Coupling of Diurnal Climate to Clouds, Land-use and Snow

Alan K. Betts

akbetts@aol.com

http://alanbetts.com

Co-authors:

Ray Desjardins, Devon Worth, Darrel Cerkowniak

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

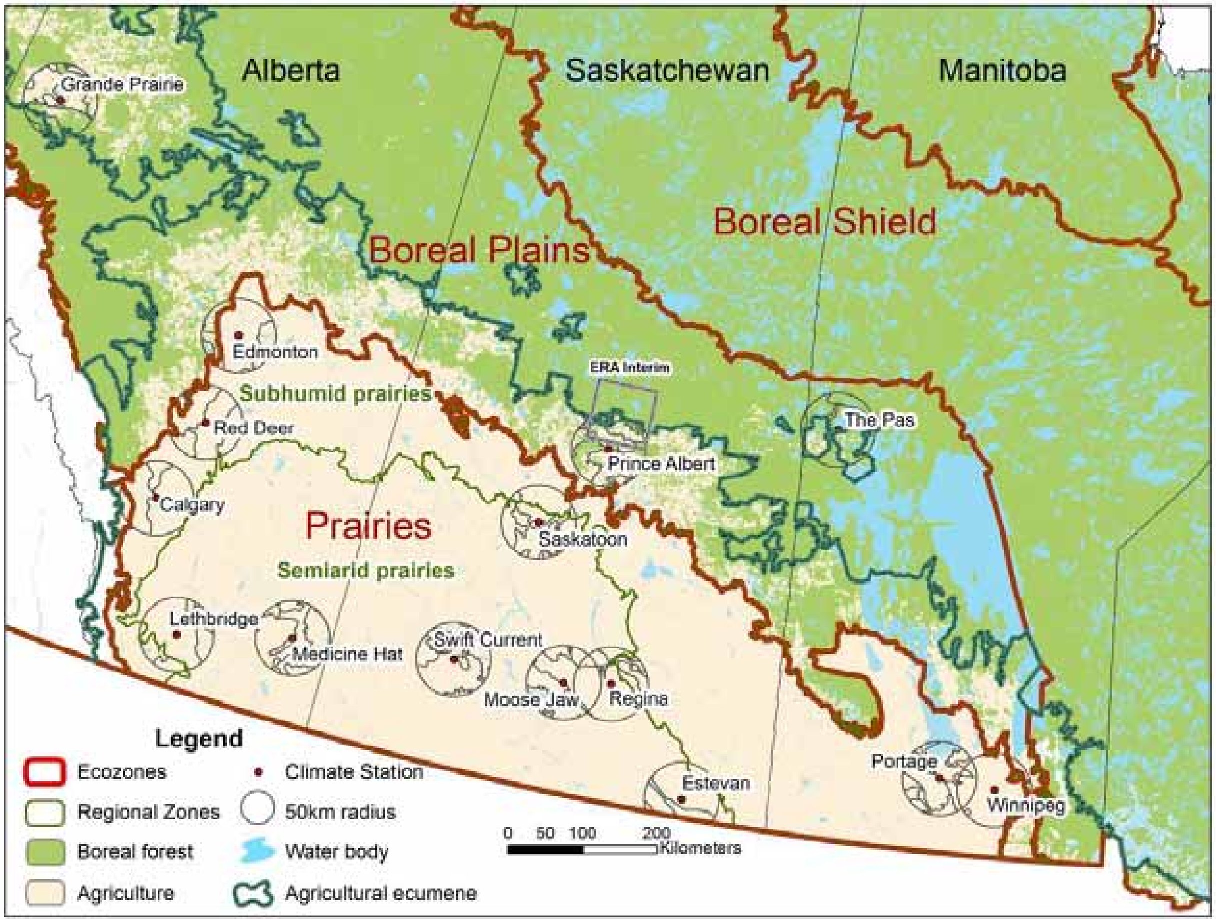
Shusen Wang and Junhua Li

Natural Resources Canada

LSM Workshop, COLA

December 5-6, 2013

14 Prairie stations: 1953-2011



- *Hourly* **p, T, RH, WS, WD, Opaque Cloud by level, (SW_{dn}, LW_{dn})**
- *Daily* **precipitation and snowdepth**
- **Ecodistrict crop data since 1955**
- **Albedo data (MODIS: 250m, after 2000)**

Prairie Station Locations

Station Name	Station ID	Province	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation (m)
Red Deer*	3025480	Alberta	52.18	-113.62	905
Calgary*	3031093	Alberta	51.11	-114.02	1084
Lethbridge†	3033880	Alberta	49.63	-112.80	929
Medicine Hat	3034480	Alberta	50.02	-110.72	717
Grande Prairie*	3072920	Alberta	55.18	-118.89	669
Regina*	4016560	Saskatchewan	50.43	-104.67	578
Moose Jaw	4015320	Saskatchewan	50.33	-105.55	577
Estevan*	4012400	Saskatchewan	49.22	-102.97	581
Swift Current†	4028040	Saskatchewan	50.3	-107.68	817
Prince Albert*	4056240	Saskatchewan	53.22	-105.67	428
Saskatoon*	4057120	Saskatchewan	52.17	-106.72	504
Portage-Southport	5012320	Manitoba	49.9	-98.27	270
Winnipeg*†	5023222	Manitoba	49.82	-97.23	239
The Pas*†	5052880	Manitoba	53.97	-101.1	270

Outline

- **Clouds and Diurnal Cycle over seasons**
  - ***Betts et al (2013a)***
- **Annual crops and seasonal diurnal cycle**
  - ***Betts et al (2013b)***
- **Winter snow transitions and climate**
  - ***Betts et al (2014)***

Available at http://alanbetts.com

References

- **Betts, A.K., R. Desjardins and D. Worth (2013), Cloud radiative forcing of the diurnal cycle climate of the Canadian Prairies. *J. Geophys. Res. Atmos., 118,* 1–19, doi:10.1002/jgrd.50593**
- **Betts, A. K., R. Desjardins, D. Worth, and D. Cerkowniak (2013), Impact of land use change on the diurnal cycle climate of the Canadian Prairies, J. Geophys. Res. Atmos., 118, 11,996–12,011, doi:10.1002/2013JD020717**

- **Betts, A.K., R. Desjardins, D. Worth, Shusen Wang and Junhua Li (2014), Coupling of winter climate transitions to snow and clouds over the Prairies** (JGR 2013JD021168 submitted)

Methods: Analyze Coupled System

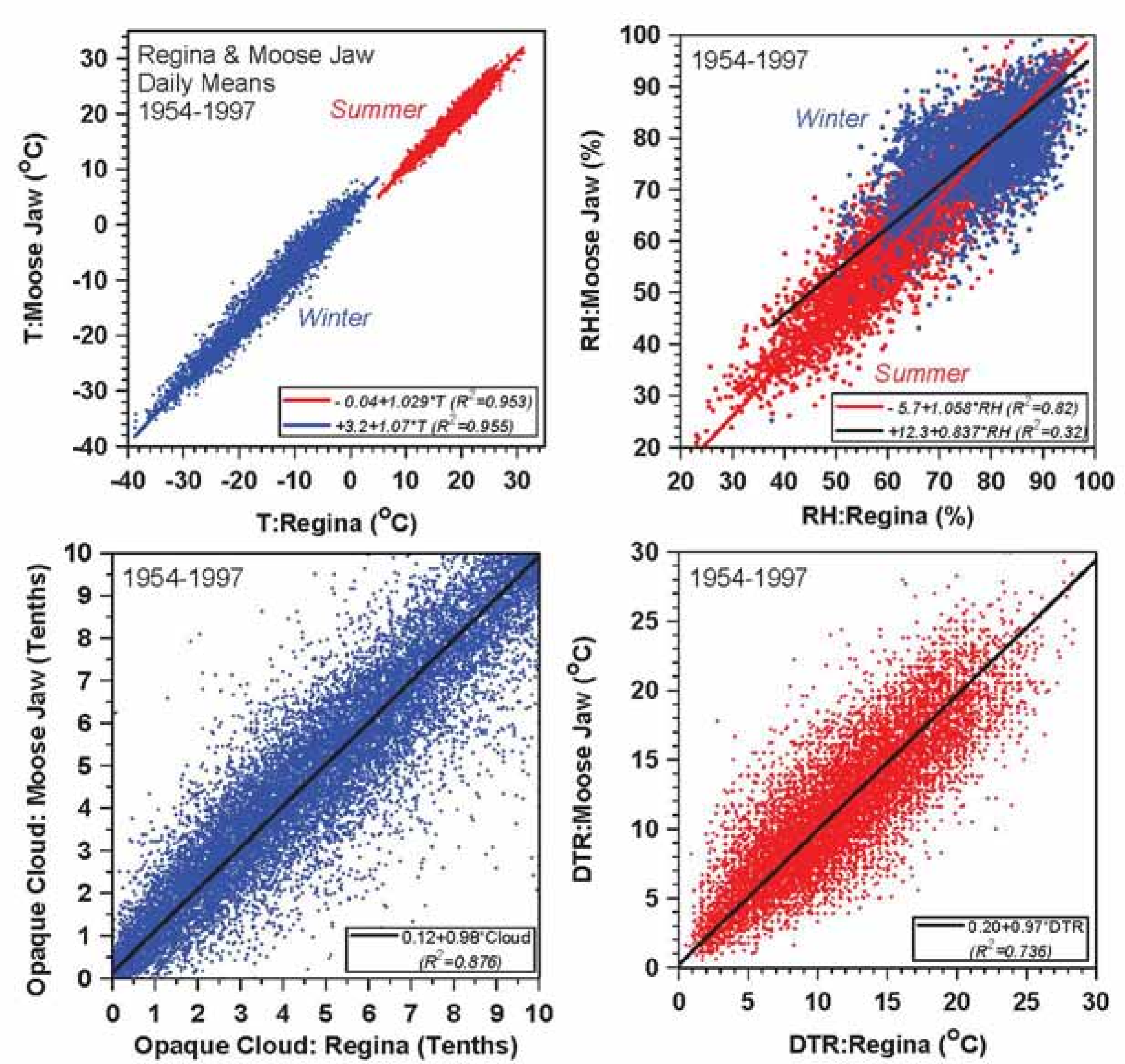
- *Seasonal diurnal climate by station/region*
- 220,000 days of excellent data (600+ years)
- Composite by daily mean opaque cloud
  - Calibrate SWCF, LWCF against radiation data
    - [Sub-stratify by RH]
- Change of seasonal climate with cropping
  - Summerfallow to annual crops on 5MHa in 30 yrs
  - Comparison with ERA-Interim grid-box
  - Drydown after precipitation events
- Composite across snow transitions
  - First snow in fall; spring melt of snowpack
  - Winter climate and % snow cover

Clouds and Diurnal Climate

- **Reduce hourly data to**
  - **daily means: T_{mean} , RH_{mean} etc**
  - **data at T_{max} and T_{min}**
- ***Diurnal cycle climate***
  - **DTR = T_{max}-T_{min}** ***(T_x-T_n)***
  - **ΔRH = RH:T_x – RH:T_n**
- **Almost no missing data *(until recent government cutbacks*!)**

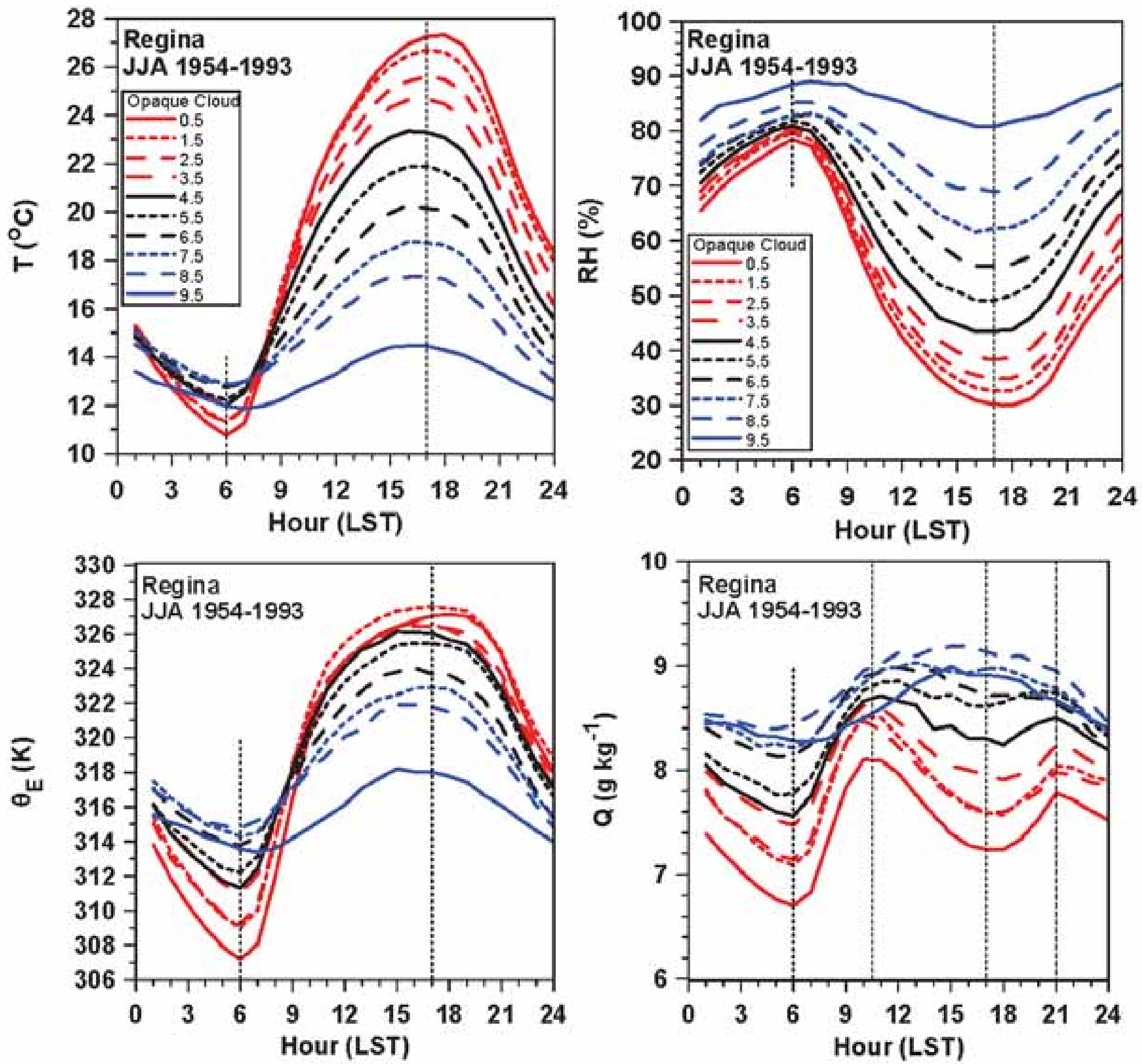
Compare Neighbors: 64 km

- **Daily means**
- **T: R^2>0.95**
- **DTR: 1 to 1**
- **RH poorly correlated in winter**
- **Opaque Cloud 1 to 1** →



