Issue 15 – August 15, 2025

Manitoba Potato Report

[Seasonal Reports](#) [Weekly Weather Maps](#) [Potato Production](#)

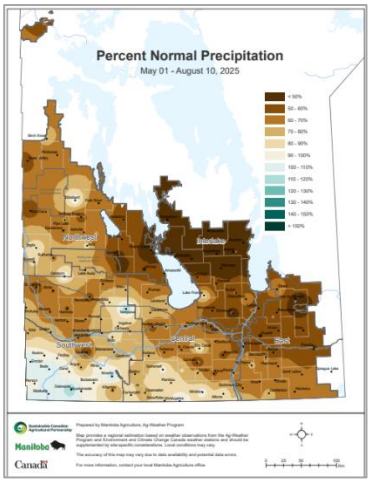
Provincial Summary

- Potato crops are in rapid tuber bulking stage, with many fields showing good tuber set and size profile. The plants are settled down on the ground, leading to wet under-canopy.
- The week (August 4 to 10) was about 2-3ºC warmer than last week, with daytime highs ranging from 27 to 33.3ºC and the overnight lows ranging from 10.6ºC to 14.5ºC in selected potato growing areas.
- There was widespread rainfall in the week across the province, ranging 14.8 to 52.5 mm in the potato areas, resulting in improved 0-30 cm soil moisture profile. Crop water demand was covered by the rainfall.
- No late blight spores were detected in the eighth week of spore monitoring in Manitoba. No late blight disease has yet been reported in Manitoba.

Ag Weather Data

Precipitation and Soil Moisture

- There were widespread showers from Aug 6 to 9 across Manitoba, especially in the south and southwest Manitoba. Cumulative rainfall May 1 to August 10 was close to or above normal in Wawanesa and Winkler, and much improved situation in other areas, except in Carman, Austin and Treherne which were still less than 60% of normal (Table 1, Fig 1). The week's cumulative rainfall ranged from 14.8 mm (Wawanesa) to 52.5 mm (Bagot), leading to soggy fields in some areas (Fig. 3). The crop water demand for the week ranged from 21.2 to 29.4 mm and generally was covered by rainfall in most potato areas (Table 1). https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf.
- Due to 25-50 mm rainfall across potato areas, the 0 to 30cm soil depth moisture (relative to field capacity) across Manitoba has improved, becoming generally optimum to wet by August 10 (Fig. 2). 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.



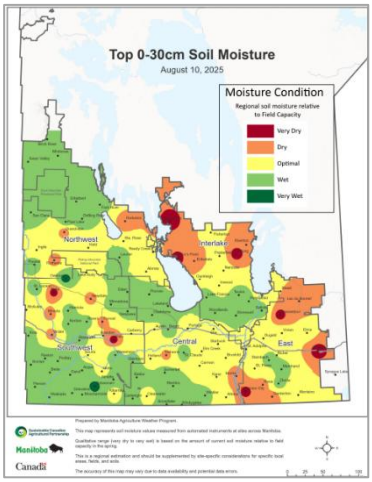


Fig.1 (left). *There was widespread rainfall in the week, ranging from 25 to 50 mm; and the cumulative rainfall from May 1 to Aug 10 nearing normal levels at many sites, but still much below normal in a few potato growing areas.*

Fig.2 (right). *Soil moisture (relative to field capacity) at 0-30cm depths (up to Aug 10) indicates that many potato growing areas have regained moisture compared to last week. Many potato areas now have optimum to wet soil conditions.*

Report compiled by Dr. Vikram Bisht
Potato and Horticulture Crop Pathologist, Manitoba Agriculture
[Subscribe](#) to the weekly Potato Report

Manitoba

Fig.3. *Nearly 1-inch rainfall on August 9 resulted in soggy fields in some areas*

Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – **August 4 - 10**, 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	30.5	14.4	25.3	28.0	223	86	578	108
Austin	28.1	13.0	20.5	27.6	120	54	574	106
Bagot	28.1	13.0	**52.5**	25.1	**166**	70	560	104
Carberry EC	29.0	11.0	23.7	20.6	185	78	**535**	104
Carman	29.6	13.2	22.0	22.9	131	52	556	107
Glenboro	28.2	11.7	**46.1**	20.2	187	81	547	106
Holland	27.6	11.5	30.1	28.5	186	73	564	105
Portage EC	28.3	13.0	**51.1**	**29.4**	165	70	**580**	109
Rivers	27.0	10.6	**45.1**	24.0	167	68	**541**	**107**
Shilo	28.3	11.1	26.1	25.4	190	87	556	104
St. Claude	27.8	14.2	26.0	27.7	172	66	**592**	107
Treherne	28.0	11.2	22.1	21.2	152	59	554	103
Wawanesa	28.0	11.5	14.8	21.4	210	**108**	545	102
Winkler	**33.3**	14.5	**37.6**	25.1	248	**95**	566	113

