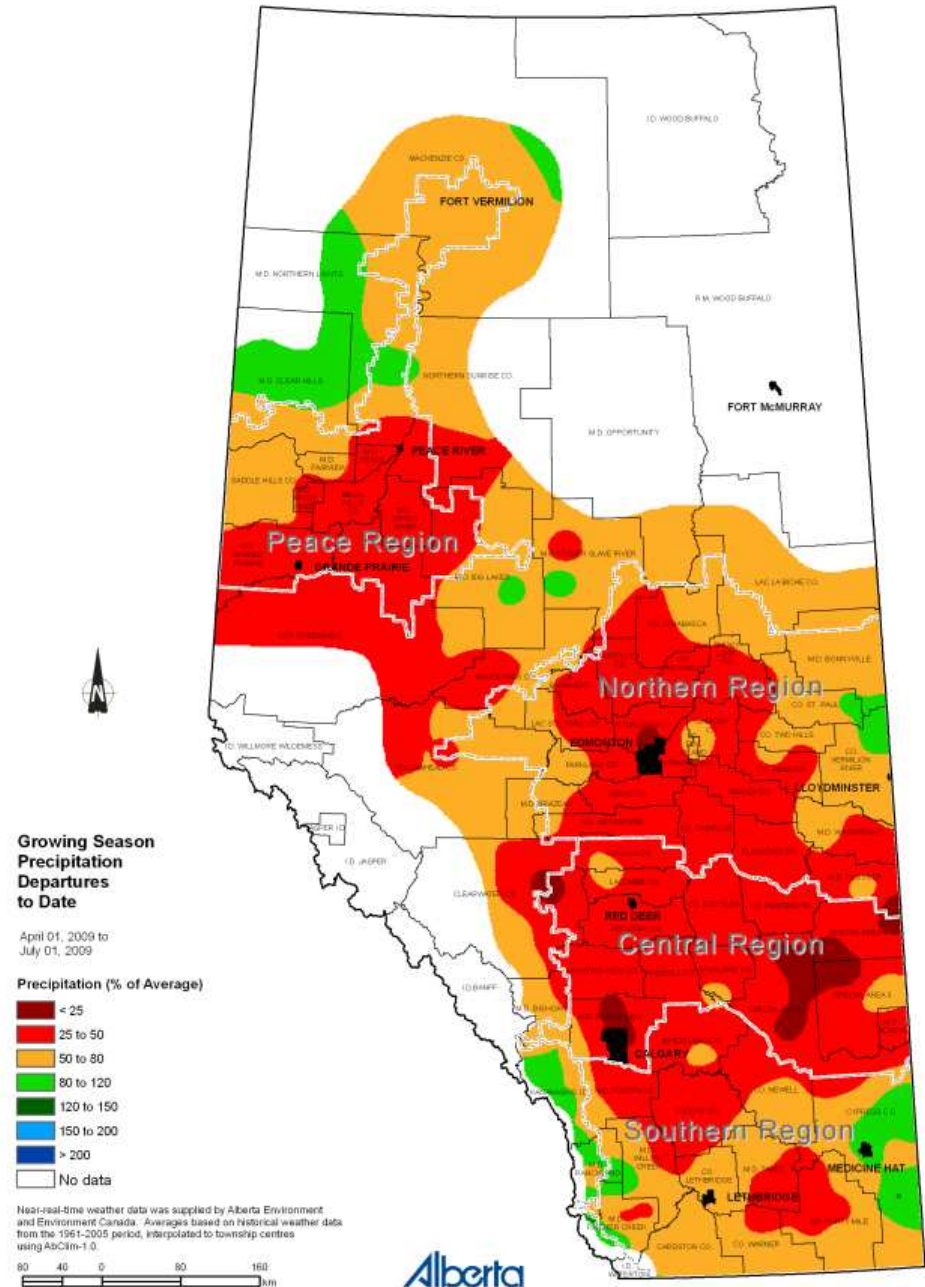
Spring starting moisture varied from extremely low to very high relative to long term averages