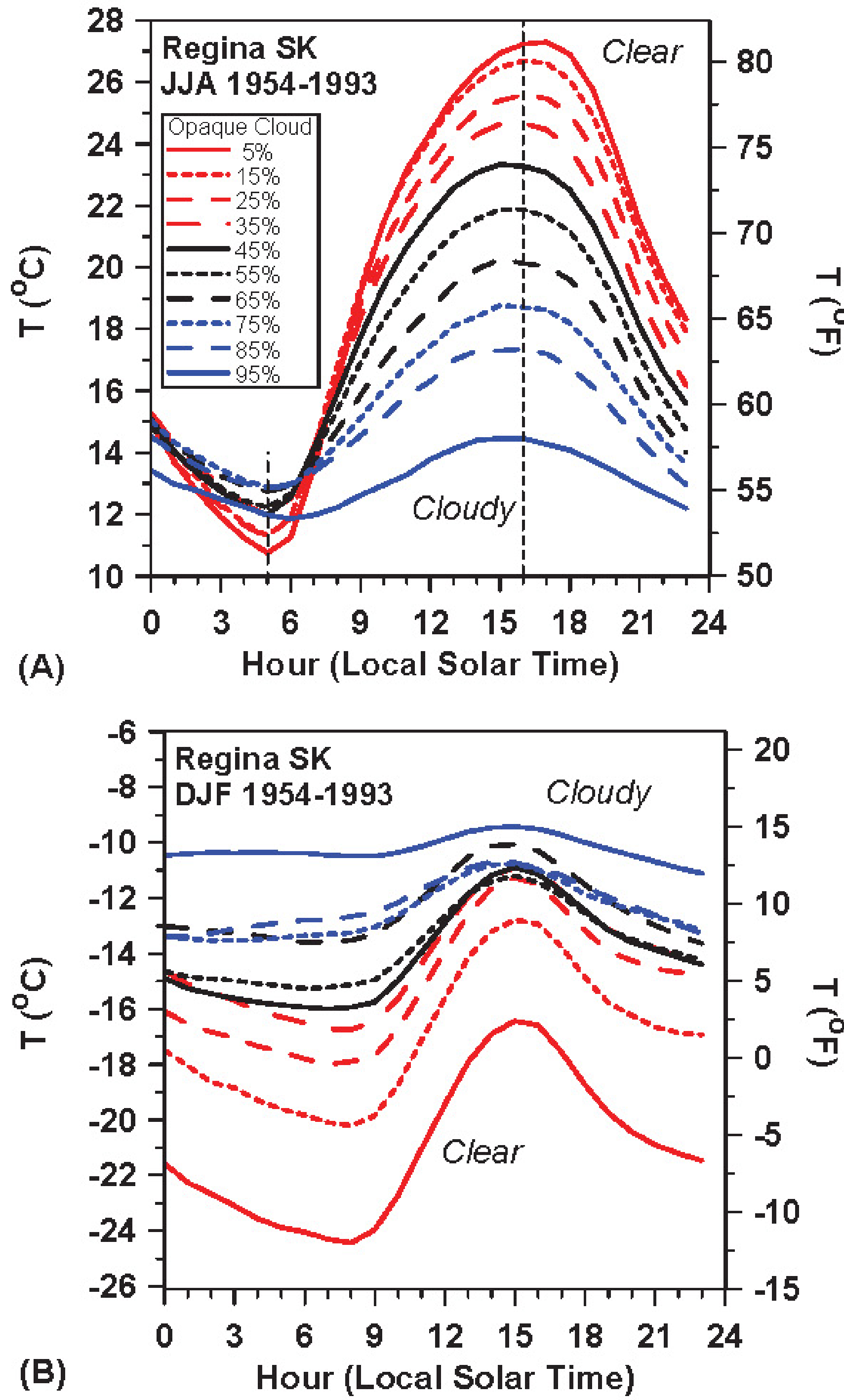
Clouds to Summer Diurnal Cycle

- ***40-yr climate***
- **T and RH are inverse**
- **Q has double maximum for BL transitions**
- **θ_E flatter**
- ***Overcast only outlier***



Cloud Impacts

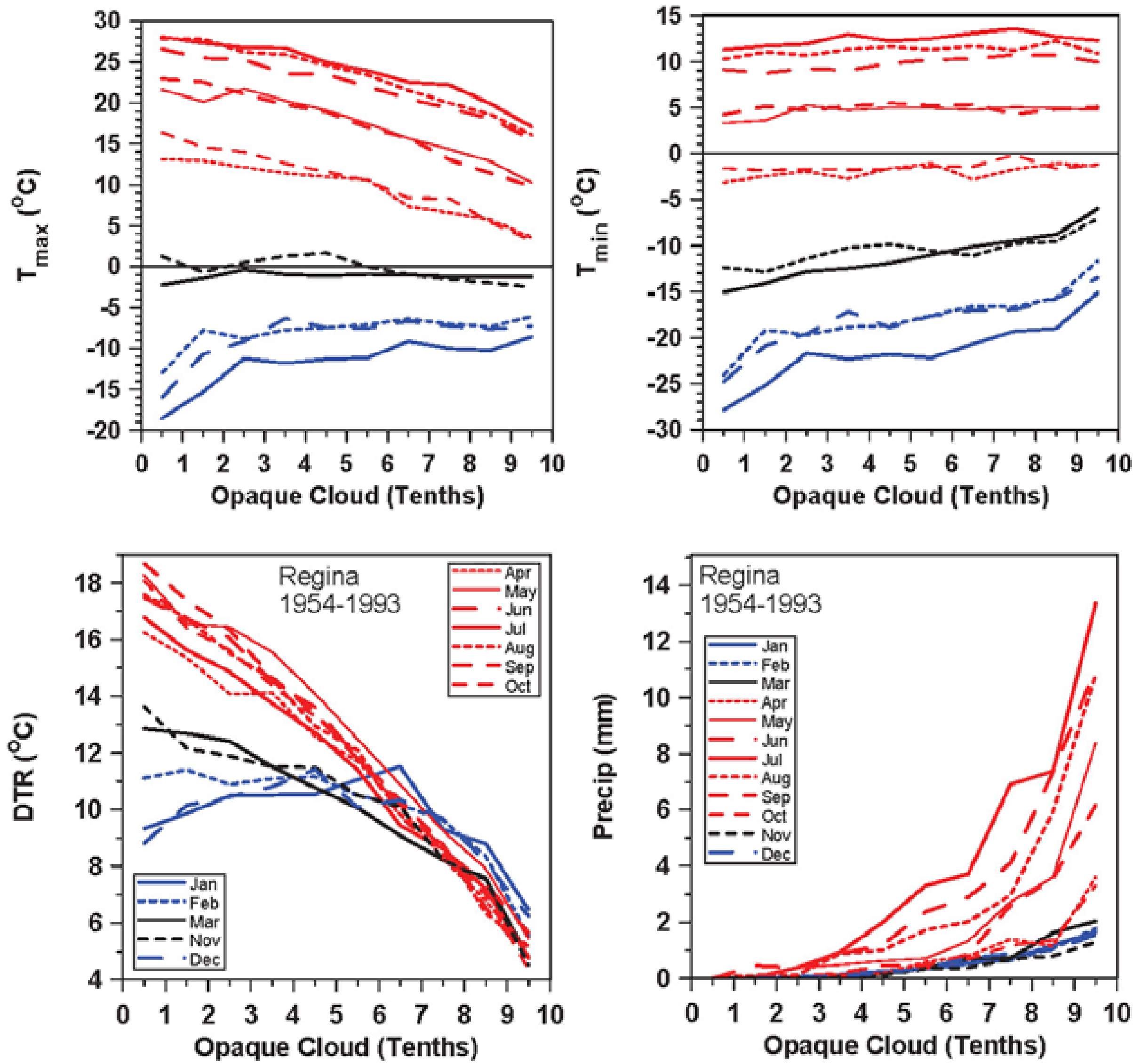
- **Summer:** Clouds reflect sunlight
  - no cloud, hot days; only slightly cooler at night
- **Winter:** Clouds are greenhouse
  - snow reflects low sun
  - clear & dry sky, cold days, very cold nights
- **Fast transition with snow in 5 days**



Betts et al. 2013

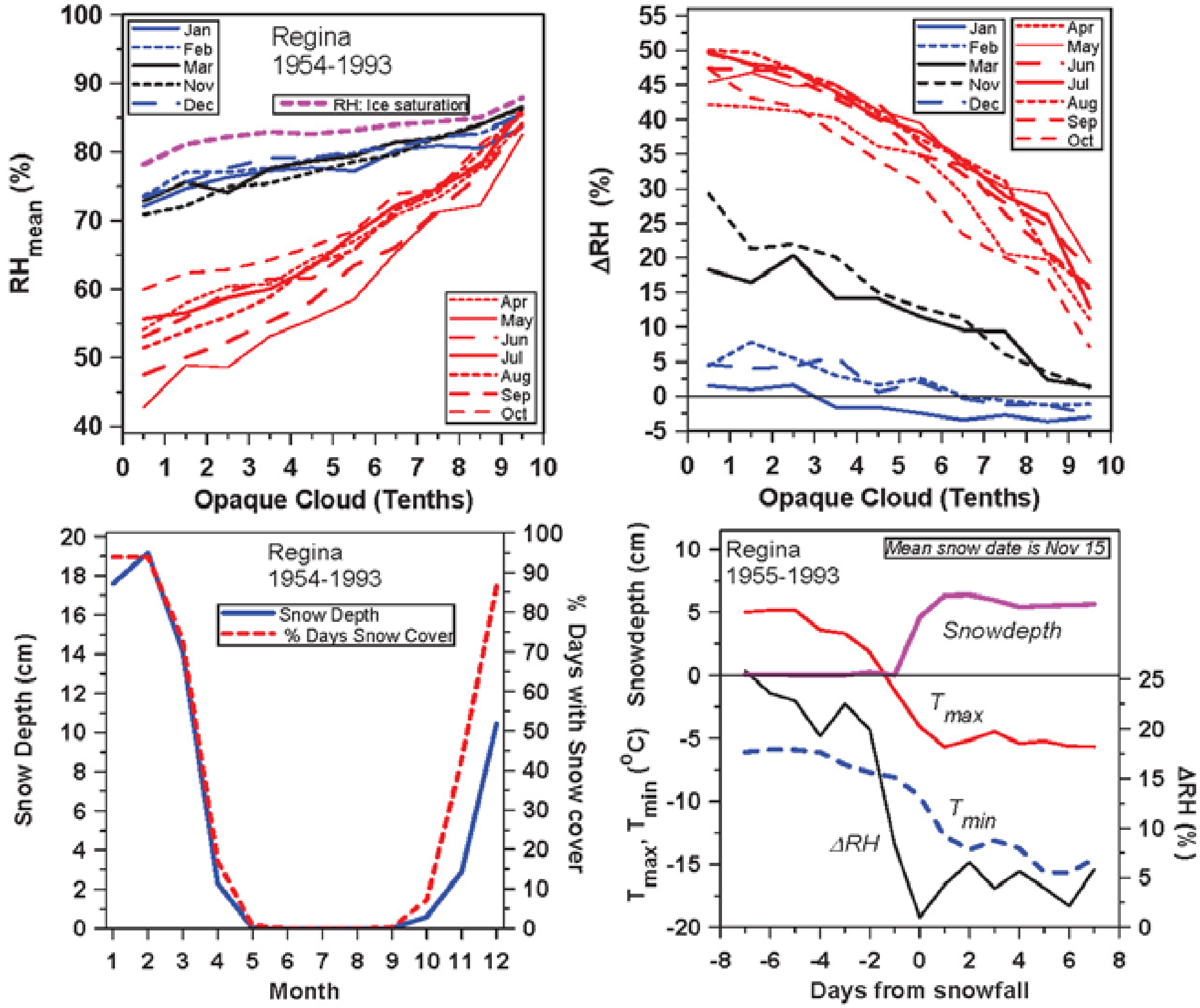
Annual Cycle: T_{max}, T_{min}, DTR, Precip

- **Warm state: April – Oct**
- **Cold state: Dec – Feb**
- **Transitions: Nov, Mar**
  $T_{max} \approx 0^oC$
- ***Actually occur in <5 days***

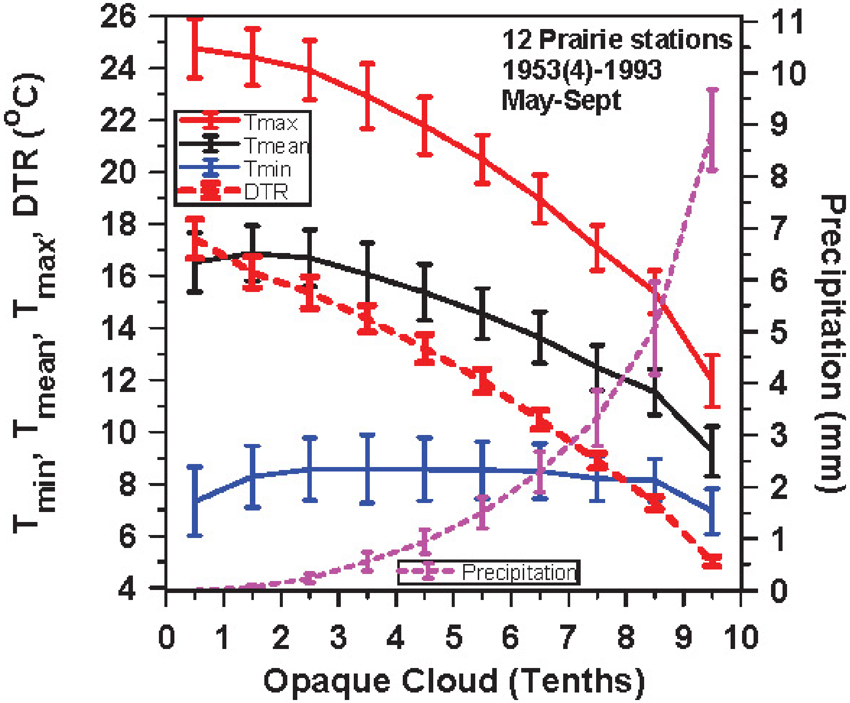


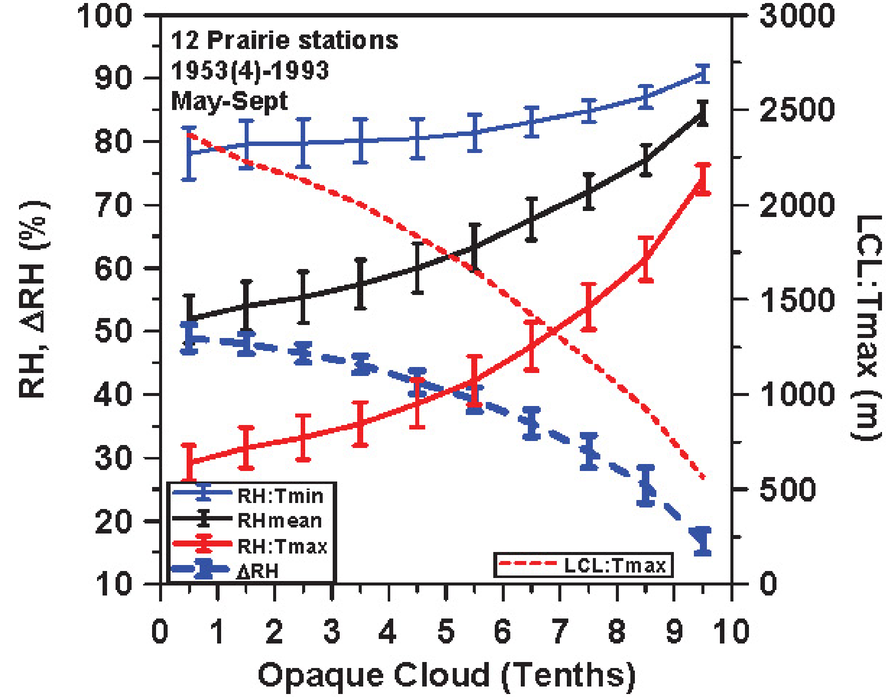
Annual Cycle: RH and ΔRH

- **Warm state: April – Oct**
- **Cold state: Dec – Feb**
- **Transitions: Nov, Mar**
  $T_{max} \approx 0^oC$
- **Transition**
  - ***in <5 days with snow***



