Issue 11 – July 18, 2025

Manitoba Potato Report

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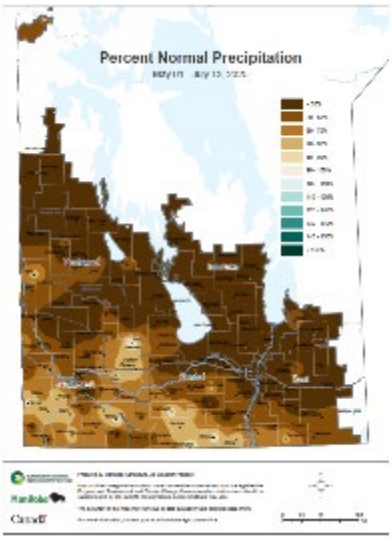
Provincial Summary

- Potato crops are doing well, with tuber bulking to over 3-4 inches. Most fields are row closed or nearly so.
- The week (July 7-13) was slightly cooler, with daytime highs around 30ºC while the overnight lows ranged from 6.5ºC to 11.5ºC in selected potato growing areas.
- There was scattered and inconsistent rainfall in the potato areas, ranging from 2.2 to 37.7 mm. Irrigation is in full swing due to low soil moisture. Scattered showers occurred on July 7, 11 and 14 in the province.
- Late blight spores were not detected in the fourth week of spore monitoring in Manitoba. No late blight disease has been reported yet.

Ag Weather Data

Precipitation and Soil Moisture

- There were scattered showers and thunderstorms on July 7 and 11 in the west and southern potato growing areas of Manitoba (Table 1). In other potato areas, including Holland, Treherne, Carman, lower rainfall was recorded during the week (July 6-13) ranging from 2.2 mm at Holland to 6.6 mm at Austin. Cumulative rainfall May 1 to July 13 was much below normal in all potato growing areas, from low of 39% of the normal in Carman to around 85% in Winkler (Table 1, Fig. 1). *https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf*.
- Due to lack of sufficient rainfall, the 30cm soil depth moisture (relative to field capacity) became even drier by July 13 compared to last week, and larger areas are now generally dry to optimal (Fig. 2). Shilo and Treherne continue to be the driest of the selected potato areas at 5 cm and 20 cm depths. *https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf*



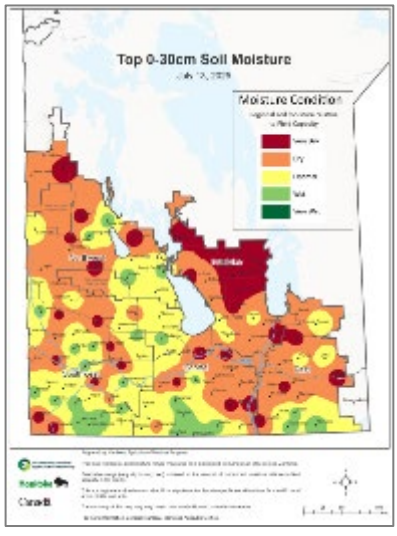


Fig.1 (left). *There was scattered rainfall in the week, and the cumulative rainfall from May 1 to June 29 was much below normal ranging from 27% to 85% of the normal in the potato growing areas.*

Fig.2 (right). *Soil moisture (relative to field capacity) at 0-30cm depths (up to July 13) indicates that many potato growing areas have become drier compared to last week. Many potato areas now have dry to very dry conditions, without supplementary irrigation.*

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Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – **July 7 to July 13**, 2025

Region	Max Temp (ºC)	Min Temp (ºC)	Rainfall (mm) for the week	Crop Water Demand (mm) - week	Rainfall (mm) (Since May 1)	2025 Rainfall (% of normal) Since May 1	P-Days (Cumulative from Jun 1)	GDD (% of normal)
Altona	30.6	11.5	6.6	4.9	157	76	344	114
Austin	29.1	9.4	7.0	6.6	80	45	338	110
Bagot	30.1	8.9	**37.7**	5.9	**82**	44	329	109
Carberry EC	29.1	7.5	5.8	4.2	**146**	77	313	108
Carman	30.9	10.2	3.6	**4.4**	79	39	326	116
Glenboro	30.1	7.0	10.3	5.0	107	60	327	112
Holland	29.8	7.6	**2.2**	**6.7**	120	60	332	111
Portage EC	30.0	10.6	4.2	**7.2**	97	52	341	115
Rivers	31.3	6.5	8.8	6.2	94	48	**320**	**113**
Shilo	29.9	7.9	30.8	6.5	146	81	326	110
St. Claude	29.3	10.9	22.7	6.5	115	56	350	113
Treherne	30.0	8.6	5.3	**5.7**	96	47	326	110
Wawanesa	30.8	**7.2**	9.7	6.0	11	55	320	109
Winkler	**31.2**	10.3	19.0	4.3	175	85	342	120

