Issue 13 – August 1, 2025

Manitoba Potato Report

[Seasonal Reports] [Weekly Weather Maps] [Potato Production]

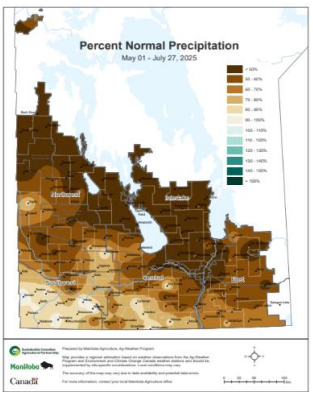
Provincial Summary

- Potato crops are doing well and are in rapid tuber bulking stage. The plants are now settling down on the ground, leading to wet under-canopy.
- The week (July 21-27) was about 5ºC warmer than last week, with daytime highs around 31ºC and the overnight lows ranged from 10ºC to 14.7ºC in selected potato growing areas.
- There was widespread rainfall across the province from July 22, 23 and 28th, averaging around 20 mm in the potato areas, and rains improved the 0-30 cm soil moisture profile. Irrigation is in full swing, and fertigation slowed down.
- No late blight spores were detected in the sixth week of spore monitoring in Manitoba. No late blight disease has been reported yet.

Ag Weather Data

Precipitation and Soil Moisture

- Cumulative rainfall May 1 to July 28 was still below normal in all potato growing areas, from low of around 50 % of the normal in Carman, Austin, Bagot and Portage to around 80% in Winkler, Altona, Shilo (Table 1, Fig. 1). With fair amount of rainfall across the province on July 22, 23 and 28th, the total for the week ranged from 20 mm (Rivers) to 22.2 mm (Winkler) across the potato growing areas (Table 1, Fig. 3). The week's rainfall was generally close to or over the crop water demand in most potato site weather stations. https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf.
- Due to rainfall (around 20 mm) across potato areas, the 30cm soil depth moisture (relative to field capacity) became generally optimum to dry by July 28 compared to last week. (Fig. 2). Shilo and Treherne continue to be the driest (by % moisture content by volume) of the selected potato areas at 20 cm depths. Rains in Treherne helped improve moisture at 5 cm depths and no longer the second driest (of the selected weather station sites) as last week. https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf. There were thunderstorms on July 28 going through southern Manitoba.



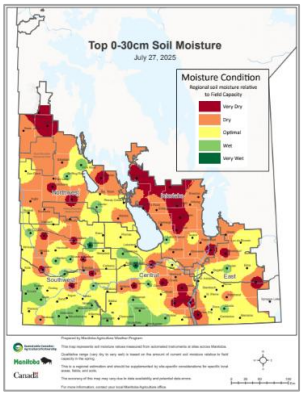


Fig.1 (left). *There was scattered rainfall in the week, and the cumulative rainfall from May 1 to June 20 was still much below normal ranging from 49% to 83% of the normal in the potato growing areas.*

Fig.2 (right). *Soil moisture (relative to field capacity) at 0-30cm depths (up to July 28) indicates that many potato growing areas have regained moisture compared to last week. Many potato areas now have optimum to very dry conditions.*

Report compiled by Dr. Vikram Bisht
Potato and Horticulture Crop Pathologist, Manitoba Agriculture
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Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – **July 21 to July 27**, 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	29.7	13.5	21.1	20.8	193	81	468	109
Austin	31.0	14.7	20.9	27.1	100	50	462	107
Bagot	30.1	12.8	20.5	24.5	114	54	450	105
Carberry EC	30.2	13.5	20.3	19.5	161	74	430	105
Carman	31.0	12.8	21.1	25.6	114	49	447	111
Glenboro	30.0	12.9	20.4	18.7	140	67	439	108
Holland	30.6	14.0	20.7	26.6	156	66	453	106
Portage EC	31.1	14.2	21.3	27.3	114	52	468	110
Rivers	31.3	10.0	19.9	26.4	122	55	**432**	**108**
Shilo	30.0	12.5	20.3	28.1	163	81	446	106
St. Claude	30.5	14.5	20.9	25.6	145	60	476	108
Treherne	29.9	13.2	20.1	22.2	130	55	443	105
Wawanesa	31.3	**11.8**	20.2	21.0	144	69	438	104
Winkler	**33.2**	14.0	22.2	24.0	201	83	457	115