Prairie Warm Season Climate





- **12 stations: small variability**
- **Cloud to DTR and ΔRH *very tight***

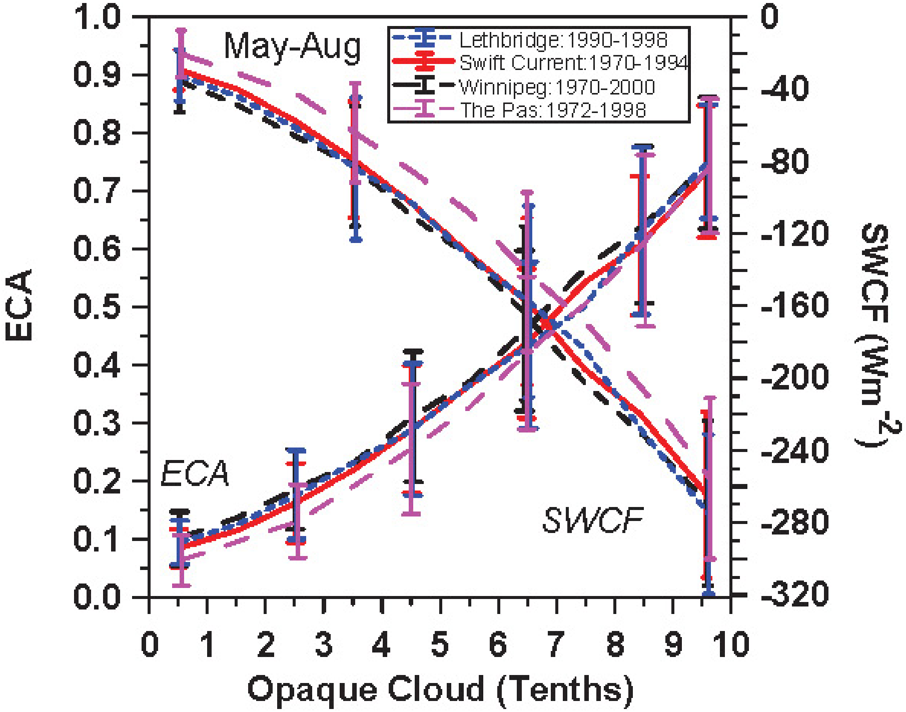
Surface Radiation Budget

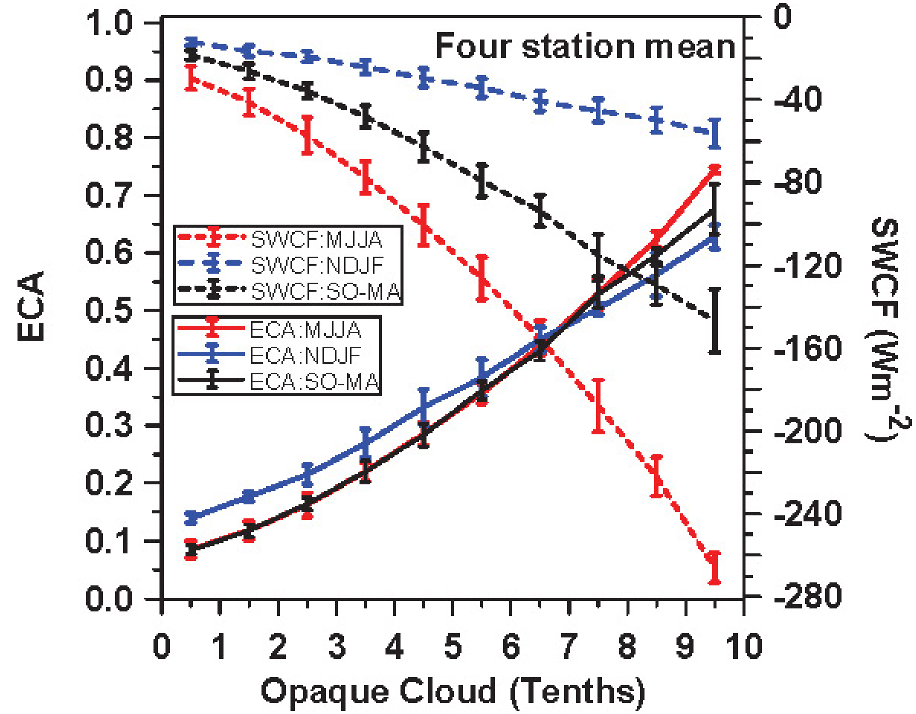
- $R_{net} = SW_{net} + LW_{net}$
  $= (SW_{dn} - SW_{up}) + (LW_{dn} - LW_{up})$
- $SWCF = SW_{dn} - SW_{dn}(clear)$
  Fit clear days or calculate

Define Effective Cloud Albedo

- $ECA = - SWCF / SW_{dn}(clear)$
- $SW_{net} = (1 - \alpha_s)(1 - ECA)\ SW_{dn}(clear)$
  Reflected by surface, clouds
  MODIS Calibrate Opaque Cloud data

Calibration of Opaque Cloud to ECA (*Effective Cloud Albedo*)

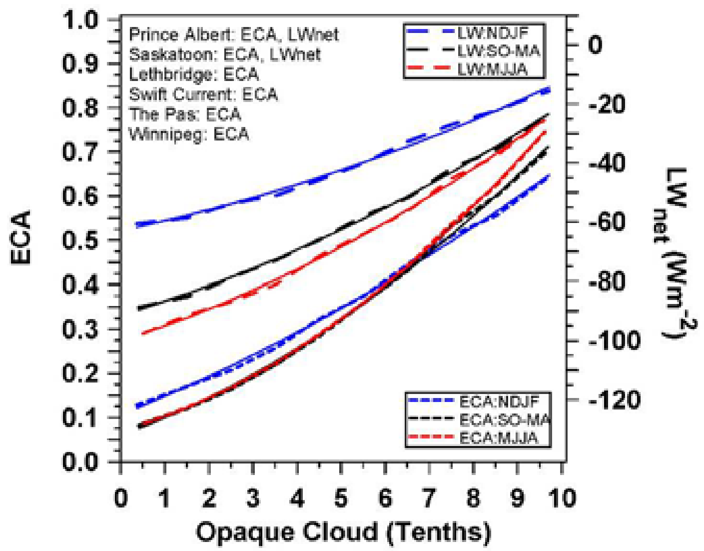




May-Aug **"Seasonal"**

- **Tight relationship: ECA to Opaque Cloud**
- **NDJF a little flatter**

Fit ECA and LW_{net} to Opaque Cloud



NDJF: ECA = 0.1056 + 0.0404 Cloud + 0.00158 Cloud^2

SO-MA: ECA = 0.0588 + 0.0365 Cloud + 0.00318 Cloud^2

MJJA: ECA = 0.0681 + 0.0293 Cloud + 0.00428 Cloud^2

Gives SW_{net} from SW_{dn}(clear) and albedo α_s

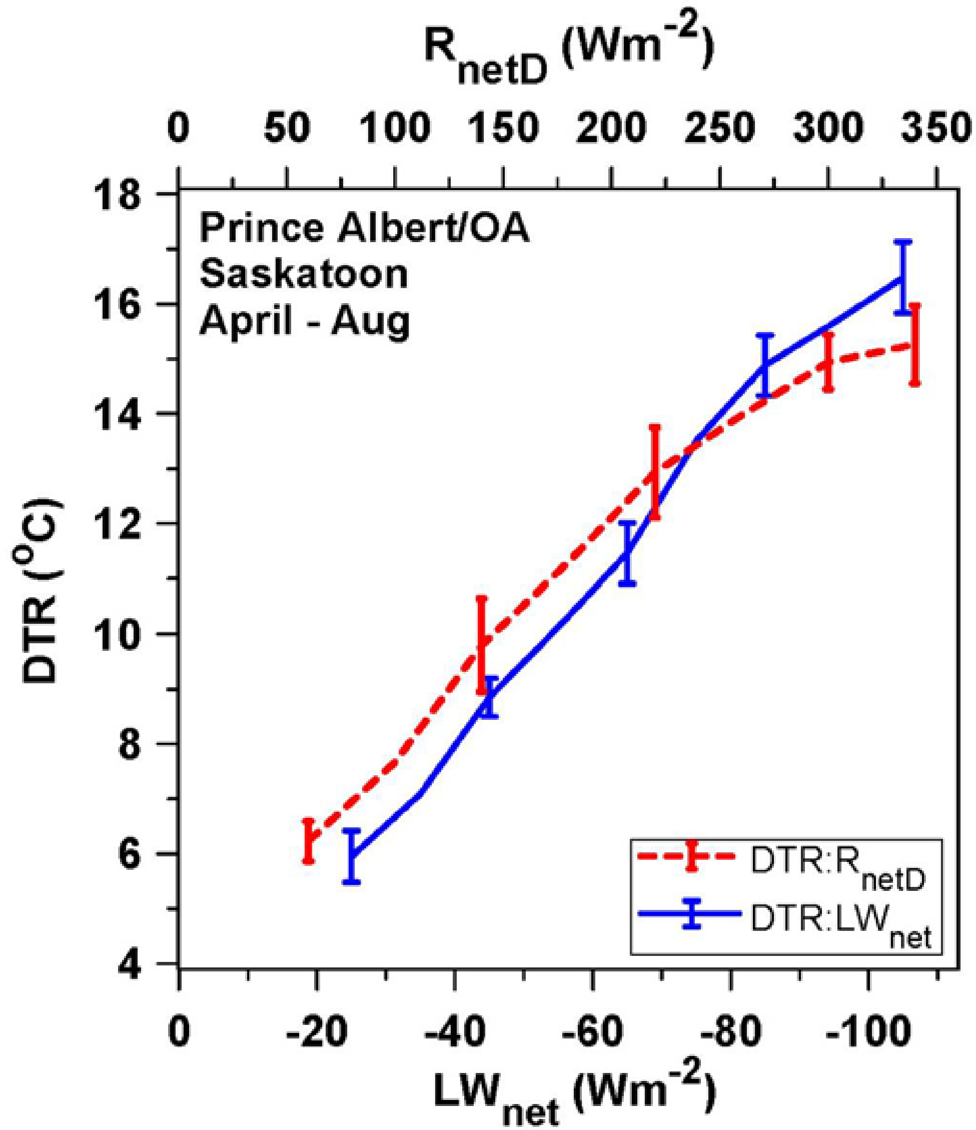
NDJF: LW_{net} = -63.0 + 3.14 Cloud + 0.193 Cloud^2

SO-MA: LW_{net} = -91.5 +4.43 Cloud +0.267 Cloud^2

MJJA: LW_{net} = -100.1 +4.73 Cloud +0.317 Cloud^2

Diurnal Temperature Range

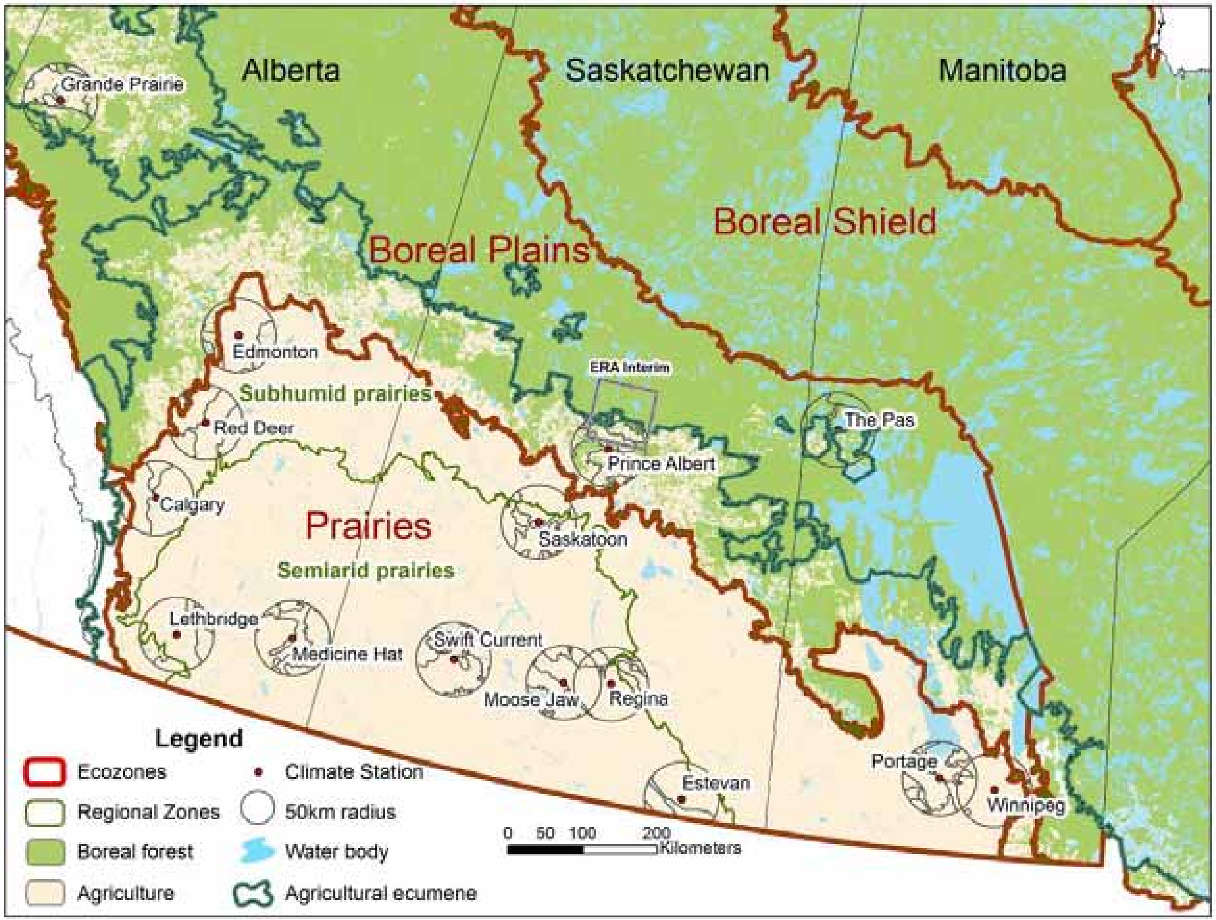
- **Daytime Driver:**
  R_{netD}
- **Nighttime driver:**
  LW_{net}
  (Betts JGR 2006)
- ***Fully coupled diurnal system in warm season***



Annual crops and seasonal diurnal cycle

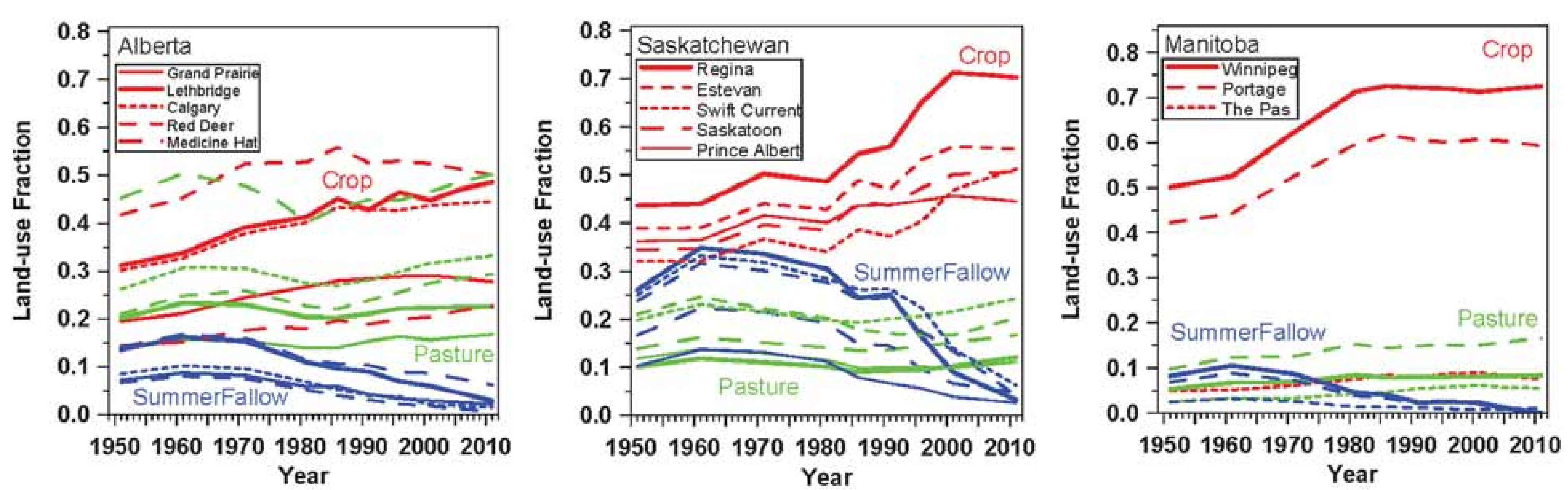
- Ecodistrict crop data since 1955
  - Ecodistricts mapped to soils
  - Typical scale: 2000 km^2 (500-7000)
- Ecozones
  - boreal plains ecozone
  - semiarid/subumid prairie regional zones
- Shift from ‘Summerfallow’ (no crops) to annual cropping on 5 MHa (11 M acres)
  - *Large increase in transpiration: Jun-Jul*