Crop Water Demand (CWD) mm: www.mbpotatoes.ca/cwd.cfm. P-Days: www.mbpotatoes.ca/pday.cfm
For more Manitoba weather information, visit: *www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather*

Temperatures – Air and Soil

- The week was just a bit cooler than last week, with daytime highs around 30ºC in most of the potato areas, while the overnight lows ranged from 6.5ºC (Rivers) to 11.8ºC (Altona) in selected potato growing areas (Table 1). This day-night temperature differential supports good tuberization and rapid bulking.
- Cumulative heat as Growing Degree Days (GDD, base 5ºC) from May 1 to July 13 continues to be warmer than normal, ranging from 9% (Wawanesa) to 20% (Winkler) above normal GDD (Table 1).
- P-Days (Cumulative potato heat units) from June 1 to July 13 ranged from 313 (Carberry) to 350 (St. Claude), these heat units translate into near normal P-Days (95% to 105% of normal). All potato growing areas have >300 P-Day heat units, a critical number for early blight control fungicide recommendations.
- There is a forecast for showers from July 19 to 22 in various parts of the province. Daytime high temperatures are projected to remain under 27ºC till July 23, and nighttime lows to be in mid-teens.

Crop Progress

- Due to low and variable rainfall in the week, soil moisture in the 0-30 cm profile continued to get drier across all potato growing regions. Irrigation and fertigation are in full swing across Manitoba.
- Crop canopy has closed-in or nearly so; ground cover ranges from 75% to 100%. Plants have started to settle down on ground in many fields, making the under-canopy quite wet.
- Tuber bulking is good, and over 3-inch size depending on planting dates (Fig. 3 a, b).
- Crop water demand for the week was met by rainfall in most potato areas (Table 1).
- Showers and thunderstorms on July 8, 11 and 14 were reported in many potato areas, leading to inconsistent rainfall, ranging from 2.2 mm (Holland) to >37.7 mm (Bagot). For the last four weeks, there have been showers at least once a week.
- Unprotected volunteer potato plants in rotation crops and on cull piles (though some have been cleared), will remain without late blight fungicide protection and are at risk of being infected by late blight disease and remain undetected.

***Fig.3 a, b**: Good tuber bulking, over 3-inch size. Photos: a: Riley Wolfe (Summer Intern, Simplot), b: Janelle Lavich (Choice Agri).*

Disease Monitoring

- In the fourth week of Spornado traps monitoring from July 6 to 13, ***Phytophthora infestans*** **spores were NOT detected in any trap** in the province. **No late blight has yet been reported in Manitoba.**
- Late blight cumulative disease risk values (DSVs) starting from June 1 to July 17 are getting higher, ranging from 6 to 24, suggesting low to high risk for late blight across the province. **The last 7 days had accumulated 1 to 11 DSVs, suggesting low to high risk of late blight disease occurring in the week – mostly in the southern portions of the province** (Fig. 4).
- The wind-protected areas of the potato fields could have a higher risk. Also, it is important to have fungicide protection if the crop canopies are closing between rows, so there is protection within the canopy. Ground application of fungicide(s) in areas not covered by aerial application is strongly recommended.
- Scouting in wind-protected areas around shelterbelt trees and close to hydropower lines is important. There are many late blight look-alikes: wind damage, sunscald and botrytis infection. Late blight infections often show yellow halo around the leaf spot, and sporulation in high humidity.
- Late blight disease risk remains high in many areas of the province. Late blight risk forecasting is provided on a regional basis at www.mbpotatoes.ca.
- **"Late blight has been confirmed on potatoes in Ontario's Dufferin County. The affected area is small, but risk for disease remains high" – Dennis VanDyk** (Fig. 5).