Drought in spring
and early summer

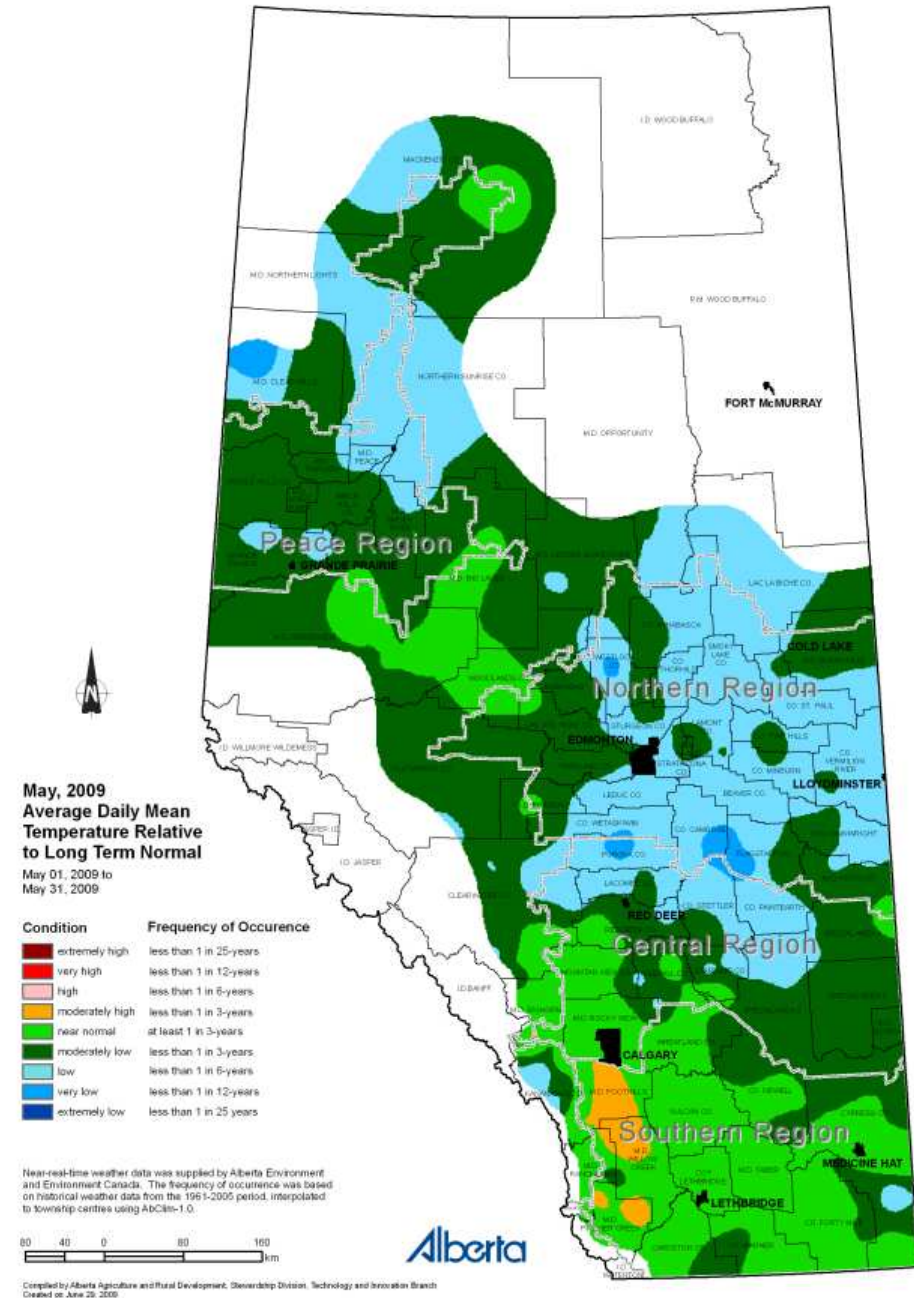
Extremely variable
emergence

Several hundred
thousand canola
acres not harvested
for grain / reseeded
to other grains