14 Prairie stations: 1953-2011



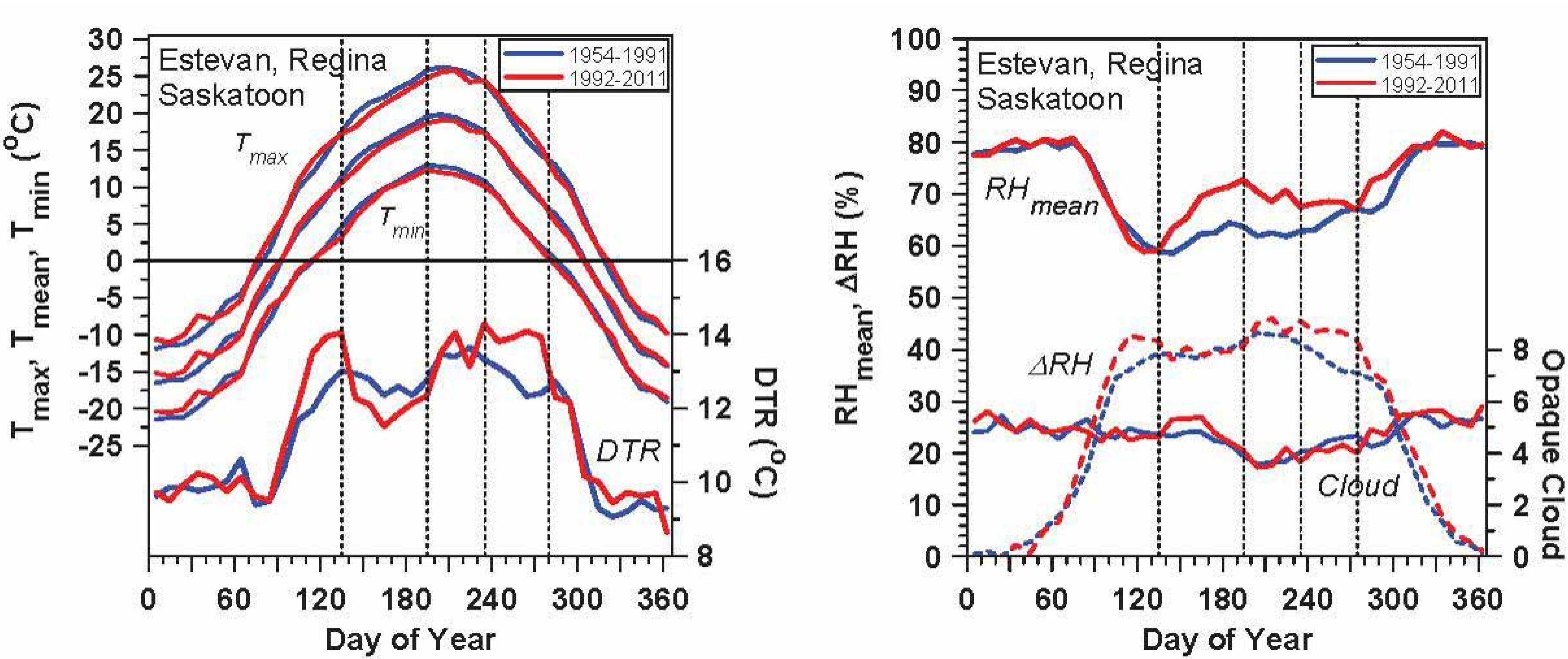
- **Hourly p, T, RH, WS, WD, Opaque Cloud by level, (SW_{dn}, LW_{dn})**
- **Daily precipitation and snowdepth**
- **Ecodistrict crop data since 1955**
- **Albedo data (MODIS: 250m, after 2000)**

Change in Cropping



- **Ecodistrict mean for 50-km around station**
- **Saskatchewan: 25% drop SummerFallow**
- ***Split at 1991- Has summer climate changed?***

Three Station Mean in SK

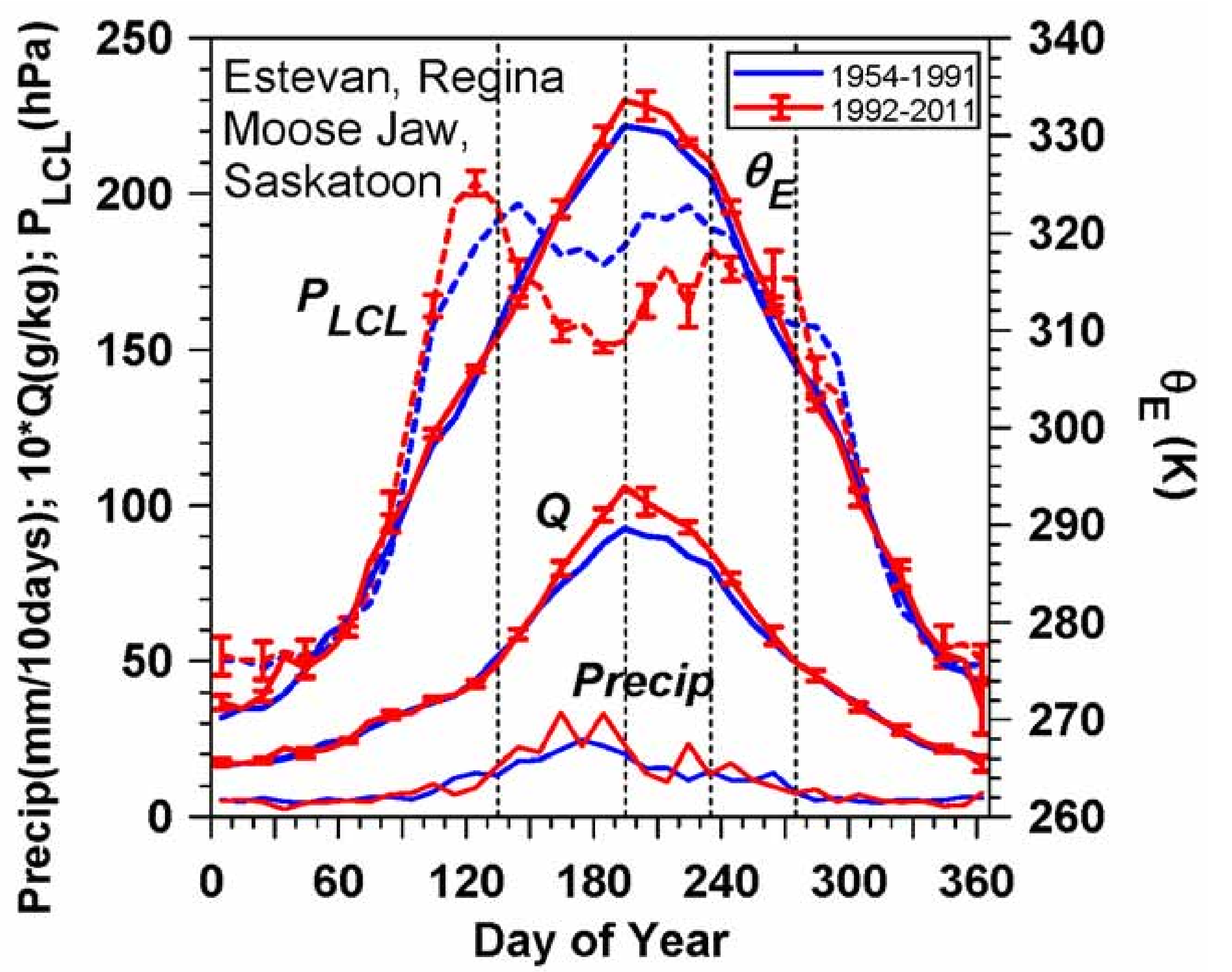


- Growing season
  - T_{max} cooler; RH moister
  - DTR and ΔRH seasonal structure changes

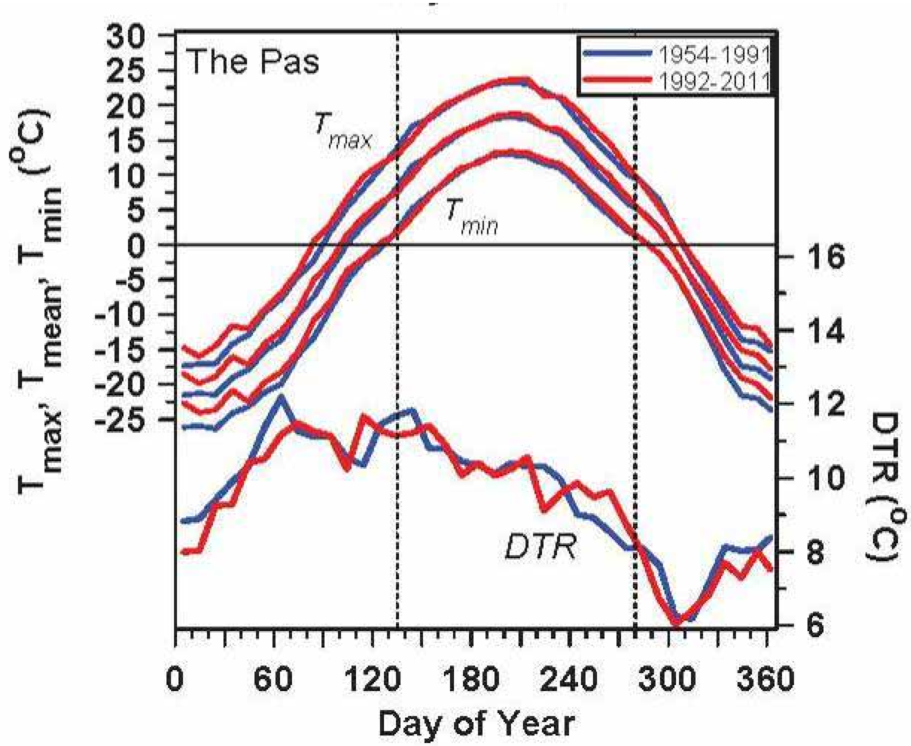
Impact on Convective Instability

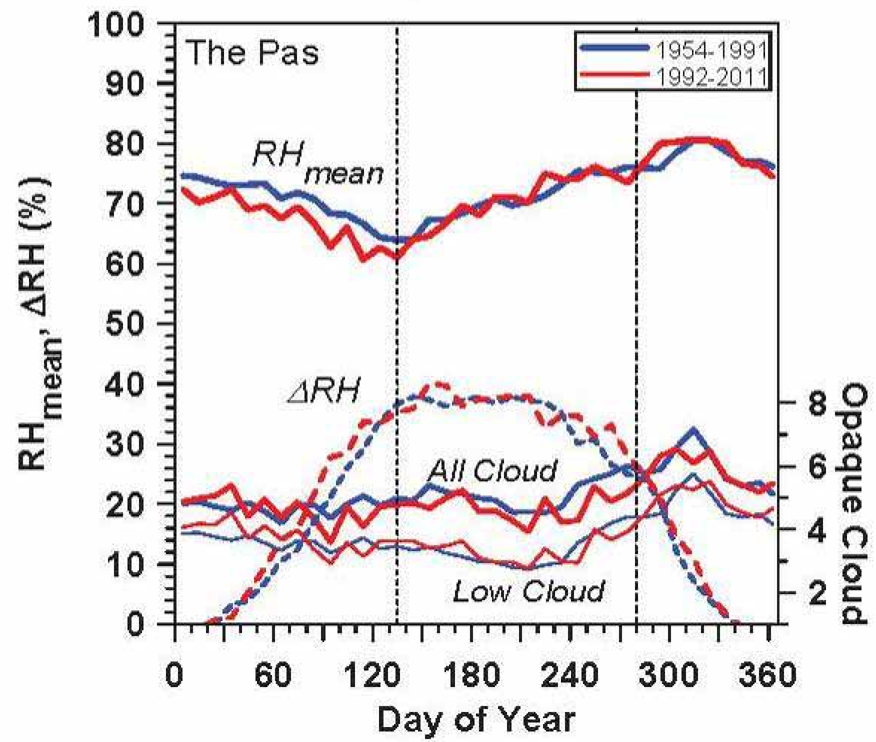
Growing season

- **Lower LCL**
- **Higher θ_E**
- **More Precip**



Contrast Boreal Forest





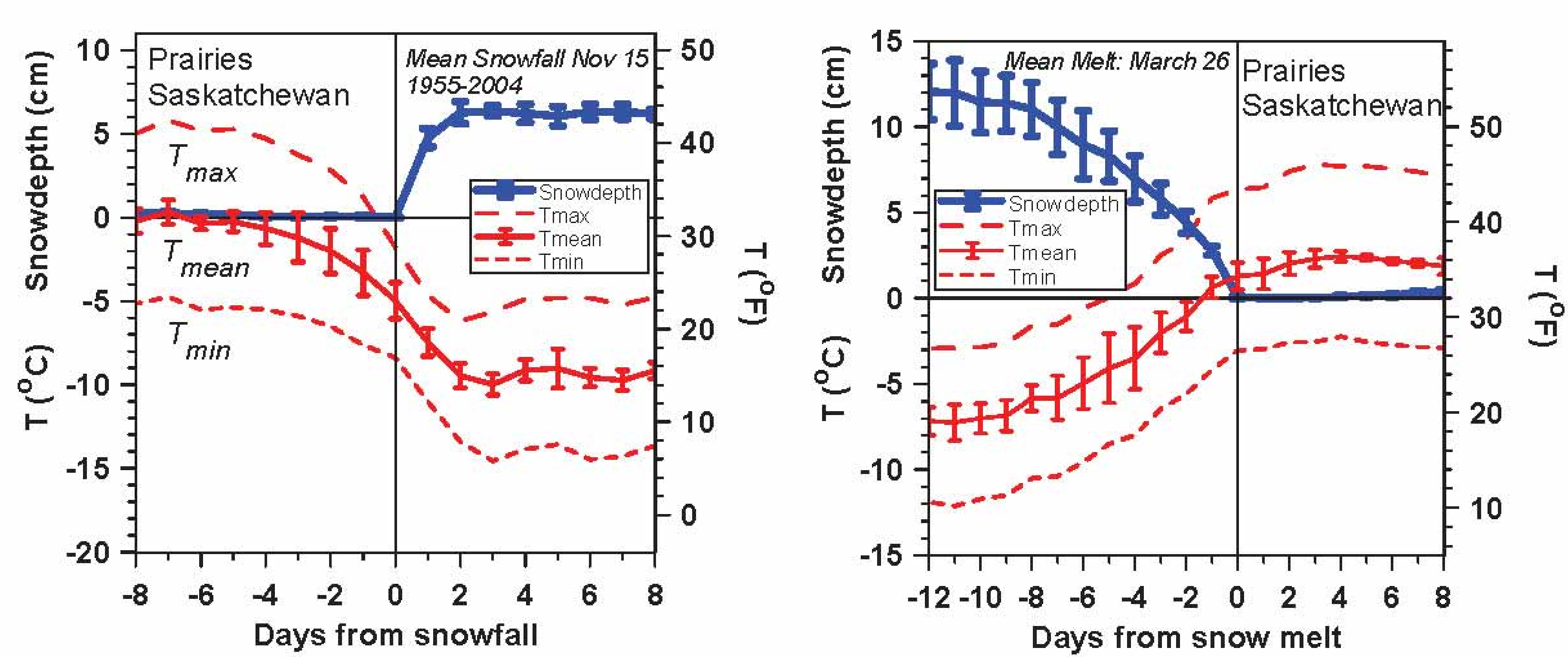
- **No RH, DTR signal**

Impact of Snow on Climate

"Winter transitions"