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 (August 4-10) was about 2-3ºC warmer than last week, with daytime highs ranging from 27 (Rivers) to 33.3ºC (Winkler) and the overnight lows ranging from 10.6ºC to 14.5ºC in selected potato growing areas in selected potato growing areas (Table 1). This day-night temperature differential supports rapid tuber bulking.
- Cumulative heat as Growing Degree Days (GDD, base 5ºC) from May 1 to August 10 has come close to the normal, ranging from 102% (Treherne, Wawanesa) to 113% (Winkler) of normal GDD (Table 1).
- P-Days (Cumulative potato heat units) from June 1 to Aug 10 ranged from 535 to 592 in potato areas. (Table 1), these heat units are near normal P-Days, indicating crops will be in rapid bulking and heat conditions favourable for early blight.

- There is no forecast for rainfall across the province from August 15 to 20, and sunny with a few cloudy to partially cloudy days. From Monday, Aug 18, the daytime and overnight temperatures projected to be in upper 20s and mid-teens, respectively *Manitoba - Weather Conditions and Forecast by Locations - Environment Canada* .

Crop Progress

- Due to widespread precipitation ranging from 20.5 to 52.5 mm across Manitoba in the week the soil moisture has become optimal to wet in the 0-30 cm profile across Manitoba. The weekly crop water demand was generally covered by rainfall (Table 1). Irrigation was limited to not needed.
- 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 fields with over 6-inch size depending on planting dates. Tuber set and size profiles appear good in many fields (Fig 4). Dakota Russet has a smaller set compared to Russet Burbank, but a larger tuber profile.
- More seed potato fields are being desiccated this week.

Fig. 4. *a: Dakota Russet and b: Russet Burbank with good set and size profile. Photos: Tavis Mangin (Simplot),*

Disease Monitoring

- ***Phytophthora infestans* spores were not detected at any of Spornado trap sites** in the eighth week of monitoring from August 1 to 10.
- **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 13, **had accumulated 7 to 12 DSVs, suggesting high risk of late blight disease occurring in the presence of late blight inoculum** (Fig. 5)**.** www.mbpotatoes.ca.

- Late blight was reported from Middlesex County on tomatoes in Ontario on August 8. The affected area was small, but the risk of late blight should be considered high, especially for fields using overhead irrigation – Amanda Tracey, ON Vegetables.

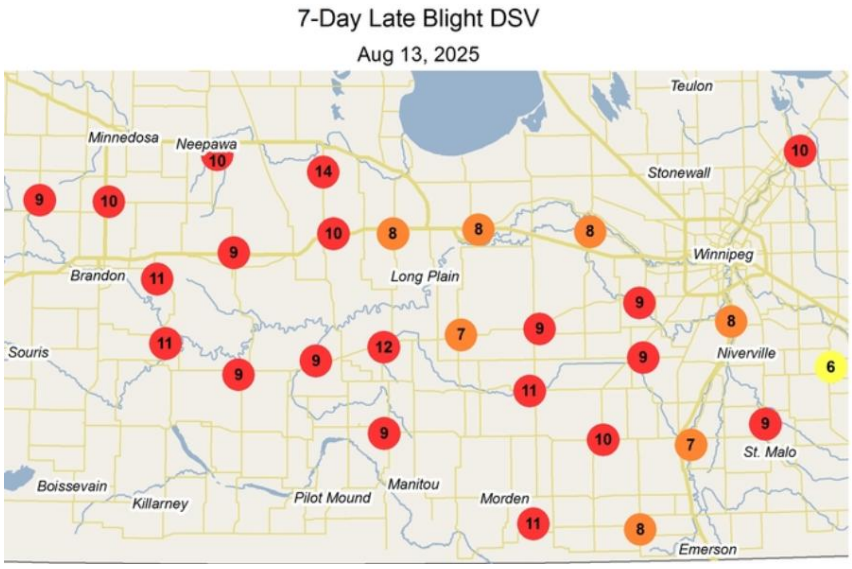


Fig. 5. *The last 7 days had accumulated 7 to 12 DSVs, suggesting high risk across the province of late blight disease occurring if inoculum were present.*

- Powdery scab infections on roots have been reported from more fields (Fig 6). Powdery scab is a vector for Potato Mop Top Virus (PMTV), which is becoming a disease of concern. Root infection is necessary for transmission of PMTV.
- Minor incidences of early blight. White mold and botrytis leaf and stem rot are reported within the canopy, after the plants have settled on the ground.
- Minor incidences of blackleg and stem rot are seen in some wet fields after recent rains.