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*

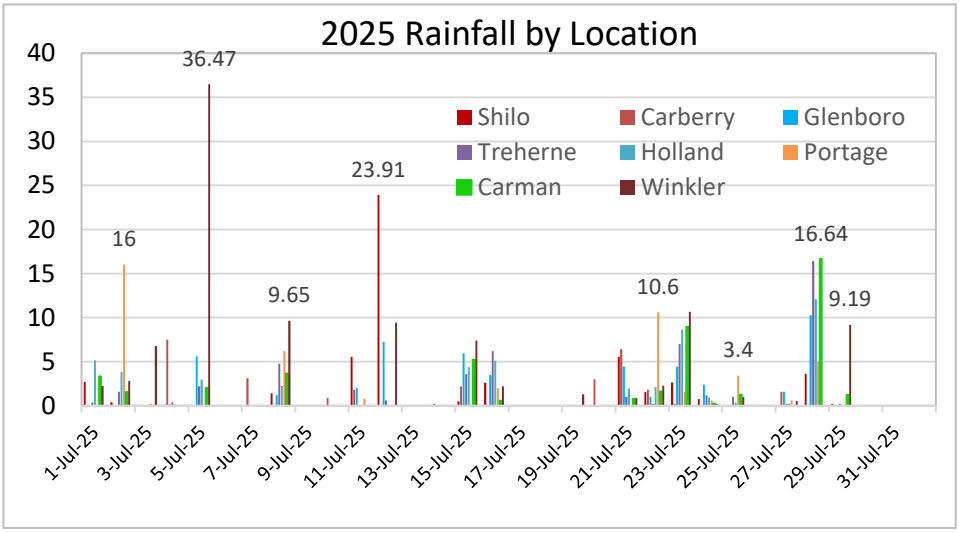

Fig.3. *Frequent but light rainfall in the last few weeks has kept the crop canopy wet, leading to high risk for late blight in some areas.*

Temperatures – Air and Soil

- The week (July 22-28) was about 5ºC warmer than last week, with daytime highs around 31ºC and overnight lows ranging from 10ºC (Rivers) to 14.7ºC (Austin) 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 28 has come close to the normal, ranging from 104% (Wawanesa) to 115% (Winkler) of normal GDD (Table 1).
- P-Days (Cumulative potato heat units) from June 1 to July 28 ranged from 430 to 476 in potato areas. (Table 1), these heat units translate into near normal P-Days. All potato growing areas have >425 P-Day heat units, indicating crops will be in rapid bulking and heat conditions favourable for early blight.
- The coming 7 days are forecast to be sunny and warm, with daytime and overnight temperatures projected to be in upper 20s and mid-teens, respectively. A mix of sun and cloud cover is projected from Aug 2 to 6 across Manitoba.

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Crop Progress

- Most fields are now close to or at 100% row cover.
- Due to widespread rainfall (around 20 mm) in the week the soil moisture improved in the 0-30 cm profile, but overall soils were optimum to dry across Manitoba. The weekly crop water demand ranging from 18.7 to 28.1 mm (Table 1) was generally covered by the rainfall. Irrigation is in full swing, but fertigation is being throttled down in many fields.
- Plants are starting to settle down on ground in many fields, making the under-canopy quite wet – leading to minor incidence of white mold and stem rotting.
- Crops are in rapid tuber-bulking phase, and many over 4-inch size depending on planting dates.
- Scattered showers were recorded on July 22, 23 and 24 were reported in many potato areas. Thundershowers were recorded on July 28 (precipitation not included in July 21-27 crop weather report).

Disease Monitoring

- ***Phytophthora infestans* spores were not detected at any of Spornado trap sites** in the sixth week of monitoring from July 21 to 28.
- **No late blight has yet been reported in Manitoba.**
- . From June 1 to July 30, cumulative disease risk values (DSVs) for late blight have exceeded 18 at most weather stations across Manitoba. As a result, the 7-day DSVs will now be used to assess late blight risk moving forward. **The last 7 days had accumulated 2 to 10 DSVs, suggesting low to high risk of late blight disease occurring in the week in the province** (Fig. 4)**.** www.mbpotatoes.ca.
- Risk for late blight could increase due to the presence of volunteer potatoes in rotation crops. Seed spillage at planting and buried in rotation crops can lead to healthy and fungicide-unprotected potato plants (Fig. 5).
- No new reports of late blight after Dufferin country ON (July 17), and in Cattaraugus County, New York, on July 18. https://extension.psu.edu/late-blight-update-july-23-2025