- Composite about snow date
  - First lying snow in fall
  - Final snow-pack melt in spring
- Gives mean climate transition with snow
  - 13 stations with 40-50 years of data
- *Snow cover and winter climate*
- Snow cover cools surface 10-14K
  - Shift to LWCF control from SWCF
  - Snow cover is a fast "*climate switch*"

Snowfall and Snowmelt
Winter and Spring transitions

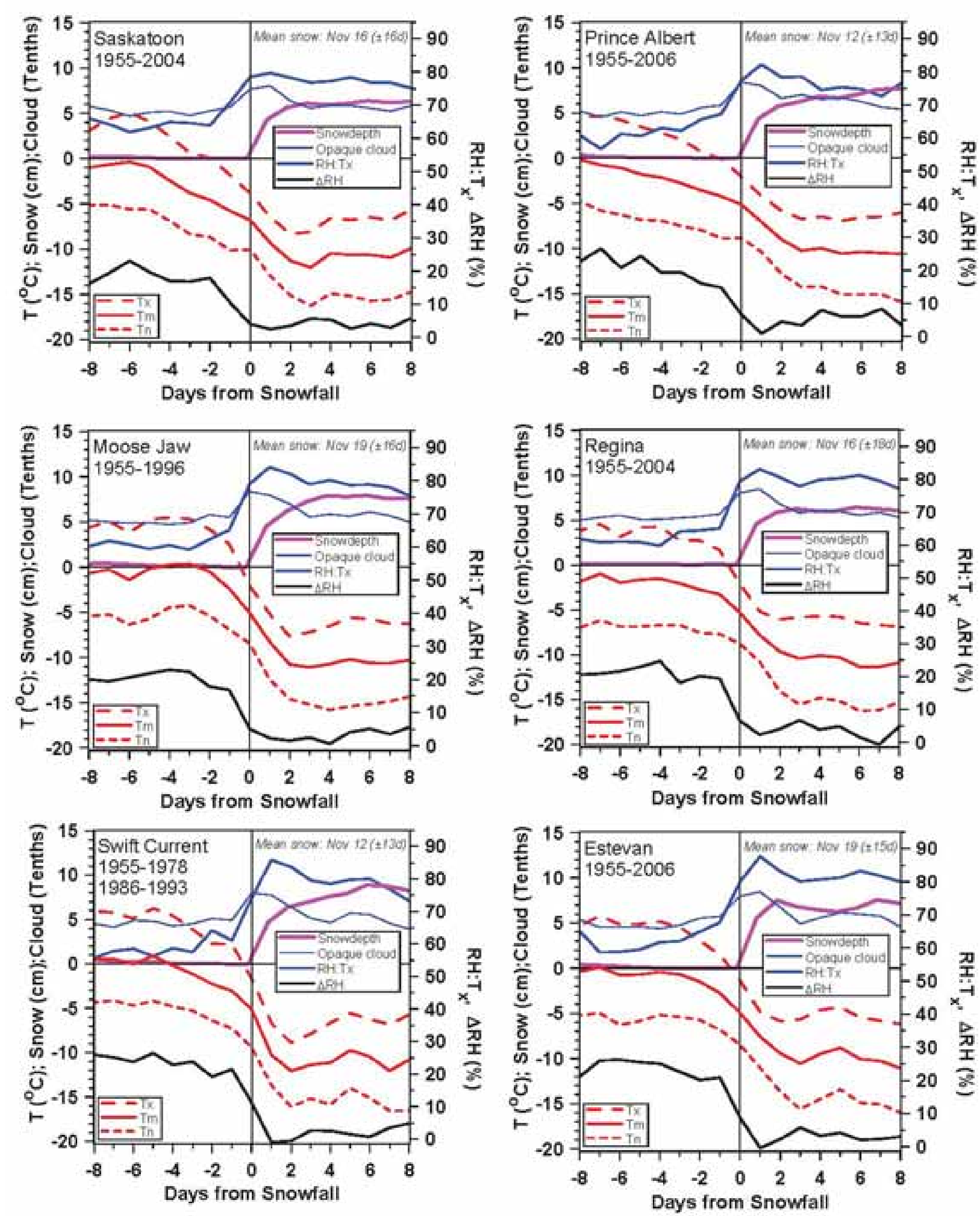


- **Temperature falls/rises about 10K with first snowfall/snowmelt**
- ***Snow reflects sunlight; reduces evaporation and water vapor greenhouse – loss of snow warms 'local climate'***
  - ***Same feedbacks that are speeding Arctic ice melt in summer***
  - ***Local climate switch between warm and cold seasons***

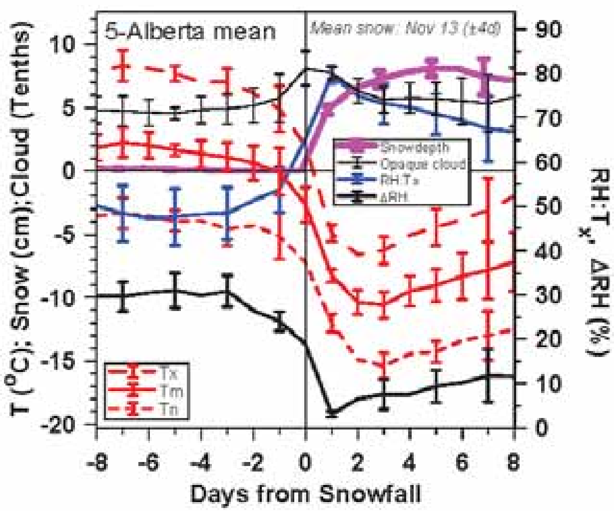
Betts et al. 2014

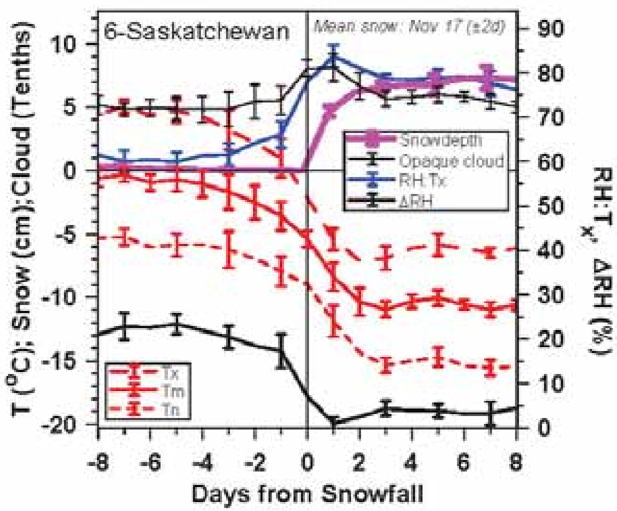
6 Stations in Saskatchewan

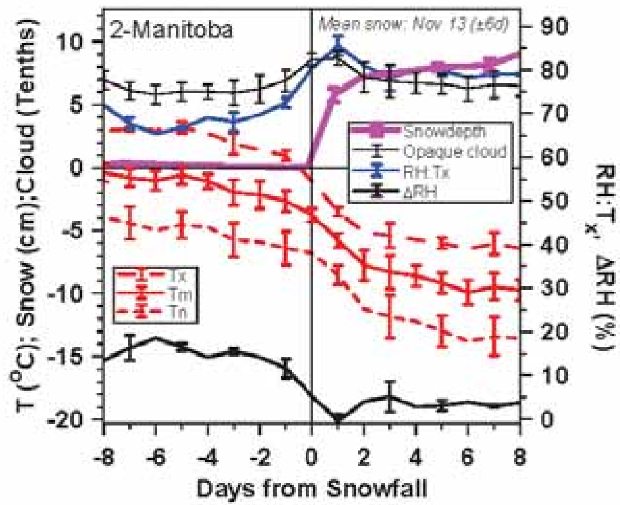
- T_x,T_m,T_n fall about 10K
- ΔRH falls to <10%, afternoon RH rises
- Cloud increases 10% (peaking with snow)
- Snow date: Nov 15 ± 15 days



Fall Snow Transition Climatology

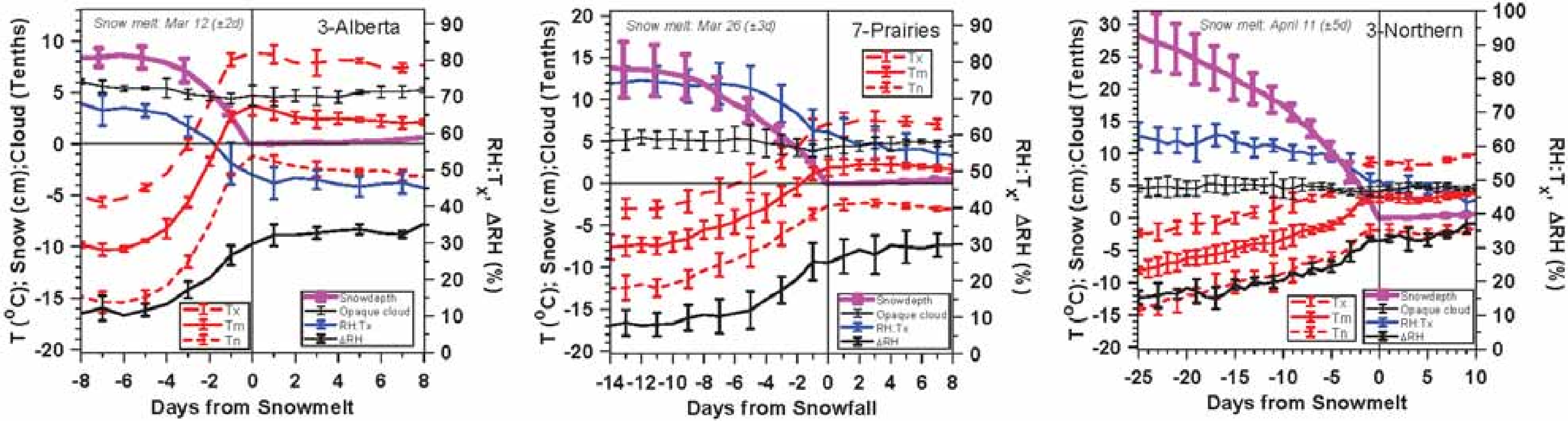






- T_x,T_m,T_n fall about 10K
- ΔRH falls to 10%, afternoon RH rises
- Cloud increases 10% (peaking with snow)
- Snow date: Nov 15 ± 3 days

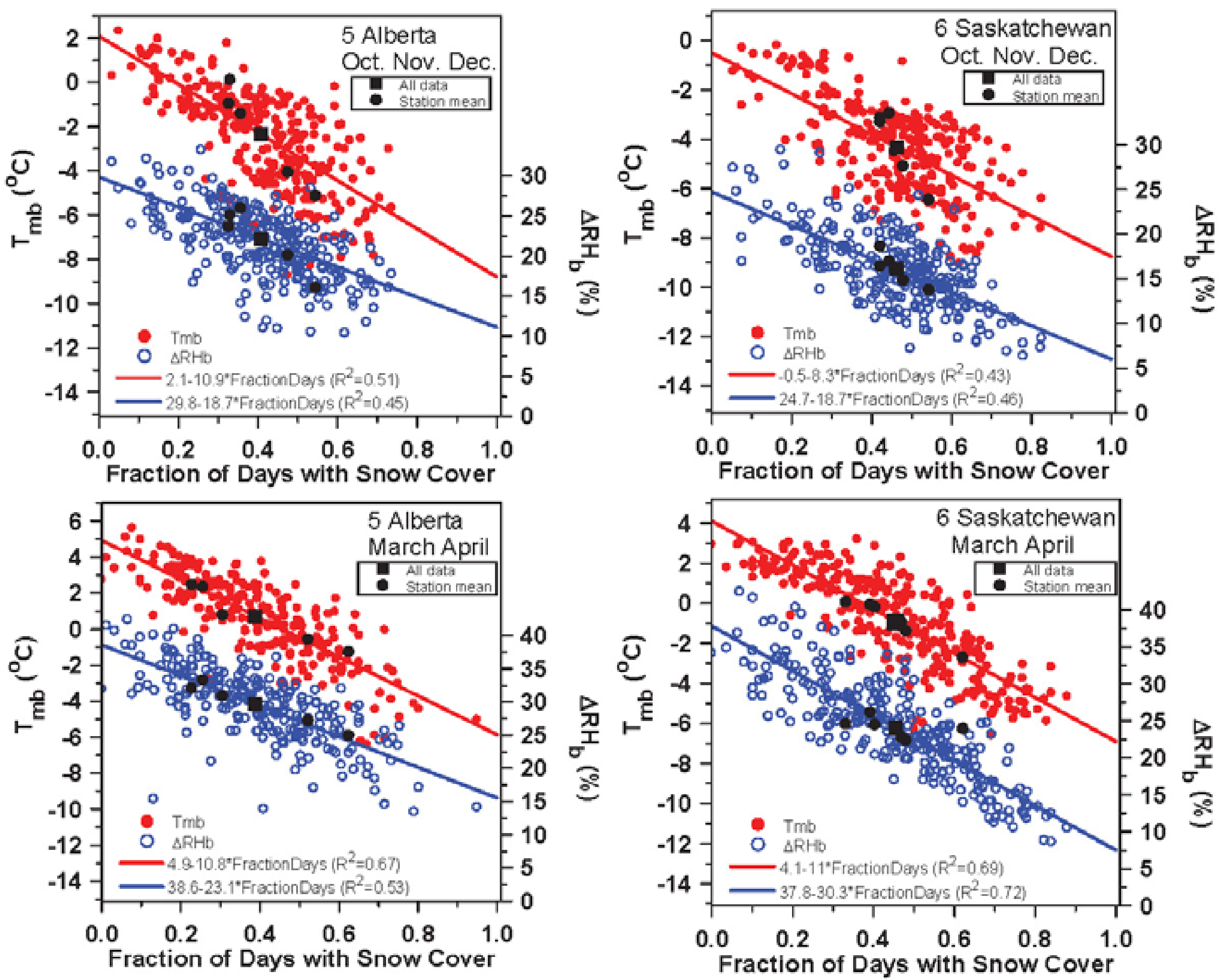
Snow-melt Transition Climatology



- SW Alberta: increase about 11K
- Saskatchewan: increase about 10K
- 3 northern stations: increase 10K, slower
- Melt date: March 12–April 11