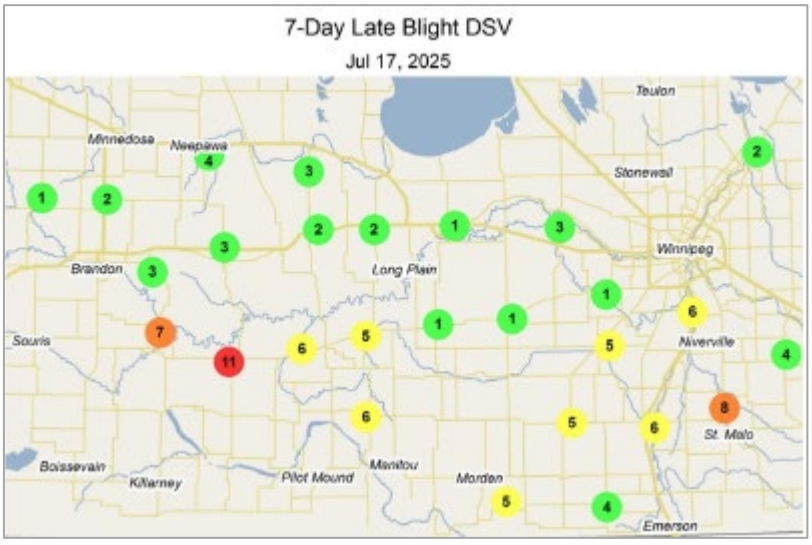

***Fig.4.** The last 7 days had accumulated 1 to 11 DSVs, suggesting low to high risk of late blight disease occurring.in the week – mostly in the southern portions of the province. The total DSVs from June 1 to July 17 ranged from 7- 26, crossing or nearing the critical value of 18.*

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Fig.5. *Late blight on potato was reported on July 17, 2025, from Dufferin County, in Ontario – Dennis Van Dyk.*

- The incidence of early blight has increased in Ranger Russets and is being observed in more fields, with symptoms observed on the lower canopy (Fig. 6). The cumulative P-Day values have now crossed 300, a stage when protective fungicides sprays are recommended. Spornado spore traps are also detecting *Alternaria solani* spores.
- Minor incidences of *Pectobacterium* blackleg and stem rot are reported from some fields.
- P-Days, and SprayCast maps are available at [http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/index.cfm.](http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/index.cfm)

Fig. 6. *Increasing incidence of early blight in the lower canopy is being reported from more fields. Photo: Vikram Bisht (Manitoba Agriculture).*

Insect Pest Monitoring

- Aphid traps (suction and pans) set up in eight seed potato fields were checked for aphids. We are monitoring for PVY-efficient vectors – Green peach aphid and Potato aphid, and "others".
  - Fewer aphids were trapped in the fourth week (July 6-13) (Table 2) compared to the previous week.
  - Potato Aphid (PA) was recorded in three out of eight sites, PA is an efficient vector for potato mosaic viruses, so aphid-oil (mineral oil) with insecticide could be considered.
- There have been more reports of Colorado potato beetle (CPB) adults and egg masses from across the province, though most severe CPB damage has been reported from southern Manitoba. Multiple stages of the CPB lifecycle, from egg-masses to adults (Fig. 7), can be seen in many fields, making it difficult to correctly time the insecticide applications.
  - In many areas of the province foliar insecticide applications are now becoming a necessity.
- Aster leafhoppers and potato leafhoppers are starting to show up in the aphid traps.
- European corn borer monitoring has been done for three weeks. In the western part of the province, especially Carberry and Douglas, and surprisingly in Carman area there are higher counts in the traps for the week, July 7-13 (Table 3, Fig. 8), nearly double the counts of the previous week.
  - In a few days there could be egg masses on the potato foliage. **It is time to start scouting for the egg-masses, followed by top leaves or branches showing wilting due to ECB boring.**

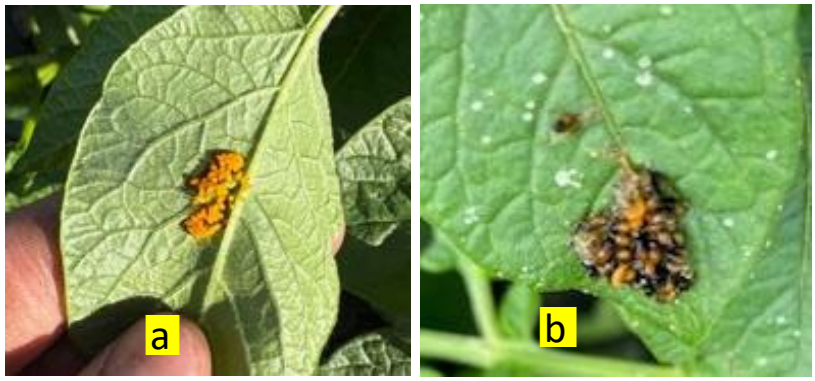

Fig. 7. *Multiple stages of CPBs are still seen in many fields across the province, making it difficult to properly time the insecticide applications. Photo: a: Janelle Lavich (Choice Agri), b: Vikram Bisht (Manitoba Agriculture).*