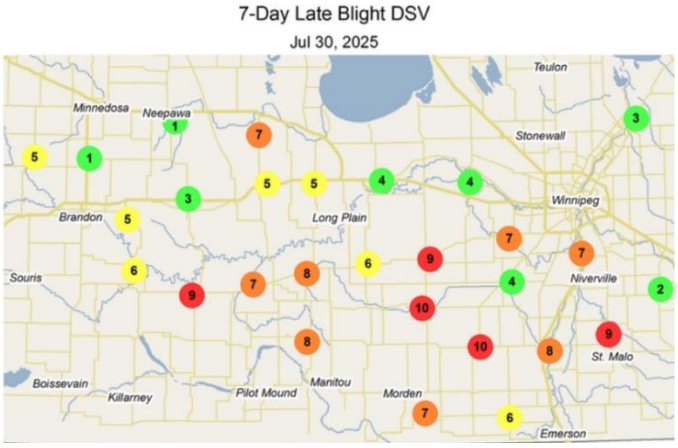

Fig. 4. *The last 7 days had accumulated 3 to 10 DSVs, suggesting moderate to high risk of late blight disease occurring.in the across the province.*

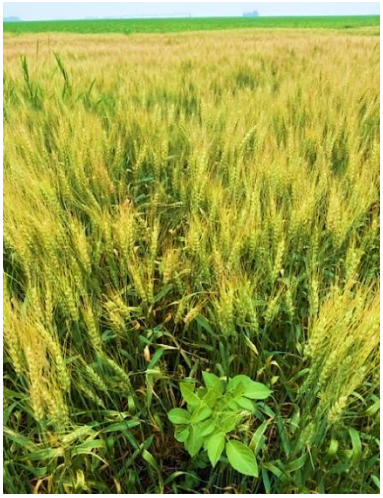

Fig. 5. *Volunteer potato in wheat field close to a potato field, may not get the late blight protective fungicides. Photo: Vikram Bisht (Manitoba Agriculture).*

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- Powdery scab infection on roots has been reported (Fig 6) in the 4th week in July.
- The incidence of early blight has increased in Ranger Russets and is being observed in more fields, with symptoms observed in the lower canopy. White mold can be seen in the wet under-canopy in some fields where the plants have settled on the ground (Fig. 7). Protective fungicides sprays are recommended.
- If you find plants or leaves which may be suspected late blight - please bring in the sample for confirmation.

***Fig. 6 (left)**. Root infection by powdery scab is starting to show up. Photo: Greg Dyck (Crop Care).*

***Fig. 7 (right).** Under-canopy in some fields is quite wet, leading to white mold infections. Photo: Kurtis McKee (JPW Farms)*

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".
    - **Total aphid** numbers trapped in the 6th week (July 21-28) (Table 2) were slightly higher than last week's numbers.
    - **Potato Aphid** (PA) was recorded in all the seven samples sent in. A total of 15 PAs were trapped from 7 sites compared to only 2 from eight sites last week. PA is an efficient vector for potato mosaic viruses.
    - No **green peach aphid** was trapped at any site.
- Multiple stages of the CPB lifecycle, early instar larvae to adults can still be seen in many fields (Fig. 8) even after foliar insecticide applications.

***Fig. 8.** Multiple stages of CPB still seen after foliar insecticide applications. Vikram Bisht (Manitoba Agriculture).*

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- Aster leafhoppers (ALH) brownish-green and potato leafhoppers (PLH) lemon-green (Fig 9 a, b, c) have been trapped from over wider region across potato producing areas. ALH has black markings on the head, while the PLH has white markings. Purple top plants (Fig 10 a) caused by ALH and leaf-tip burn (Fig 10 b, c) caused by PLH have been reported from a few fields (Table 2).