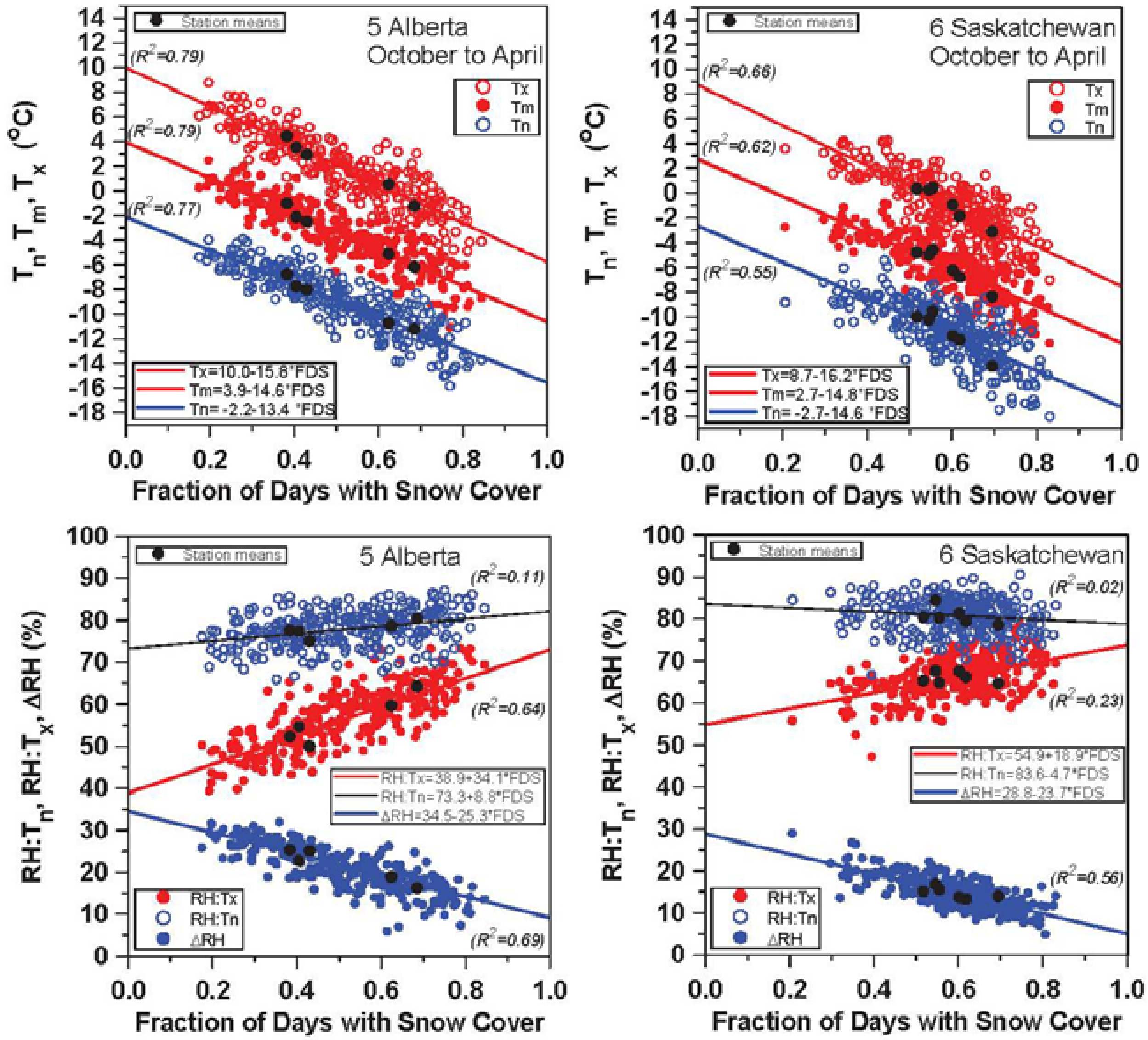
Snow Cover to temperature: Fall and Spring Climatology

- **Fraction of days with snow cover drives much of interannual variability of T**
- **70% in spring**
- **T- Slopes: -11, -8, -11, -11**



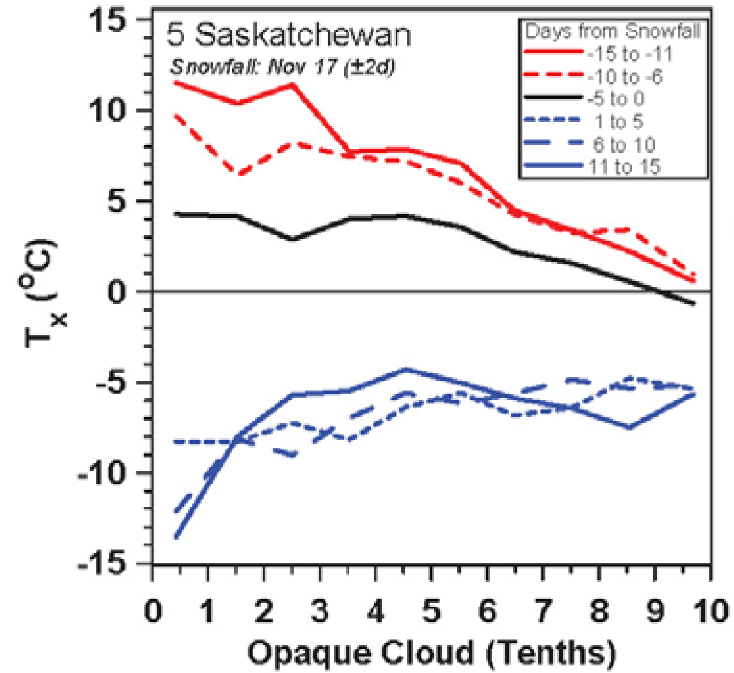
Snow Cover: Cold Season Climate

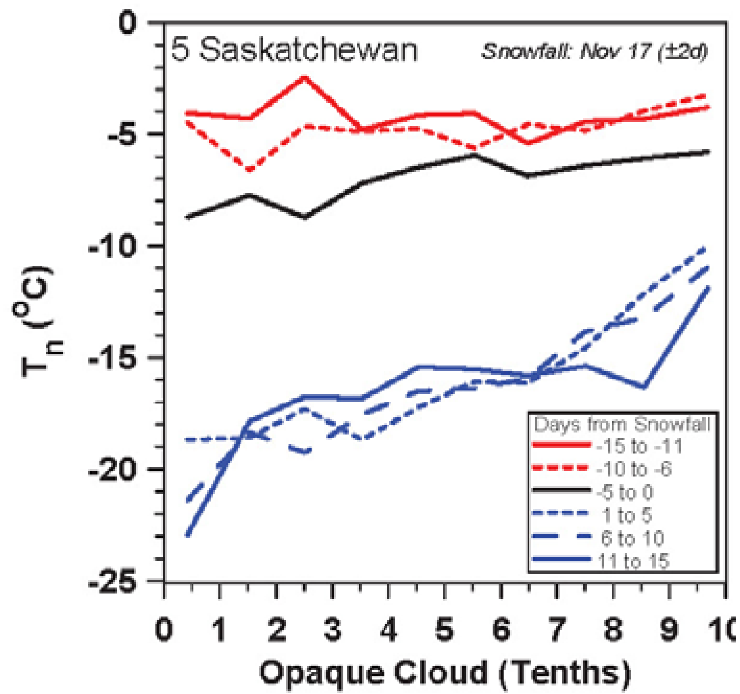
- **Alberta: 79% of variance**
- **Slopes**
  - T_x -16.0K
  - T_m -14.7K
  - T_n -14.0K



Coupling to Cloud Cover Across Snowfall

- Mid-November
- 5-day means
  - *red: no snow*
  - *blue: snow*
- With snow
  - T_x, T_n plunge
- Cloud coupling shifts
  - SWCF to LWCF

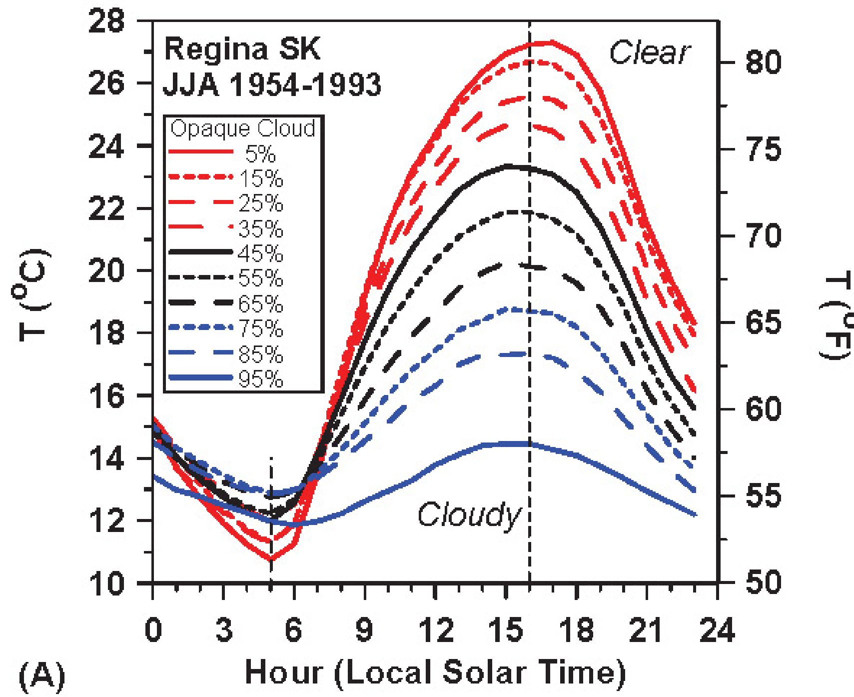


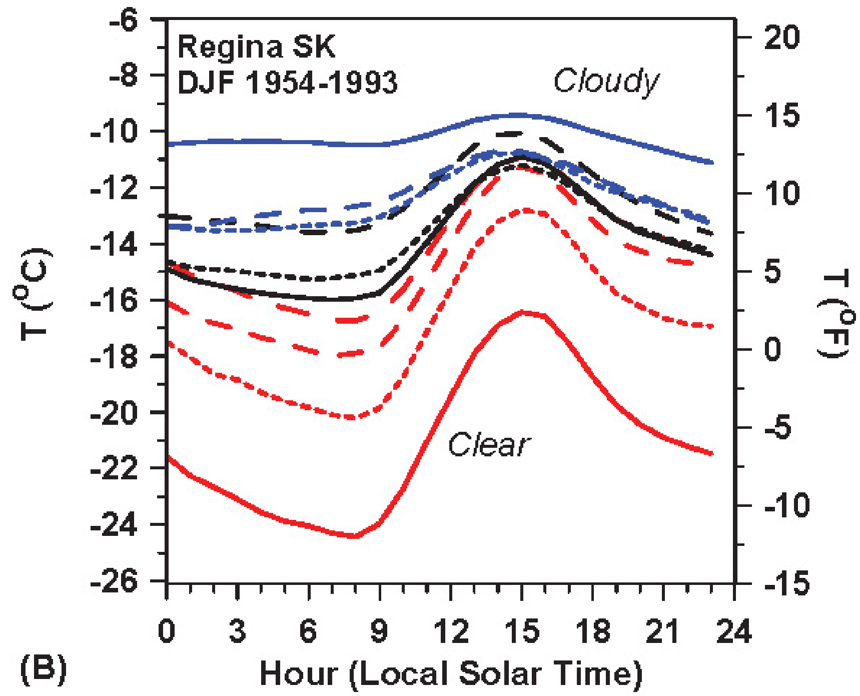


Cloud Impacts

- **Summer:** Clouds reflect sunlight
  - no cloud, hot days; only slightly cooler at night
- **Winter:** Clouds are greenhouse
  - snow reflects low sun
  - clear & dry sky, cold days, very cold nights
- **Fast transition with snow in 5 days**

