

Issue 14 – August 8, 2025

# Manitoba Potato Report



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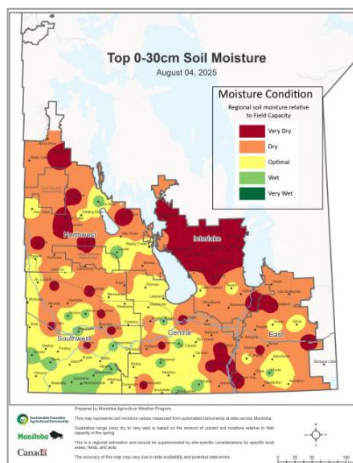
## Provincial Summary

- Potato crops are doing well and are in rapid tuber bulking stage. The plants are settled down on the ground, leading to wet under-canopy.
- The week (July 28 – August 4) was about 2-4°C cooler than last week, with daytime highs around 28°C and the overnight lows ranged from 7°C to 11°C in selected potato growing areas.
- There was very little rainfall in the week across the province, ranging 0 to 9 mm in the potato areas, resulting in drier 0-30 cm soil moisture profile. Irrigation is in full swing, but fertigation has reduced.
- No late blight spores were detected in the seventh 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 August 4 was still below normal in all potato growing areas, from around 50 % of the normal in Carman, Austin, Bagot, Portage, Treherne and Rivers to around 80% in Winkler, Altona, Shilo (Table 1). In the week (July 28 to August 4) there was scant rainfall (0 to 4.5 mm) across the province and only Winkler recorded higher at 9.1 mm (Table 1). There were thunderstorms on July 28 and Aug 6 going through southern Manitoba, which brought some rain to Altona and Winkler. The crop water demand for the week ranged from 21 to 34 mm and not covered by rainfall in all potato areas. <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf>.
- Due to scant rainfall across potato areas, the 0 to 30cm soil depth moisture (relative to field capacity) larger area became drier compared to last week and were generally optimum to very dry by August 4. (Fig. 1). Shilo and Treherne continue to be the driest (by % moisture content by volume) of the selected potato areas at 20 cm depths. <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf>.



**Fig. 1.** Soil moisture (relative to field capacity) at 0-30cm depths (up to August 4) indicates that many potato growing areas have regained moisture compared to last week. Many potato areas now have optimum to very dry conditions.

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**Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – July 28 to August 4, 2025**

Region	Max Temp (°C)	Min Temp (°C)	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	27.1	7.0	4.5	25.5	197	80	516	108
Austin	28.8	8.8	0	33.6	100	47	511	107
Bagot	27.6	8.0	0.1	28.8	114	51	497	104
Carberry EC	28.2	7.2	0.8	23.6	162	70	474	104
Carman	27.4	7.2	1.2	21.3	115	47	494	109
Glenboro	27.5	7.1	0	24.7	140	63	485	106
Holland	27.5	8.7	0	30.6	172	71	502	105
Portage EC	27.8	9.3	0	34.1	114	50	516	109
Rivers	28.0	6.4	0	31.7	122	52	475	107
Shilo	26.8	8.0	0.2	28.8	163	77	494	105
St. Claude	26.6	11.3	1.7	29.5	146	58	527	107
Treherne	26.8	8.9	0	25.0	130	53	492	103
Wawanesa	27.5	7.5	0	22.7	144	65	486	103
Winkler	28.7	7.2	9.1	23.4	210	84	505	111

Crop Water Demand (CWD) mm: [www.mbpotatoes.ca/cwd.cfm](http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/cwd.cfm).

P-Days: [www.mbpotatoes.ca/pday.cfm](http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/pday.cfm)

For more Manitoba weather information, visit: [www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather](http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather).