Fig. 9. *Aster leafhoppers (a), and potato leafhoppers (b, c) are increasing in numbers across many fields. Photos a: Veg-Edge Univ of Minnesota, b: Wisconsin Horticulture, Univ of Wisconsin, c: Greg Dyck (Crop Care)*

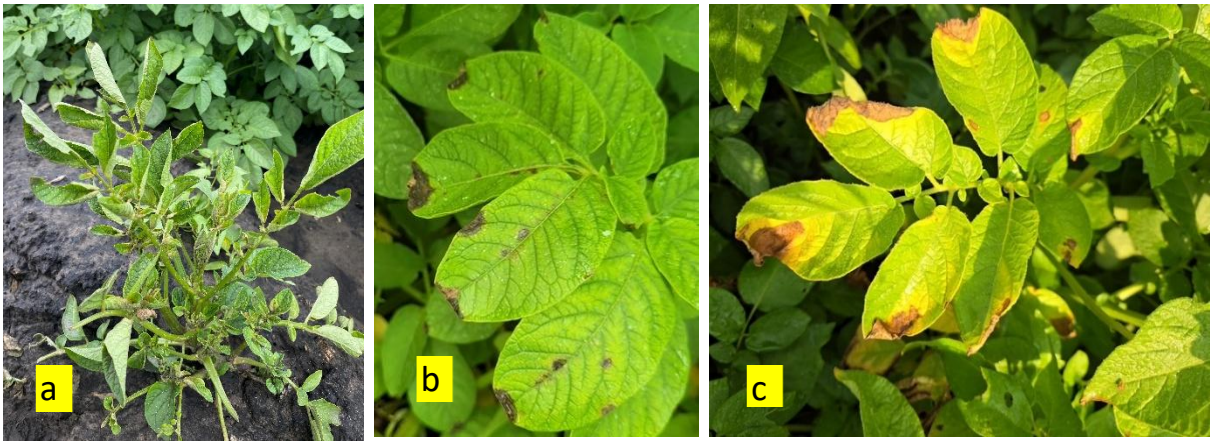

Fig. 10. *Purple top curling of the plant is caused by ALH, while the leaf-tip burn (b, c) is caused by potato leafhoppers. Photos: a. Vikram Bisht (Manitoba Agriculture), b: Greg Dyck (Crop Care), c: Kurtis McKee (JPW Farms).*

Fig. 11. *a: Frass at the entry point in the stem is a good indicator of ECB larval boring. b: Splitting open the stem could expose the larva inside. Photos: Kurtis McKee (JPW Farms).*

- European corn borer monitoring has been done for five weeks. From July 21 to 28, only one site (Melbourne), out of eleven still had high trap counts. All other sites had zero to very low numbers (Table 3). From 79 last week, the total numbers trapped this week were only 63, of which Melbourne had 53.
    - probably indicating the time for egg laying and stem borer damage could arrive soon.
    - Scouting for the egg-masses, and possibly egg hatching will help with insecticide timing if required.
    - ECB larval boring into stems have been noted in a few fields (Fig 11), such injury leads to wilting top leaves or branches.

*Table. 2. Weekly Aphid Report – **Week 6** (July 21 to July 28) 2025*

Field #	Town	RM	Green Peach Aphid	Potato Aphid	Other Aphids	Total *	ALH	PLH	Comments
Southern Region									
Field 1-H	**Winker**	Stanley	0	1	13	14	0	0	High thrip numbers
Field 2-K	**Stephenfield**	Dufferin	0	2	15	17	0	0	High thrip numbers
Field 3-S	**Winkler**	Rhineland	0	2	10	12	2	1	Moderate thrips
Central Region									
Field 4-S	**Holland**	Victoria	0	3	10	13	20	0	
Field 5-S	**Glenora**	Argyle	0	1	4	5	0	1	Many thrips
Field 6-S	**Westbourne**	Portage La Prairie	0	4	7	11	0	1	
Western Region									
Field 7-A	**Wellwood**	North Cypress-Langford	**	**	**		**	**	**** No sample**
Field 8-S	**Carberry**	North Cypress-Langford	0	1	0	1	0	0	Some thrips
	TOTAL		**0**	**15**	**59**	**73**	**22**	**2**	

** 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

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

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Location	**June 23 -30**	**June 30-July 7**	**July 7 - 13**	**July 13-21**	**July 21-28**
Shilo-MW	2	6	10	3	1
Douglas-MW	30	23	12	18	3
Rivers-SP	x	1	0	0	0
Shilo-SP 90	x	2	0	0	1
Shilo-SP 112	x	0	0	2	1
Carberry, #5 47C	x	23	20	10	1
Hallboro	x	7	11	5	2
Carman-1	0	0	29	3	1
Portage	0	0	1	0	0
Melbourne	1	6	26	38	53
MacGregor	1	1	8	0	0
Total	**34**	**69**	**117**	**79**	**63**

x = not started monitoring in week 1.

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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