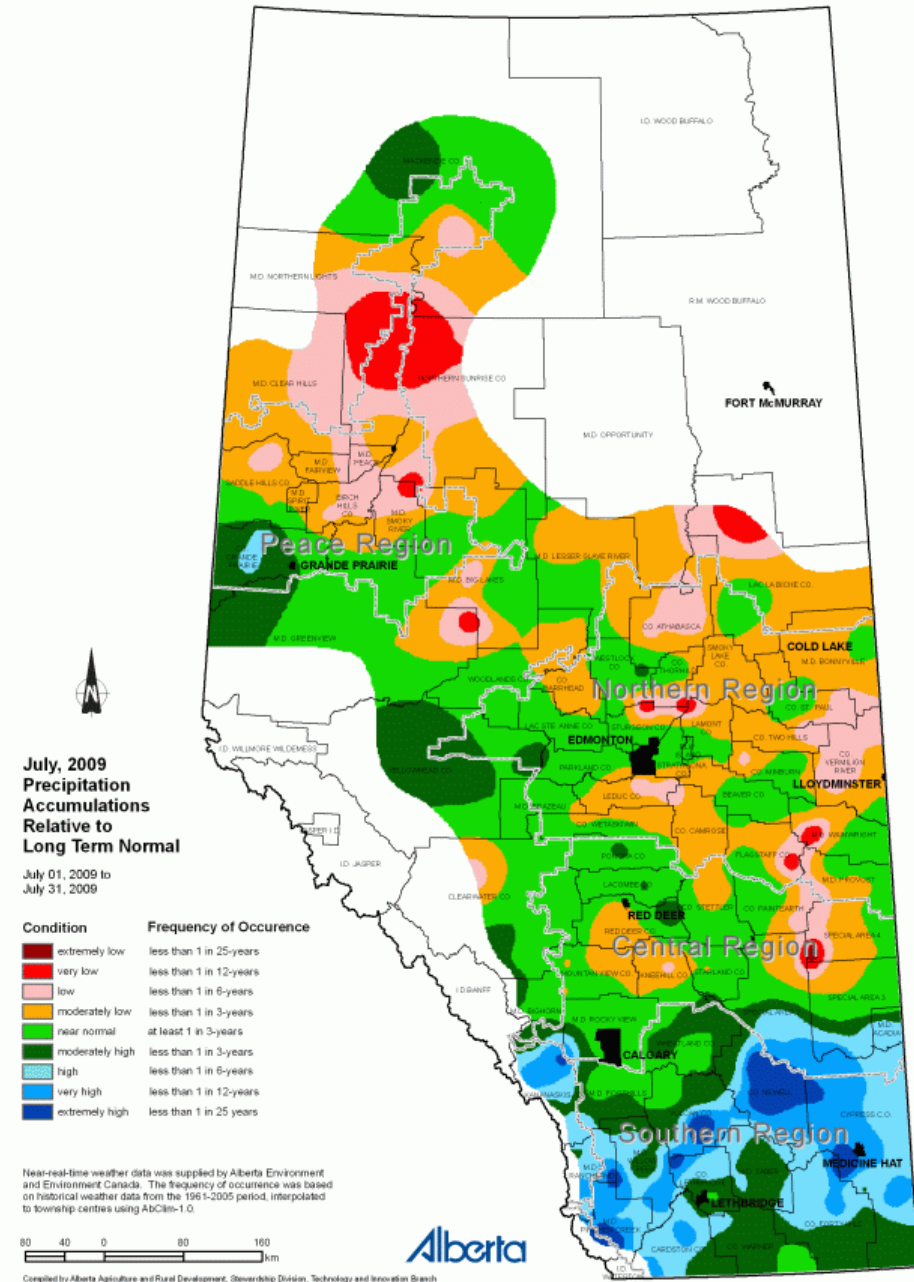
Cooler than normal
spring (Apr / May)

Many hard frosts until
early June causing
patchy establishment



Some rain finally came in July and saved the crop

But it also caused late flushes of canola and therefore added to the extremely variable maturity in fields