Table. 2. Weekly Aphid Report – ***Week 4*** *(July 6 to July 13) 2025*

Field #	Town	RM	Green Peach Aphid	Potato Aphid	Other Aphids	Total *	ALH	PLH	Comments
Southern Region									
Field 1-H	**Winker**	Stanley	0	**1**	3	4	1	0	Lots of thrips
Field 2-K	**Stephenfield**	Dufferin	0	0	10	**10**	1	0	Lots of thrips
Field 3-S	**Winkler**	Rhineland	0	**1**	3	4	2	0	Lots of thrips
Central Region									
Field 4-S	**Holland**	Victoria	0	**2**	4	4	2	1	Some thrips
Field 5-S	**Glenora**	Argyle	0	0	4	4	0	1	Low thrips number
Field 6-S	**Westbourne**	Portage La Prairie	0	0	0	**0****	0	0	
Western Region									
Field 7-A	**Wellwood**	North Cypress-Langford	**			**			**Sample not received ** **
Field 8-S	**Carberry**	North Cypress-Langford	0	0	5	5	0	0	Very few thrips

** The aphid counts are a summation from a suction trap and two pan traps in a field. ** No sample received.*
ALH = Aster leafhopper, PLH = Potato leafhopper

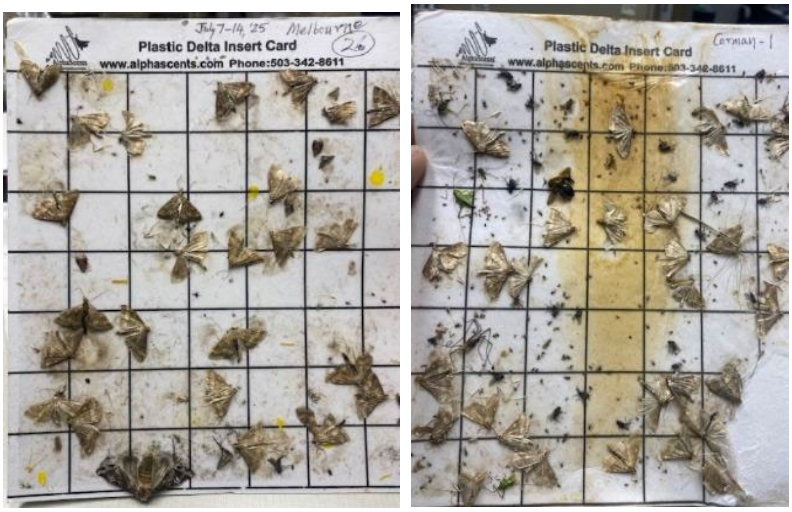

Fig. 8. *European corn borers trapped with Iowa strain pheromone lures on Delta traps from Melbourne and Carman. Photo: Vikram Bisht (Manitoba Agriculture).*

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Table 3: European corn borer adults in Iowa strain pheromone Delta traps:

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
Location	**June 23 -30**	**June 30-July 7**	**July 7 - 14**
Shilo-MW	2	6	10
Douglas-MW	30	23	12
Rivers-SP		1	0
Shilo-SP 90		2	0
Shilo-SP 112		0	0
Carberry, #5 47C		23	20
Hallboro		7	11
Carman-1	0	0	29
Portage	0	0	1
Melbourne	1	6	26
MacGregor	1	1	8
Total	**34**	**69**	**117**

Regular weekly reports and other features will be provided, including late blight risk forecasting, updates on disease and insect pests on potatoes, and control recommendations. All reports and information will also be available at http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/index.cfm and archived at Manitoba Potato Reports

Growers and industry stakeholders, please report or submit for diagnosis, any disease or insect observations of importance. If you suspect late blight in your area, please contact vikram.bisht@gov.mb.ca

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