Fig. 6. *Powdery scab root infection was noted in a few fields. Root infection often can be seen as root galls.*

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 8th week (Aug 1 to 11) (Table 2) were 45, much lower than last week's total of 120.
    - This week, 11 Potato Aphids (PA) were trapped from 4 out of 8 sites, compared to 10 last week from 8 sites. PA is an efficient vector of potato mosaic viruses.
    - No **green peach aphid** was trapped at any site.
    - The trend of reducing total aphid counts was also reported in the Minnesota-North Dakota Aphid Alert. Frequent showers and rain may have played a role in reducing the numbers.
- Colorado potato beetle control has been achieved in most fields and numbers are reducing.
- Aster leafhoppers (ALH) brownish-green and potato leafhoppers (PLH) lemon-green have been trapped from over wider region across potato producing areas (Table 2). 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.
- European corn borer monitoring has been ongoing for seven weeks. From August 1 to 11, the trap counts have reduced drastically and only Melbourne site still had ECBs in trap (Table 3, Fig. 7). In 2025 a very low incidence of ECB boring was recorded. The monitoring for ECBs has been stopped after this week.

*Table. 2. Weekly Aphid Report – **Week 8** (Aug 1-11) 2025*

Field #	Town	RM	Green Peach Aphid	Potato Aphid	Other Aphids	Total *	ALH	PLH	Comments
Southern Region									
Field 1-H	**Winker -** Aug4	Stanley	0	0	4	4	0	0	Moderate thrips
Field 2-K	**Stephenfield -** Aug4	Dufferin	0	2	11	13	0	0	High thrip numbers
Field 3-S	**Winkler -** Aug4	Rhineland	0	1	6	7	0	0	High thrip numbers
Central Region									
Field 4-S	**Holland -** Aug1	Victoria	0	6	1	7	8	7	High thrip numbers
Field 5-S	**Glenora -** Aug1	Argyle	0	2	2	4	0	0	Many thrips
Field 6-S	**Westbourne** Aug1	Portage La Prairie	0	0	8	8	2	3	
Western Region									
Field 7-A	**Wellwood -** Aug1	North Cypress-Langford	0	0	0	0	2	0	Low thrip #s
Field 8-S	**Carberry -** Aug1	North Cypress-Langford	0	0	1	1	0	0	High thrip numbers
	TOTAL		**0**	**11**	**34**	**45**	**16**	**10**	

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

x = no sample.

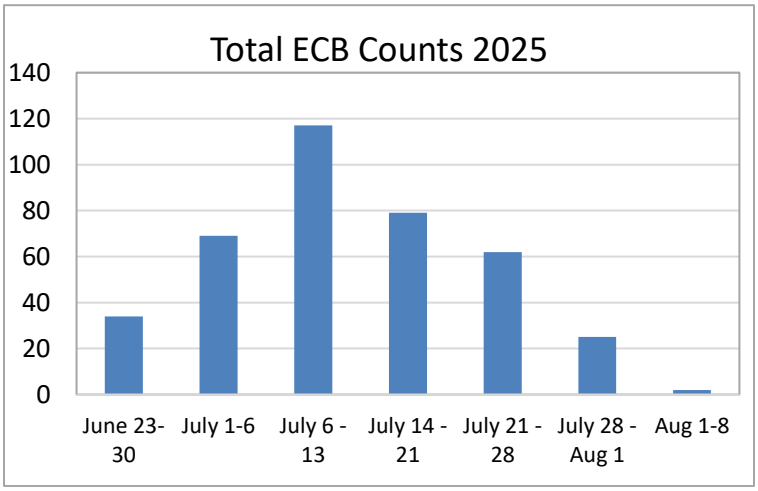


Fig. 7. *The ECBs trapped peaked in mid-July and have steadily reduced.*

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

Manitoba