Betts et al. 2013

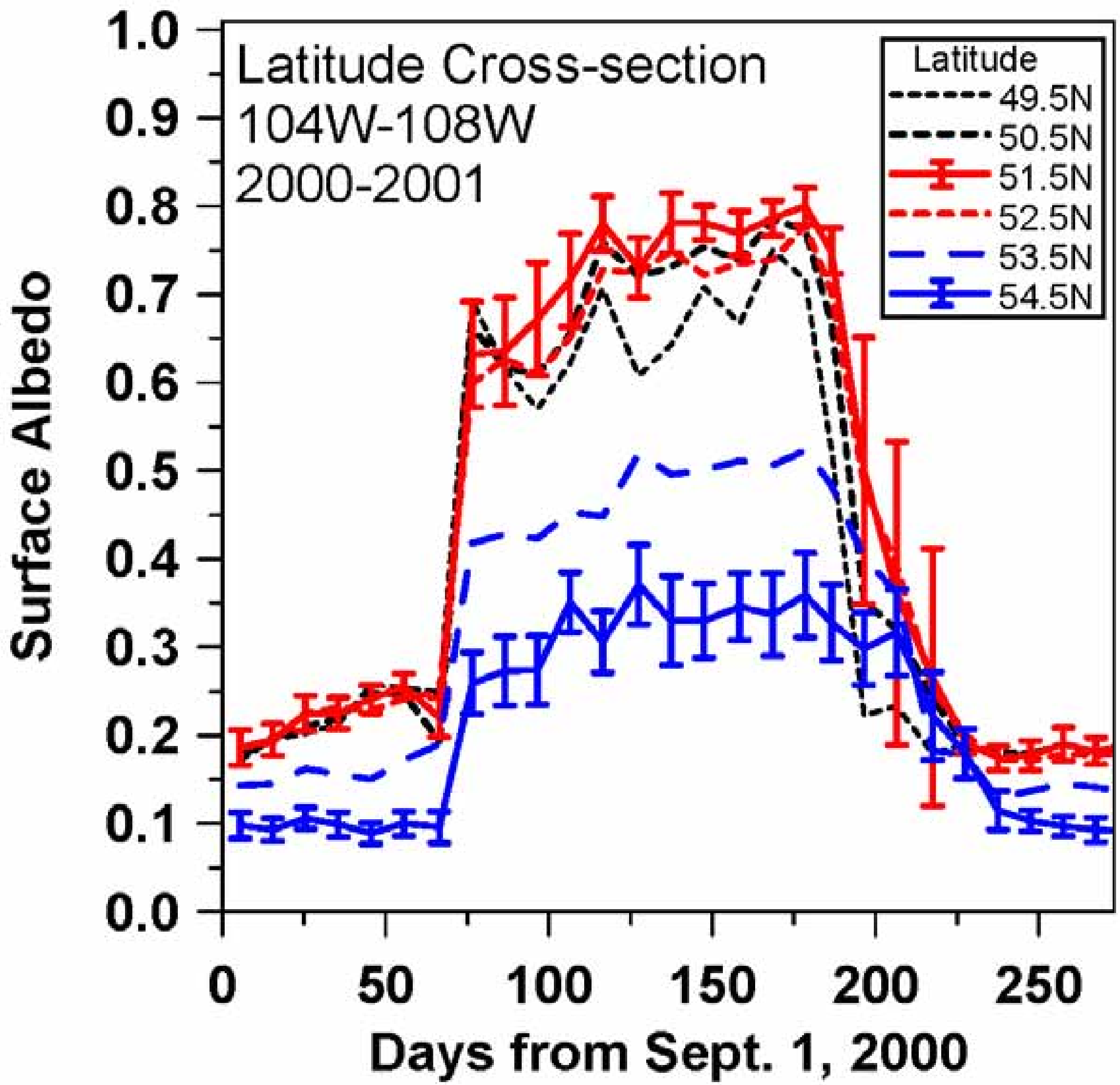




N-S Albedo through Winter

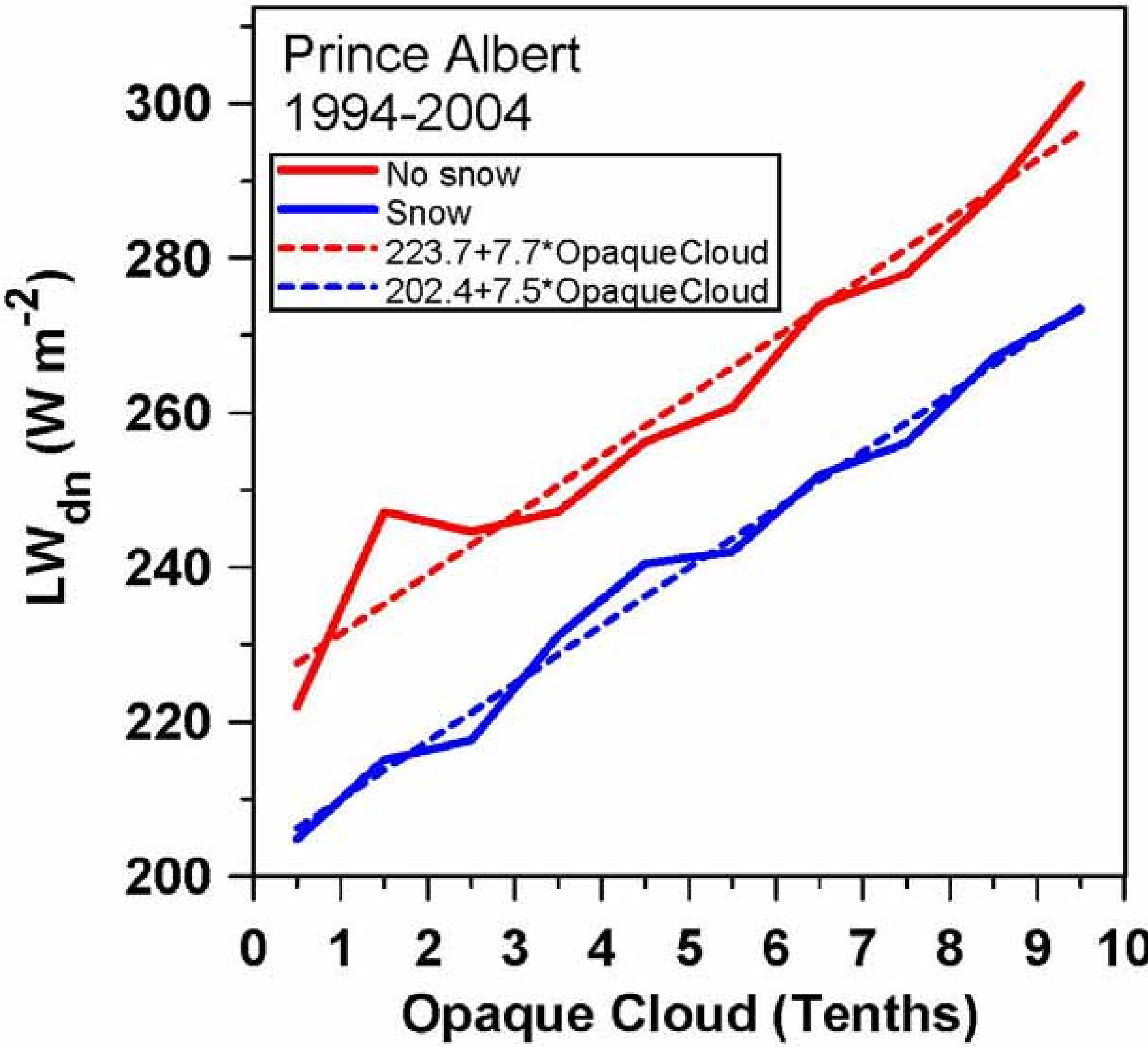
- **Prairies**
  α_s: **0.2 to 0.73**
- **Boreal forest**
  α_s: **0.1 to 0.35**

- ***MODIS: 10day, 250m, avg. to 50x50km to latitude bands***



Role of LW_{dn} in Surface Radiation

- **Snow reduces vapor flux**
- **Atmosphere cooler and drier**
  - **Less watervapor greenhouse**
  - **$-22\ W/m^2$**
- ***Offset by 10% cloud increase with snow***



Surface Radiation Balance

- Across snow transition
  - surface albedo α_s increases
  - LW_{dn} decreases
  - Opaque cloud increases

- SW_{net} falls 34 W/m^2
- LW_{dn} falls 15 W/m^2
- Total 49 W/m^2

- Surface skin T falls: -11K to balance

Summary

- *High quality dataset with Opaque cloud*
- **Understand cloud coupling to climate**
- **Transpiration from crops changes climate**
  - **Cools and moistens summer**
  - **Lowers cloud-base and increases θ_E**
  - **Feedback increases precipitation**
- **Distinct warm and cold season states**
  - **Sharp transitions with snow cover: $\alpha_s = 0.7$**
  - **From SWCF dominated, with coupled CBL**
  - **To LWCF dominated, with stable BL**
  - **Snow cover is a "climate switch"**

Papers at http://alanbetts.com

Outline Revisited

- **Clouds and Diurnal Cycle over seasons**
  - ***Betts et al (2013a)***
- **Annual crops and seasonal diurnal cycle**
  - ***Betts et al (2013b)***
- **Winter snow transitions and climate**
  - ***Betts et al (2014)***

Papers at http://alanbetts.com

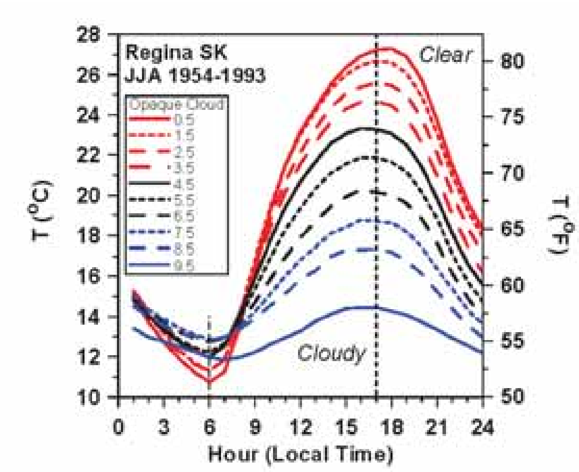
Daily Mean Climate vs Long-term Diurnal Mean

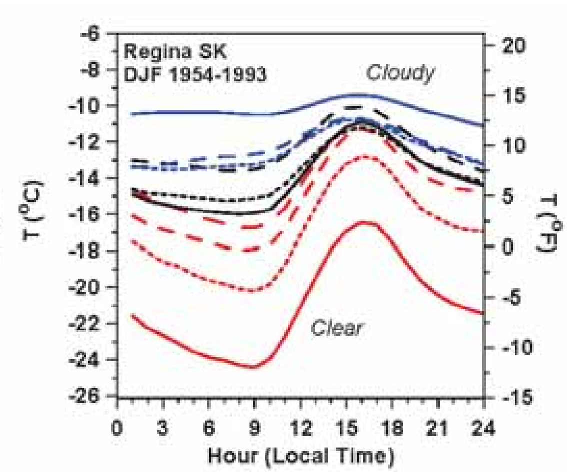
- *Definitions*
  - $DTR = T_x - T_n$
  - $\Delta RH = RH{:}T_x – RH{:}T_n$

Monthly mean diurnal cycle

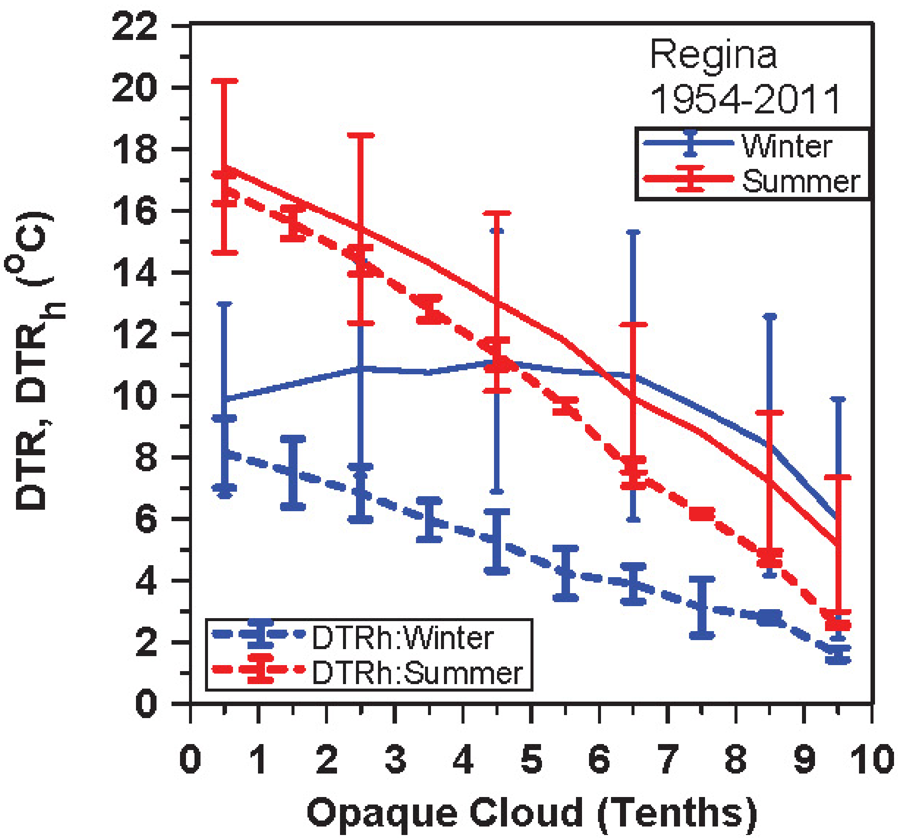
  - $DTR_h = T_{xh} – T_{nh}$
  - $\Delta RHh = RH_{xh} – RH_{nh}$

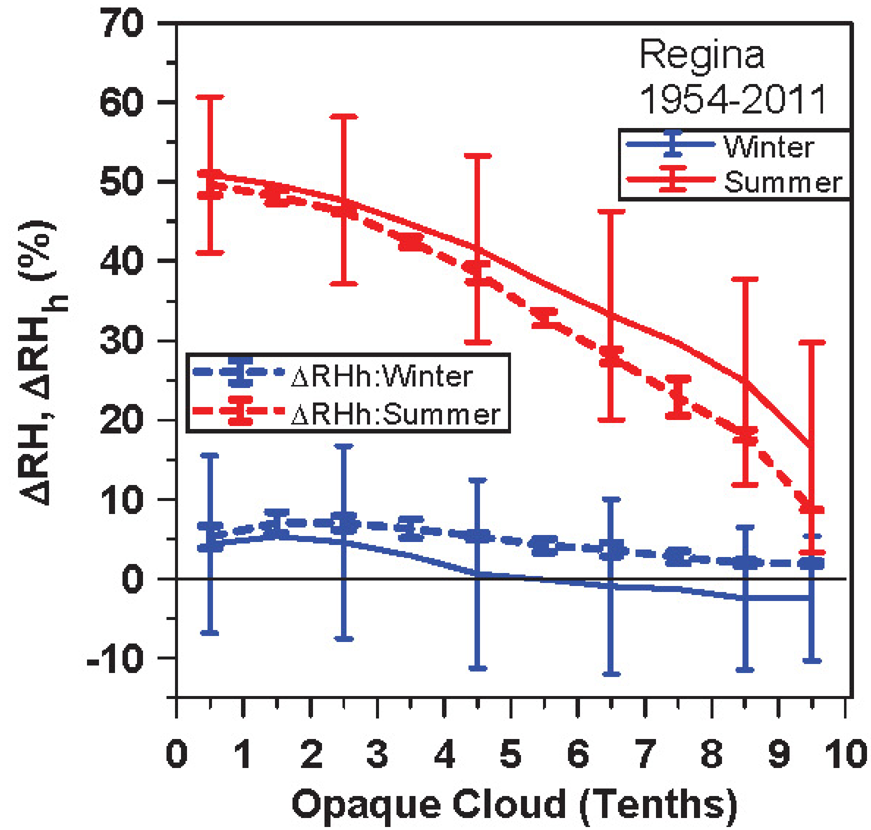
Radiatively forced signal small in winter compared to daily advection





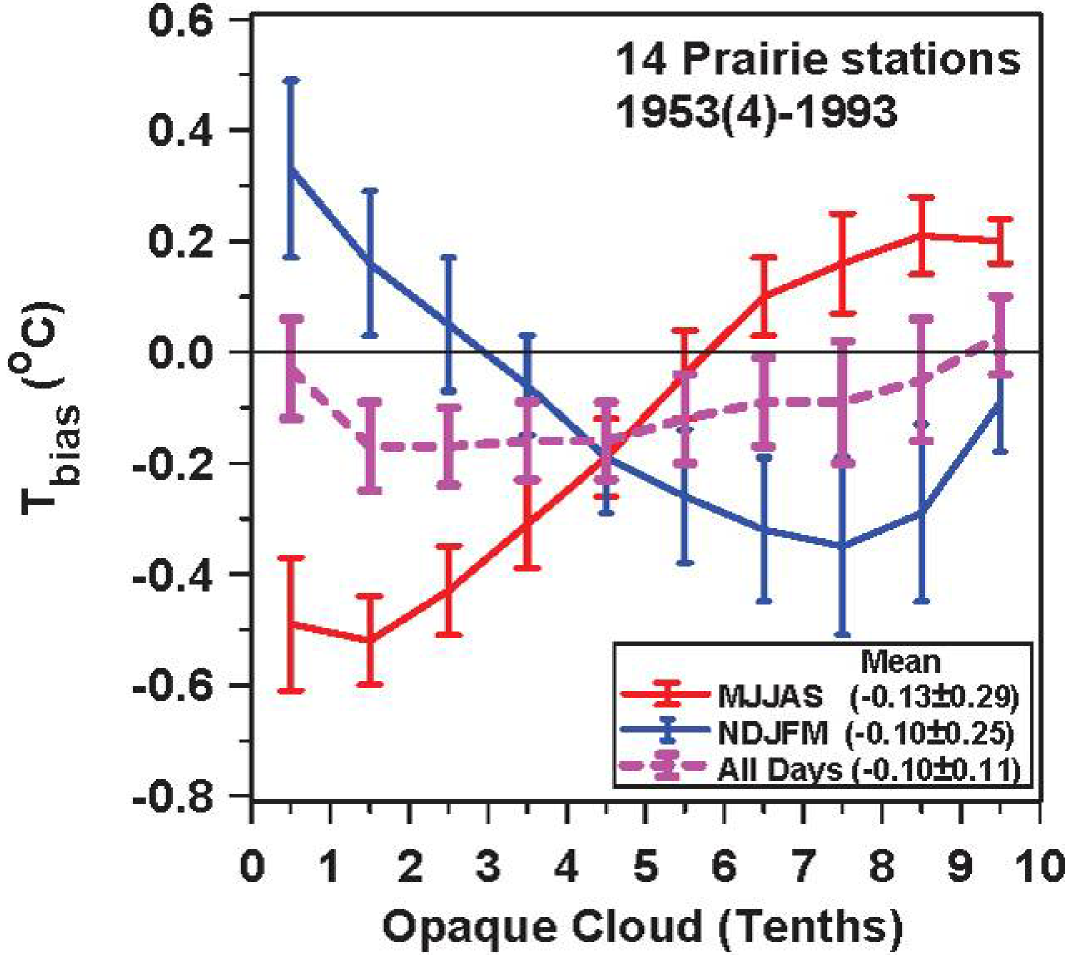
Daily Mean Climate vs Monthly Diurnal Mean Climate





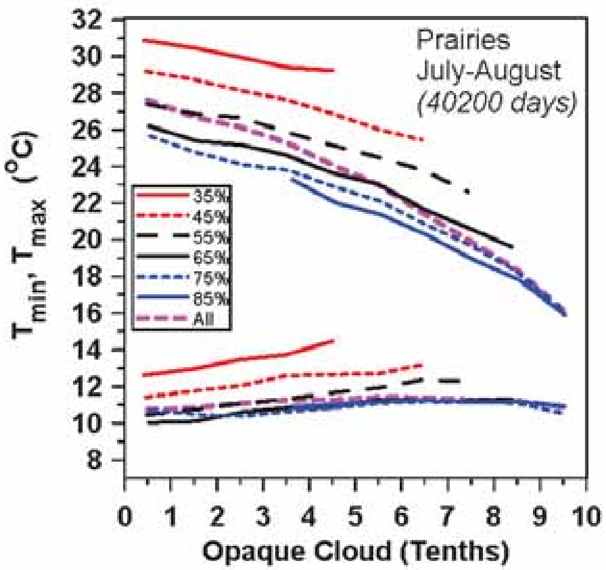
- **Daily variability in winter large**
- **Monthly variability small: DTR_h quasi-linear**