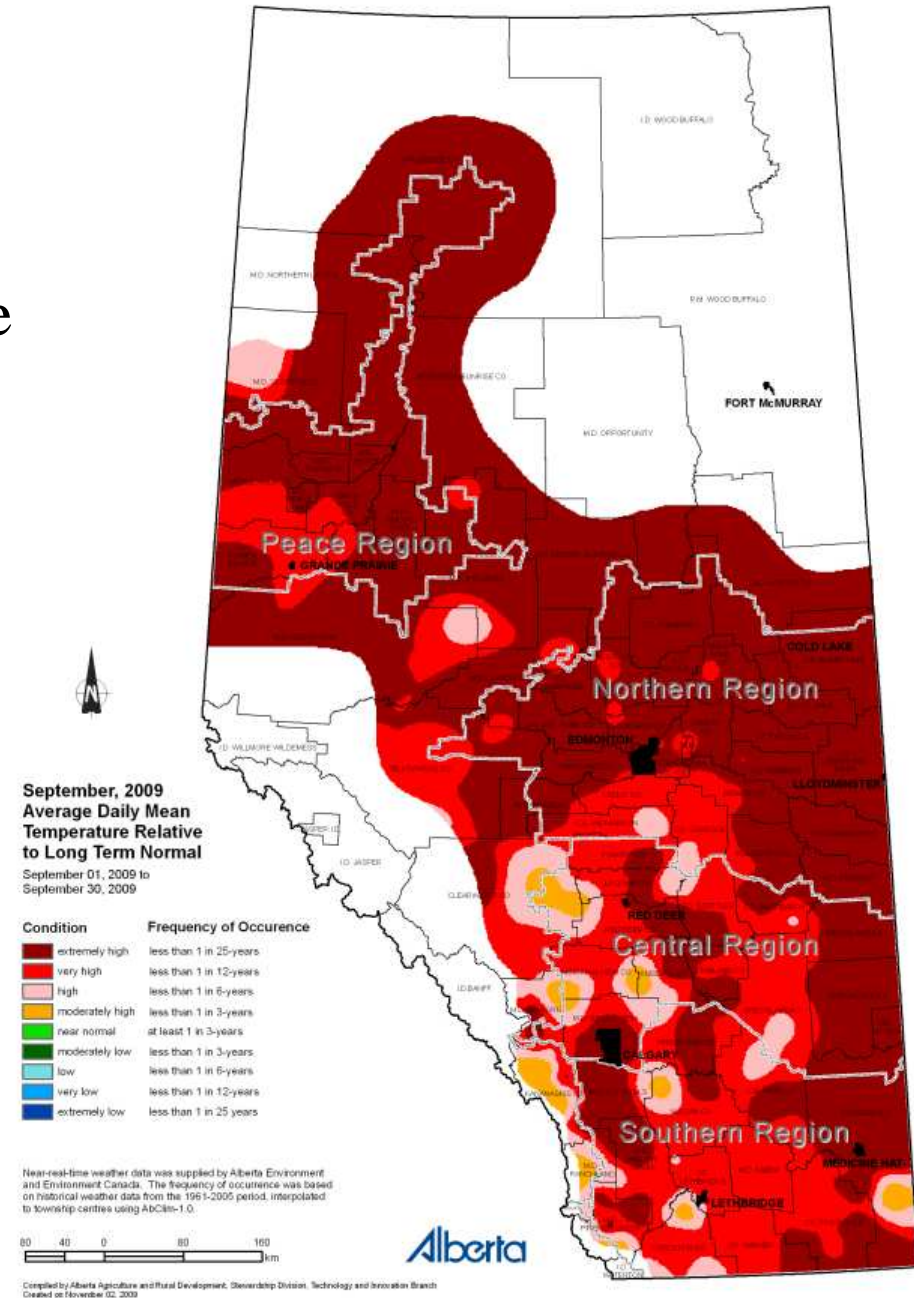


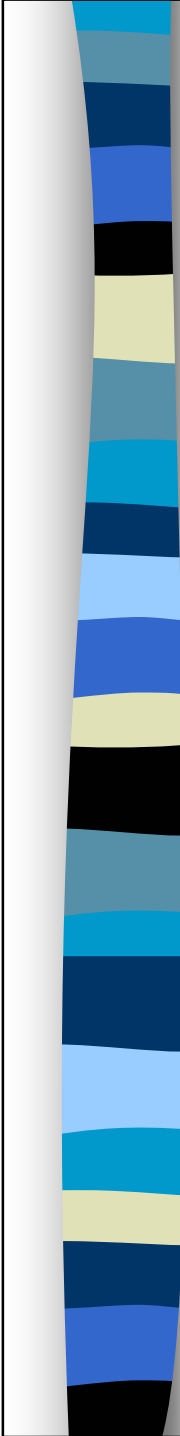
Fortunately September was extremely warm and dry over much of Alberta except for Peace