## Temperatures – Air and Soil

- The week (July 28 to August 4) was about 2-4°C cooler than last week, with daytime highs 26.8 to 28.8°C and overnight lows ranging from 6.4°C (Rivers) to 11.3°C (St. Claude) in selected potato growing areas (Table 1). This day-night temperature differential rapid tuber bulking.
- Cumulative heat as Growing Degree Days (GDD, base 5°C) from May 1 to August 4 has come close to the normal, ranging from 103% (Treherne, Wawanesa) to 111% (Winkler) of normal GDD (Table 1).
- P-Days (Cumulative potato heat units) from June 1 to Aug 4 ranged from 474 to 516 in potato areas. (Table 1), these heat units are near normal P-Days. All potato growing areas have >474 P-Day heat units, indicating crops will be in rapid bulking and heat conditions favourable for early blight.
- There is a chance of scattered showers across the province on August 7 to 9, followed with cloudy to partially cloudy conditions for the coming week. The 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 12 to 13 across Manitoba, [Manitoba - Weather Conditions and Forecast by Locations - Environment Canada](#).

## Crop Progress

- Most fields are now close to or at 100% row cover.
- Due to lack of rainfall (0-9 mm) in the week the soil moisture has become drier in the 0-30 cm profile and are being categorized as optimum to very dry across Manitoba. The weekly crop water demand data was unavailable (Table 1) and was not covered by the rainfall. Irrigation is in full swing, but fertigation has been ended or being slowed 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 are up to 6-inch size depending on planting dates (Fig. 2 and 3). Tuber size profiles appear good in many fields, while others have minor heat-runner issues.
- Some fields of Norland variety grown for fresh market have been sprayed with 2,4 D for red color enhancement.
- Some seed potato fields are being desiccated this week.



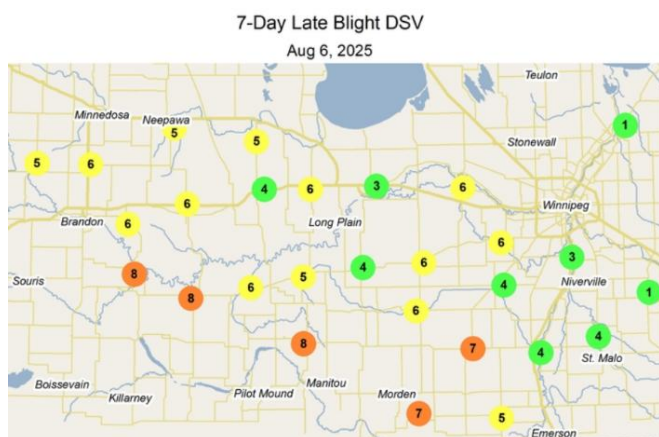
**Fig. 2.** Russet Burbank with good set and size profile. Photos: left: Riley Wolfe (Simplot), right: Kurtis McKee (JPW Farms)



**Fig. 3.** Ranger Russet planted late April. Photos: Kurtis McKee (JPW Farms)

## Disease Monitoring

- *Phytophthora infestans* spores were not detected at any of Spornado trap sites in the seventh week of monitoring from July 28 to August 1.
- No late blight has yet been reported in Manitoba.
- The cumulative disease risk values (DSVs) for late blight had crossed the critical value of 18 at most weather stations across Manitoba. As a result, the 7-day DSVs are now being used to assess late blight risk. **The last 7 days, up to August 6, had accumulated 3 to 8 DSVs, suggesting low to high risk of late blight disease occurring in the week in the province** (Fig. 4). [www.mbpotatoes.ca](http://www.mbpotatoes.ca).



**Fig. 4.** The last 7 days had accumulated 3 to 8 DSVs, suggesting low to high risk of late blight disease occurring in the across the province.

- Powdery scab infections on roots have been reported for about 3 weeks in some fields. Minor incidences of early blight. White mold and botrytis leaf and stem rot are being reported in more fields within the canopy, after the plants have settled on the ground. Common scab has also been reported from a few fields.
- If you find plants or leaves which may be suspected late blight - please bring in the sample for confirmation.

