Issue 16 – August 22, 2025

# Manitoba Potato Report

Seasonal Reports  Weekly Weather Maps  Potato Production

## Provincial Summary

- Potato crops continue to be 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 11 to 17) was about 2-3ºC cooler than last week, with daytime highs ranging from 25.1 to 29.1ºC and the overnight lows ranging from 6.5 to 9.2ºC in selected potato growing areas.
- There was widespread rainfall in the week across the province, ranging 10.6 to 20.3 mm in the potato areas, maintaining good 0-30 cm soil moisture profile. Crop water demand was not covered by rainfall.
- No late blight spores were detected in the ninth 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 on Aug 11, 14 and 17 across Manitoba. Cumulative rainfall May 1 to August 17 was close to normal in Winkler and a few sites had ~85% rainfall, while Austin and Carman stayed below 60% of normal (Table 1, Fig 1). The week's cumulative rainfall ranged from 10.6 mm (Shilo) to over 19 mm (Austin, Carman, Portage, Rivers, St. Claude, Treherne) leading to wet fields. The crop water demand (CWD) for the week ranged from 18.3 to 29.1 mm and not covered by rainfall in most sites. Shilo with 10.6 mm rainfall had the highest water deficit based on CWD (Table 1). *https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf*.
- Due to 10.6 to 20.3 mm rainfall in the week across potato areas, the 0 to 30cm soil depth moisture (relative to field capacity) has stayed as generally optimum to wet by August 17 (Fig. 2*)*. At 20 cm depths, Shilo and Treherne continue to be the driest (by % moisture content by volume) of the selected potato areas. *https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf*.
- There were thunderstorms and scattered heavy showers from August 19 to 21. This rainfall was not included in current week's (August 11-17) rainfall data.

**Temperatures – Air and Soil**

- The week (August 11-17) was about 2-3ºC cooler than last week, with daytime highs ranging from 25.1 (Rivers) to 19.1ºC (Winkler) and the overnight lows ranging from 6.5 to 9.2ºC 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 17 is close to normal, ranging from 101 (Treherne) to 112% (Winkler) of normal GDD (Table 1).
- P-Days (Cumulative potato heat units) from June 1 to Aug 17 ranged from 588 (Carberry) to 649 (St. Claude) in the potato areas (Table 1). These heat units are near normal P-Days and indicating that crops will be in rapid bulking and heat conditions favourable for early blight.

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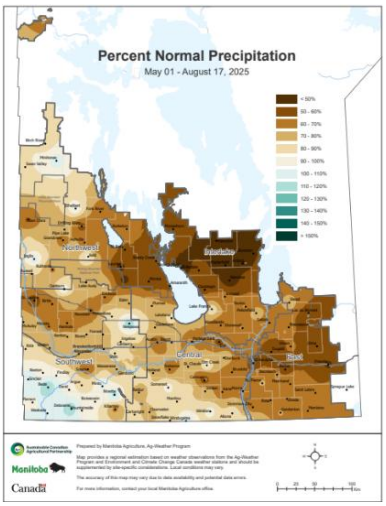
- There is forecast for rainfall on August 22, but none after that till August 27 across the province. The temperatures are expected to be lower, with daytime highs in mid-20s and over night lows below 10$^{O}$C from August 21 to 26, and sunny days from Aug 23 to 27 Manitoba - Weather Conditions and Forecast by Locations - Environment Canada



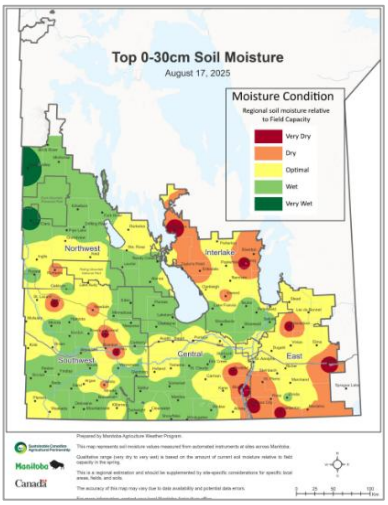




***Fig.1 (left).*** *There was widespread rainfall in the week, ranging from 10.6 to 20.3 mm; and the cumulative rainfall from May 1 to Aug 17 still below normal in most potato growing areas.*

***Fig.2 (right).*** *Soil moisture (relative to field capacity) at 0-30cm depths (up to Aug 17) indicates that many potato growing areas have moisture levels similar to last week. Many potato areas now have optimum to wet soil conditions.*

*Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data* – **August 11 - 17**, 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 | 28.7 | 7.7 | 13.3 | 24.9 | 236 | 86 | 636 | 107 |
| Austin | 27.0 | **9.2** | **19.9** | 25.3 | **140** | 59 | 624 | 104 |
| Bagot | 27.0 | 8.1 | 16.7 | 24.3 | **183** | 72 | 608 | 102 |
| Carberry EC | 26.9 | 8.4 | 15.0 | **18.3** | 200 | 78 | **588** | 103 |
| Carman | 28.2 | 7.8 | **19.1** | 19.0 | 156 | **57** | 612 | 108 |
| Glenboro | 26.8 | 7.8 | 17.4 | 20.9 | 204 | 84 | 603 | 105 |
| Holland | 27.4 | 8.6 | 16.9 | 25.0 | 203 | 75 | 620 | 104 |
| Portage EC | 28.1 | 8.9 | **19.6** | 24.1 | 185 | 72 | 637 | 108 |
| Rivers | **25.1** | **6.5** | **19.3** | 24.3 | 187 | 71 | **596** | **105** |
| Shilo | 26.1 | 7.9 | **10.6** | **29.1** | 200 | 86 | 607 | 103 |
| St. Claude | 27.2 | 8.8 | **20.3** | 24.2 | 193 | 70 | 649 | 107 |
| Treherne | 27.0 | 8.3 | **19.8** | 18.9 | 172 | 64 | 608 | 101 |
| Wawanesa | 27.1 | 7.5 | 16.3 | 22.2 | 175 | 72 | 601 | 102 |
| Winkler | **29.1** | 8.8 | 13.7 | 24.7 | **262** | 94 | **625** | 112 |

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*.