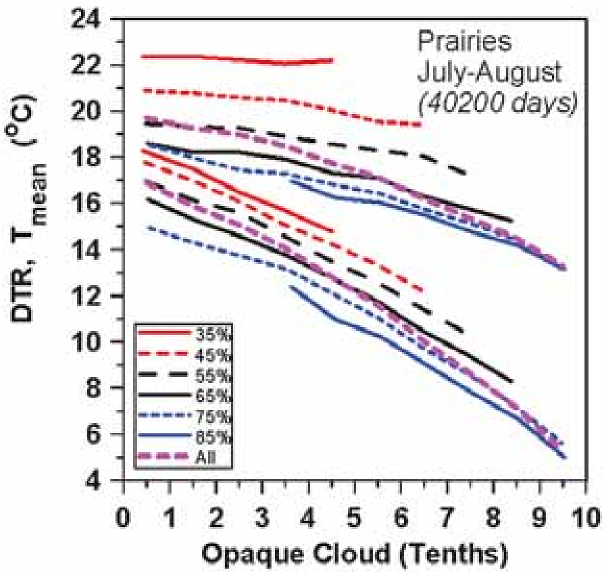
$T_{bias} = (T_{max} + T_{min})/2 - T_{mean}$

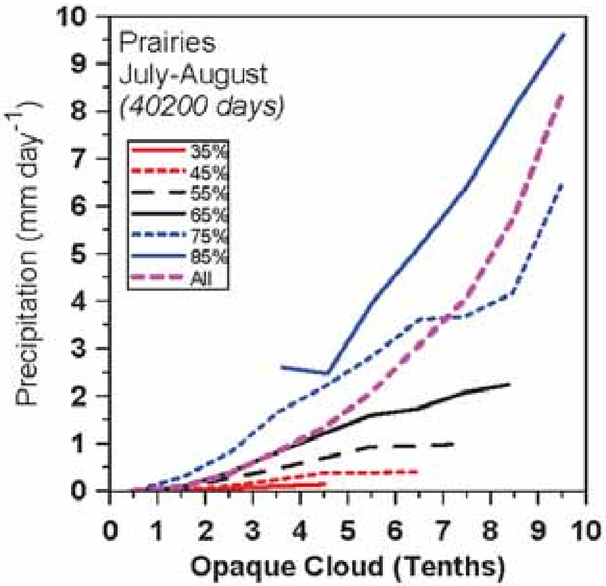


- Opposite in warm and cold season

Diurnal Climate by Cloud and RH
(*Afternoon T_{max}*)

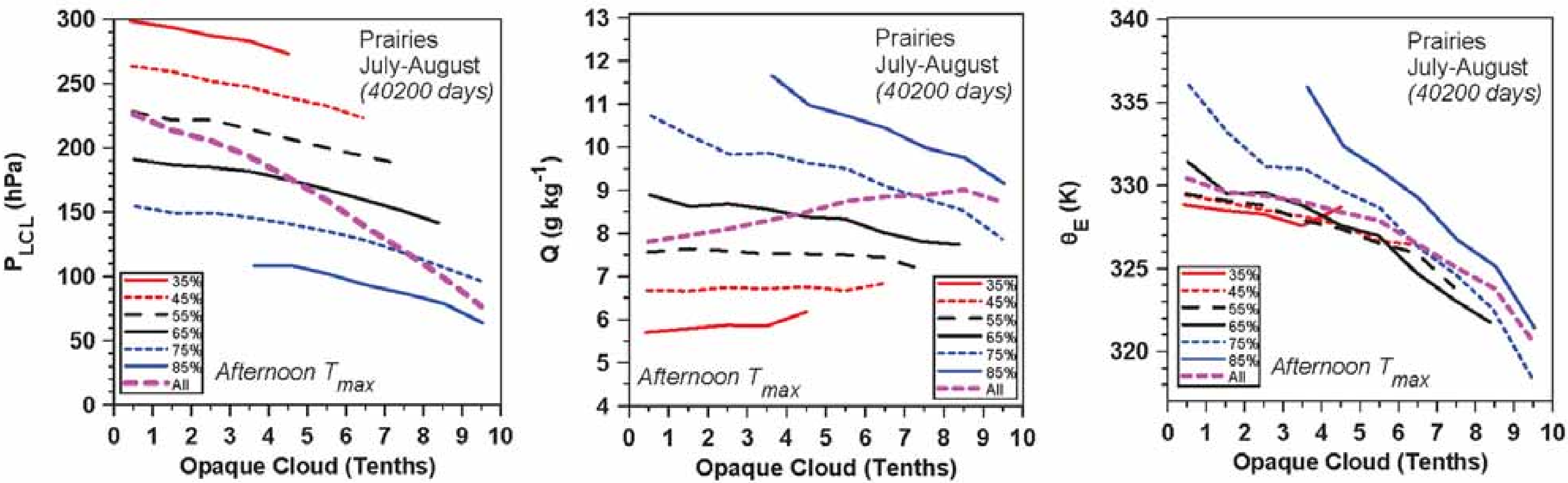






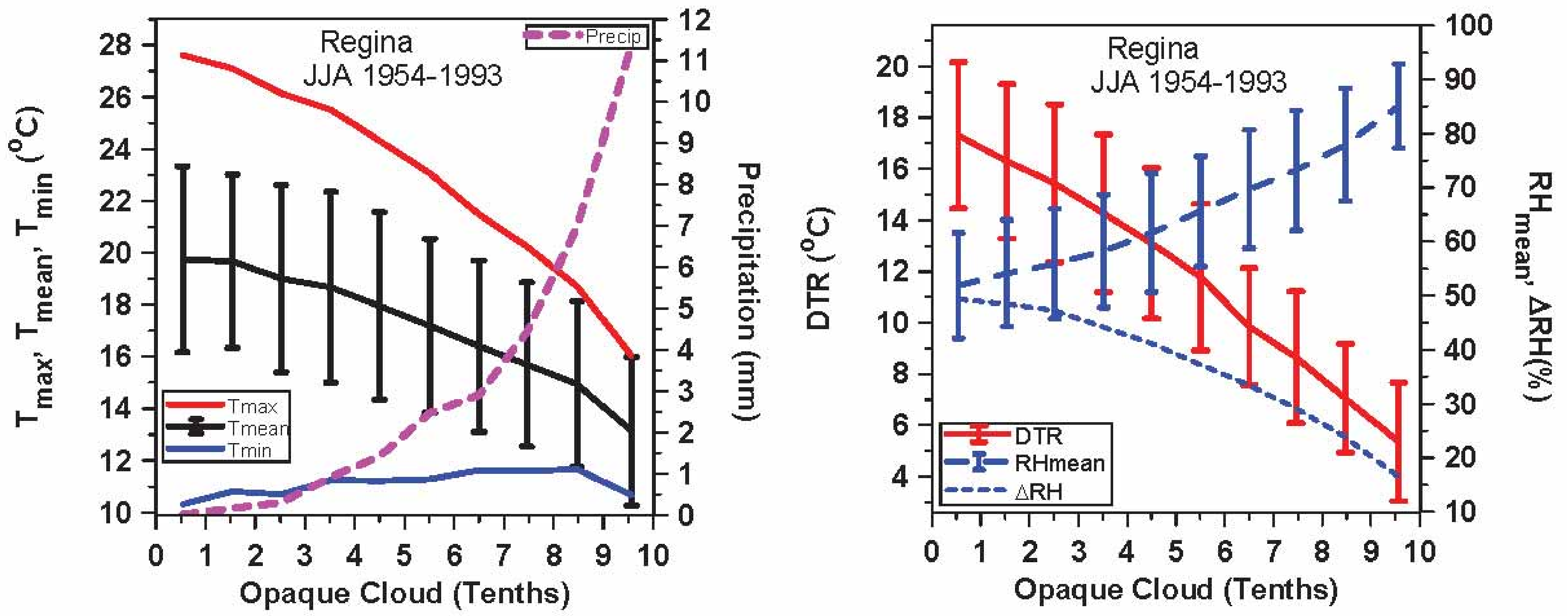
- **Low RH - warm and dry**
- **High RH - Increasing Precip, colder**

Diurnal Climate by Cloud and RH
(*Afternoon T_{max}*)



- **Higher RH – lower LCL, higher Q**
- **θ_E changes little: increase for high cloud**
- **Precip. evaporation drives some of change**

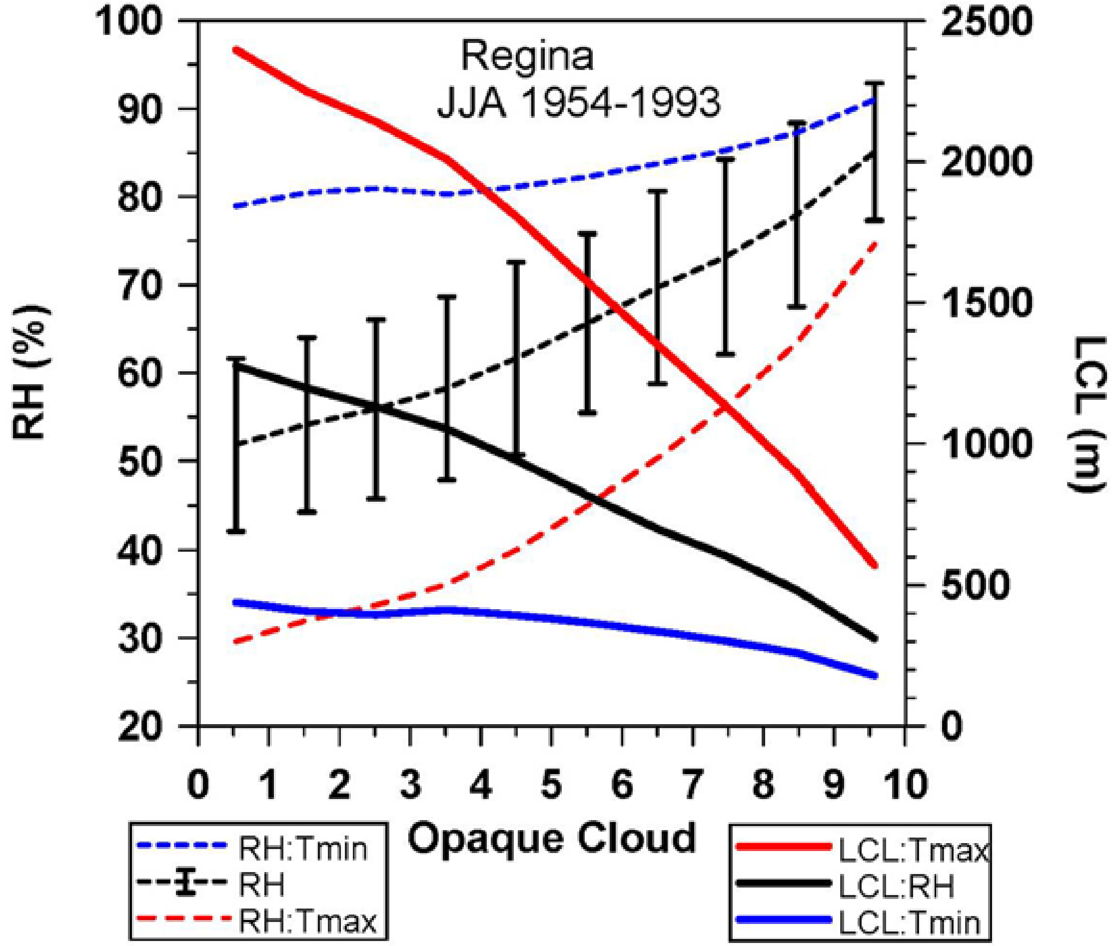
Summer Diurnal Cycle Climate



- ***Climate emerges from daily variability***
- **Cloud increases, precipitation increases**
- **T_{max}, DTR increase, T_{min} flat**
- **RH_{mean} increases, ΔRH decreases**

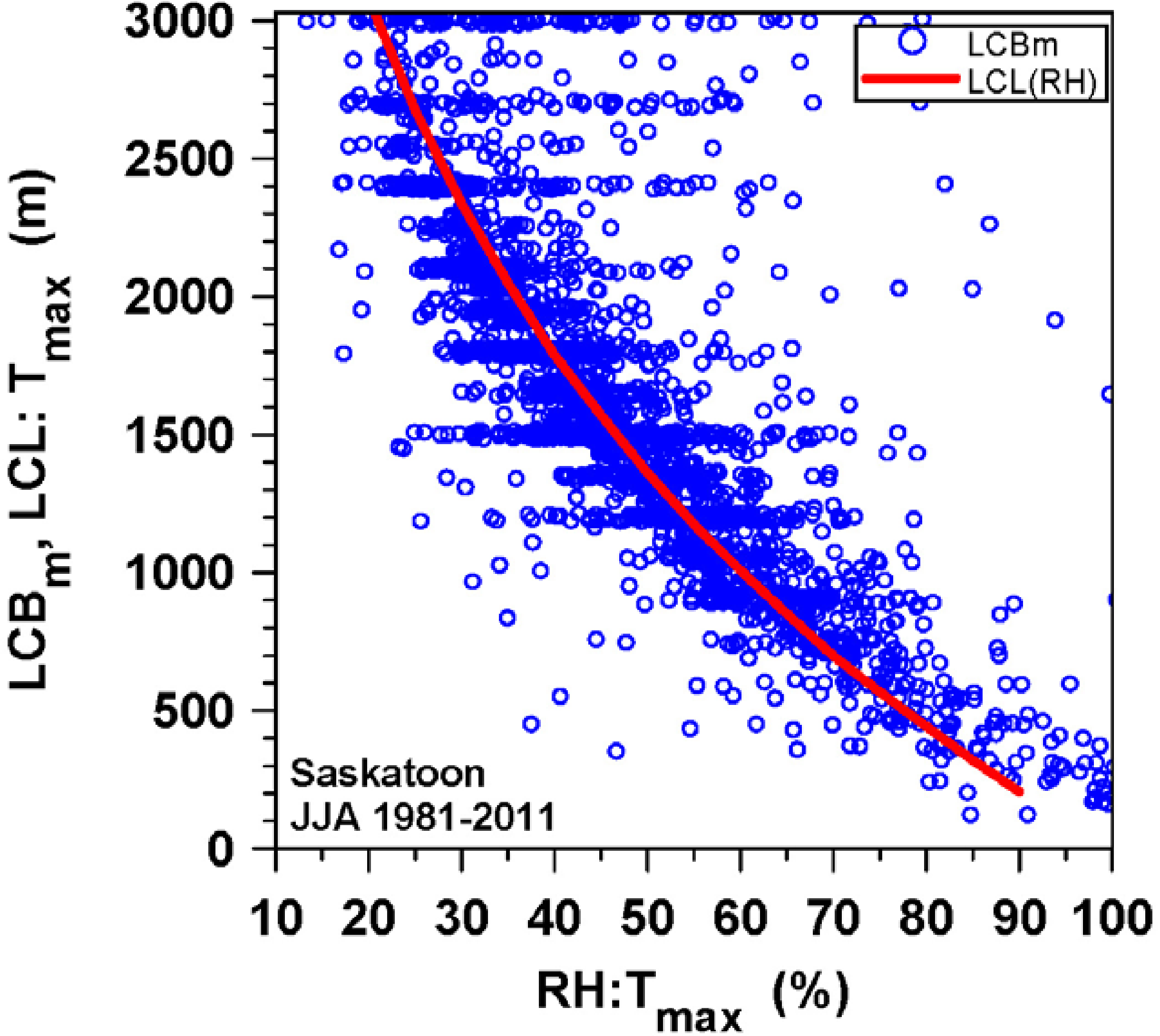
RH is linked to LCL

- RH increases with cloud
- Cloud-base LCL decreases
- Afternoon LCL 550 - 2350m



Afternoon LCL is Cloud-base

- **At T_{max}**
- **Lowest cloud-base** ***(ceilometer)***
- **LCL (surface)**
- ***Coupled CBL***



Diurnal Climate Change

- **Annual cycle in Saskatchewan**
- **DTR change**
- **RH_{mean} up**
- **Cloud peak**