## 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 7<sup>th</sup> week (July 28 – Aug 1 to 4) (Table 2) were higher than last week’s numbers. Due to long weekend, some samples were received on Aug 1 and others on Aug 4.
  - This week, only 10 Potato Aphids (PA) were trapped from 4 out of 8 sites, compared to 15 last week from 7 sites. PA is an efficient vector of potato mosaic viruses.
  - No **green peach aphid** was trapped at any site.
- Colorado potato beetle control has been achieved in most fields and numbers are reducing. Multiple stages of the CPB can still be seen in some fields in southern Manitoba.
- Aster leafhoppers (ALH) brownish-green and potato leafhoppers (PLH) lemon-green 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 caused by ALH and leaf-tip burn caused by PLH have been reported from a few fields (Table 2).
- European corn borer monitoring has been ongoing for six weeks. From July 28 to August 1, only one site (Melbourne) out of eleven still had high trap counts. All other sites had zero to very low numbers (Table 3, Fig. 5). After a peak trapping count from July 6 to 13, the numbers have steadily reduced.
  - Low incidence of ECB larval boring into stems have been noted in a few fields.

**Table. 2. Weekly Aphid Report – Week 7 (July 28 to Aug 1-4) 2025**

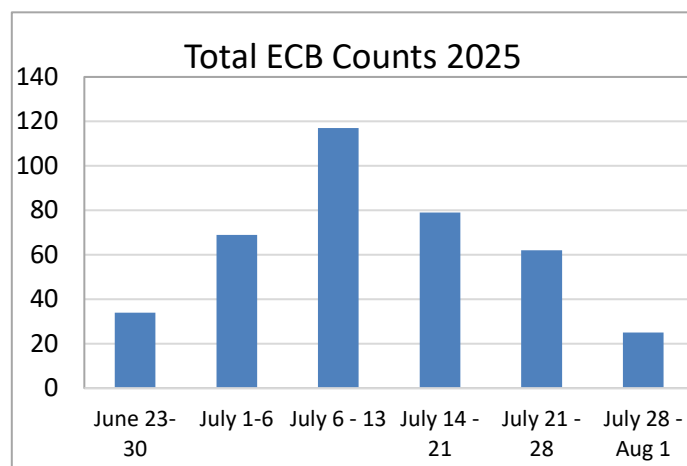
Field #	Town	RM	Green Peach Aphid	Potato Aphid	Other Aphids	Total *	ALH	PLH	Comments
<b>Southern Region</b>									
Field 1-H	<b>Winker - Aug4</b>	Stanley	0	2	60	62	19	0	Moderate thrips
Field 2-K	<b>Stephenfield - Aug4</b>	Dufferin	0	0	7	7	0	0	High thrip numbers
Field 3-S	<b>Winkler - Aug4</b>	Rhineland	0	5	27	32	2	1	High thrip numbers
<b>Central Region</b>									
Field 4-S	<b>Holland - Aug1</b>	Victoria	0	1	0	1	5	0	Low thrip #s
Field 5-S	<b>Glenora - Aug1</b>	Argyle	0	2	8	10	3	0	Many thrips
Field 6-S	<b>Westbourne Aug1</b>	Portage La Prairie	0	0	5	5	0	0	
<b>Western Region</b>									
Field 7-A	<b>Wellwood - Aug1</b>	North Cypress-Langford	0	0	0	0	2	0	Low thrip #s
Field 8-S	<b>Carberry - Aug1</b>	North Cypress-Langford	0	0	1	1	0	0	High thrip numbers
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	

\* 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	Week 6
<b>Location</b>	<b>June 23 -30</b>	<b>June 30-July 7</b>	<b>July 7 - 13</b>	<b>July 13-21</b>	<b>July 21-28</b>	<b>July 28-Aug 1</b>
Shilo-MW	2	6	10	3	1	0
Douglas-MW	30	23	12	18	3	1
Rivers-SP	x	1	0	0	0	0
Shilo-SP 90	x	2	0	0	1	2
Shilo-SP 112	x	0	0	2	1	0
Carberry, #5 47C	x	23	20	10	1	1
Hallboro	x	7	11	5	2	1
Carman-1	0	0	29	3	1	2
Portage	0	0	1	0	0	0
Melbourne	1	6	26	38	53	18
MacGregor	1	1	8	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>25</b>

x = not started monitoring in week 1.



***Fig. 5.** The ECBs trapped peaked in mid-July and have steadily reduced.*

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](mailto:vikram.bisht@gov.mb.ca)