## Crop Progress

- Due to widespread precipitation ranging from 10.6 to 20.3 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 not covered by the rainfall (Table 1). Irrigation was limited to not needed.
- Crops are in rapid tuber-bulking phase, and many fields with over 6-inch size depending on planting dates. Tuber set and size profiles generally appear good in many fields (Fig. 3).

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- Plants have settled down on ground in many fields, making the under-canopy quite wet – leading to minor incidences of white mold and stem rotting.
- More seed potato fields have been desiccated this week.
- Direct from field delivery to the processing plants had started a week ago.


***Fig. 3.*** *Russet Burbank with good set and size profile from 10-ft digs. a: August 17, and b: August 11 tubers. Photos: Tavis Mangin (Simplot),*

## Disease Monitoring

- ***Phytophthora infestans*** **spores were not detected at any of Spornado trap sites** in the ninth week of monitoring from August 11 to 18.
- **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 21, **had accumulated 5 to 11 DSVs, suggesting moderate to high risk of late blight disease occurring in the presence of late blight inoculum** (Fig. 4)**.** [www.mbpotatoes.ca](http://www.mbpotatoes.ca).
- No new incidence of late blight has been reported in Canada after August 8 late blight report from Middlesex County on tomatoes in Ontario (Amanda Tracey, ON Vegetables).

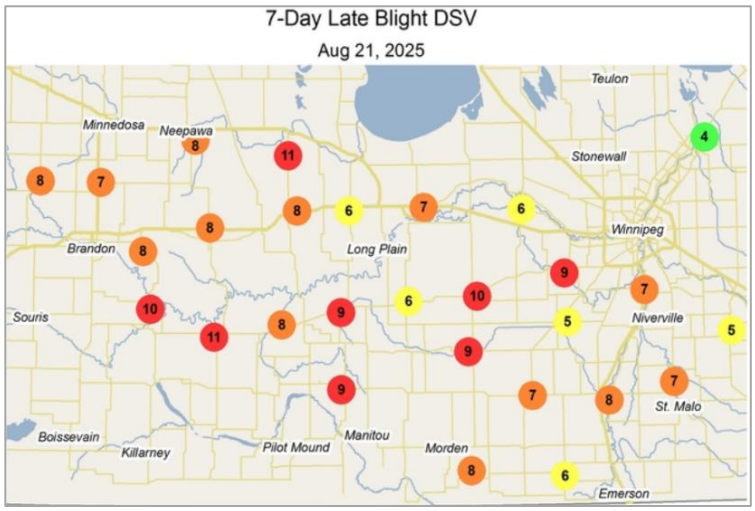


***Fig. 4.*** *The last 7 days had accumulated 5 to 11 DSVs, suggesting moderate to high risk across the province of late blight disease occurring if inoculum were present. No late blight spores were detected in the week.*

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- Powdery scab infections on roots have been observed in more fields. Powdery scab is a vector for Potato Mop Top Virus (PMTV), which is becoming a disease of concern. Root infection by powdery scab fungus 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.
- Many fields are now showing "potato early dying" (PED) at low levels now (Fig 5). PED could become more severe as the crop matures and with stress from heat or water deficit.

***Fig. 5.*** *Low incidence of Verticillium early dying wilt is starting to show up in a few fields. Photos: Janelle Lavich (Choice Agri).*

## 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 9th week (Aug 11 to 17) (Table 2) were 53 from five sites, apparently much higher than last week's total of 45 from eight sites.
  - This week, 9 Potato Aphids (PA) were trapped from 2 out of 5 samples, compared to 11 last week from 8 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. In a few fields new egg masses have been observed. It is possible some of the adults which survived the foliar insecticide application(s) laid these egg masses and could be generating insecticide resistant populations.

*Table. 2. Weekly Aphid Report –* ***Week 9*** *(Aug 11-18) 2025*

| Field # | Town | RM | Green Peach Aphid | Potato Aphid | Other Aphids | Total * | ALH | PLH | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Southern Region** | | | | | | | | | |
| Field 1-H | **Winker** | Stanley | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | Moderate thrips |
| Field 2-K | **Stephenfield** | Dufferin | 0 | 0 | 19 | 19 | 2 | 0 | High thrip numbers |
| Field 3-S | **Winkler** | Rhineland | 0 | 0 | 14 | 14 | 0 | 3 | High thrip numbers |

**Central Region**

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Field 4-S | **Holland** | Victoria | x | | | x | | | Field desiccated |
| Field 5-S | **Glenora** | Argyle | x | | | x | | | Field desiccated |
| Field 6-S | **Westbourne** | Portage La Prairie | 0 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 0 | |

**Western Region**

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Field 7-A | **Wellwood** | North Cypress-Langford | x | | | x | | | Field desiccated |
| Field 8-S | **Carberry** | North Cypress-Langford | 0 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 0 | High thrip numbers |
| | **TOTAL** | | **0** | **9** | **44** | **53** | **2** | **3** | |

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

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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