No hard killing frosts until mid to late September

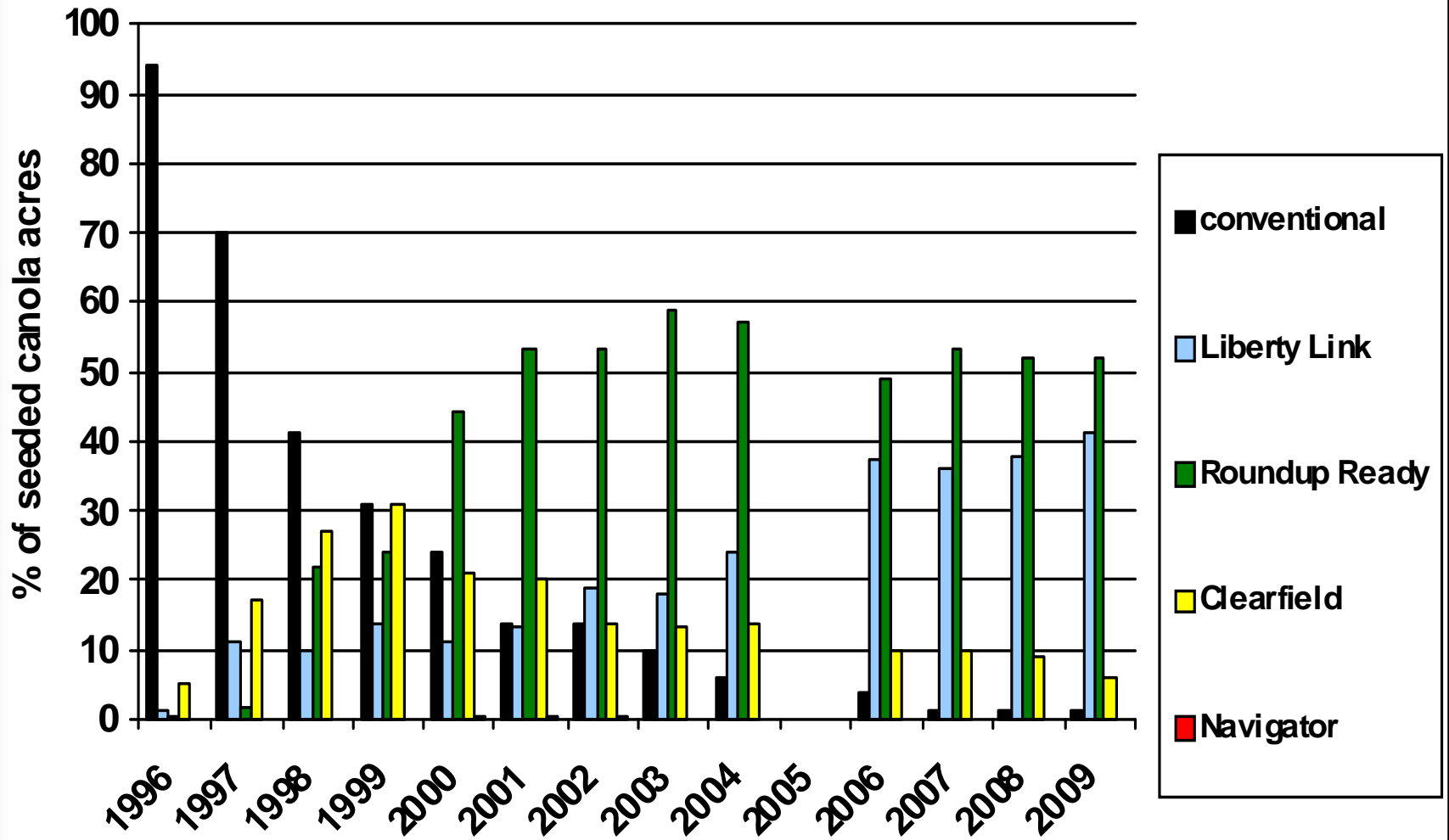
Allowed late crops to mature and harvest to proceed

October was cool and wet but November was warm and dry allowing harvest to wrap-up



- 
- The challenging **weather** in 2009 will probably produce an Alberta canola yield average of 25 - 30 bu/acre
 - Growing season precipitation in the traditional canola growing area ranged from drought to near average
 - July rain rescued yield in dry areas
 - oil content should be average or slightly higher
 - Southern AB oil content much better than average
 - Areas with significant green seed problems
 - Harvested area about 4.6 million acres
 - Production guess 2.5 – 3 million tonnes
 - Much better than hoped for in early summer given the terrible crop establishment in dry conditions with multiple frost damage

Alberta Canola Herbicide System Use from AFSC data



80% hybrids seeded in AB in 2009

9% specialty oils including high erucic

