Issue 17 – August 29, 2025

Manitoba Potato Report

Seasonal Reports Weekly Weather Maps Potato Production

Provincial Summary

- Potato crops have entered tuber maturation stage, with many fields showing good tuber set and size profile. Harvest for direct-from-field to processing is continuing. Warm temperatures and lack of rains in some areas in the last few days have dried the ground and under-canopy in many fields.
- The week (August 18 to 24) was about 1-3ºC warmer than last week, with daytime highs ranging from 28.0 to 31.1ºC and the overnight lows ranging from 5.2 to 9.0ºC in selected potato growing areas.
- There was scattered and intense rainfall in the week at a few regions in the province, ranging from 0 to 111 mm (Portage). This has helped maintain good soil moisture profile at 0-30 cm depths. However, crop water demand was not covered by rainfall in most potato growing areas, so irrigation pivots have started again.
- No late blight spores detected in the tenth week of spore monitoring in Manitoba. No late blight disease reported in Manitoba.

Ag Weather Data

Precipitation and Soil Moisture

- There were scattered heavy thunder showers on Aug 18, 21 and 22 across central and southern Manitoba. Other areas got practically no rainfall (0 to 3.5 mm in the week). Cumulative rainfall May 1 to Aug. 24 was close to normal in Winkler and a few sites had ~80% rainfall, while Austin and Carman stayed below 60% of normal (Table 1, Fig.1).
- The week's cumulative rainfall ranged from 0 mm (Wawanesa) to over 44 mm (Portage, Environment Canada station) and 111 (Portage, Manitoba Agriculture station), leading to some wet fields. The crop water demand (CWD) for the week ranged from 17.7 to 25.7 mm. CWD was met in Bagot and Portage but not in most other sites. (Table 1, Fig. 3). *https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf*.
- Due to scattered heavy rainfall in the week, the 0 to 30cm soil depth moisture (relative to field capacity) has improved in many sites; and the soil moisture can be categorized as generally optimum to wet by August 24 (Fig. 2*)*. At 20 cm depths, Shilo and Treherne continue to be the driest (by % moisture content by volume) of the selected sites. *https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf*.

Temperatures – Air and Soil

- The week (August 18-25) was about 1-3ºC warmer than last week, with daytime highs ranging from 28.0 (Altona) to 31.8 (Wawanesa) and the overnight lows ranging from 5.2 (Rivers) to 9.0ºC (St. Claude) 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 24 is close to normal, ranging from 101 (Treherne) to 111% (Winkler) of normal GDD (Table 1).

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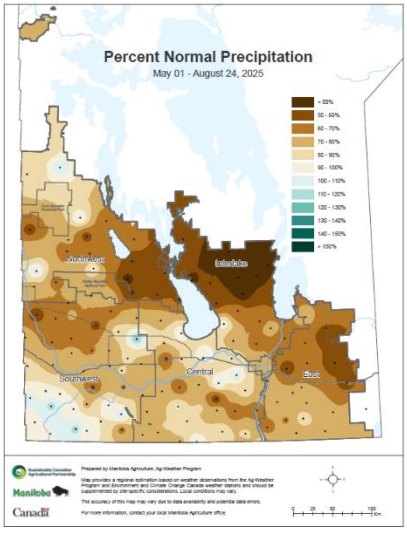
- P-Days (Cumulative potato heat units) from June 1 to Aug 24 ranged from 640 (Carberry) to 707 (St. Claude) in the potato areas (Table 1). These heat units are near normal P-Days. and indicate that most crops will be in tuber maturation stage.
- Forecast is for rainfall on Sept. 1 and 2 at various locations, but none before that. The temperatures are expected to be hot and in low 30s from Aug 29 to Sept. 1 and dropping to 20s from Sept. 2. With warm days, the over night lows are forecast to be in teens up to Sept. 1. [Manitoba - Weather Conditions and Forecast by Locations - Environment Canada]



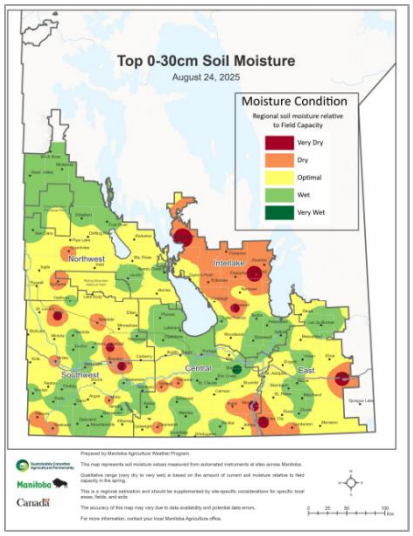


Fig.1 (left). *There was scattered heavy rainfall in the week in central and south-east Manitoba. The cumulative rainfall from May 1 to Aug 24 is still below normal in most potato growing areas.*

Fig.2 (right). *Soil moisture (relative to field capacity) at 0-30cm depths (up to Aug 24) indicates that many potato growing areas have improved moisture levels over last week. Many potato areas now have optimum to wet soil conditions.*

Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – **August 18 - 24**, 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	28.0	7.6	3.5	19.8	240	83	694	106
Austin	**29.7**	**8.0**	**2.4**	21.1	**143.**	58	680	104
Bagot	29.5	6.6	30.4	21.4	**213**	81	663	102
Carberry EC	30.5	6.5	1.3	**22.7**	202	75	640	103
Carman	28.9	7.0	**6.5**	**17.7**	162	**57**	668	107
Glenboro	30.0	6.3	0.2	23.0	204	80	657	105
Holland	30.3	5.5	0.9	24.4	203	72	661	103
Portage EC	29.2	8.1	**44.4**	**19.5**	229	85	695	107
Rivers	**30.3**	**5.2**	**5.0**	25.7	192	70	645	105
Shilo	30.0	5.7	**0.8**	**24.5**	201	82	659	103
St. Claude	29.4	9.0	**10.5**	21.2	203	70	**707**	105
Treherne	29.9	6.1	**0.2**	**20.2**	172	61	661	**101**
Wawanesa	31.8	**5.5**	0	23.9	175	69	653	102
Winkler	**29.3**	6.8	**3.2**	20.7	**265**	90	679	**111**

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*.

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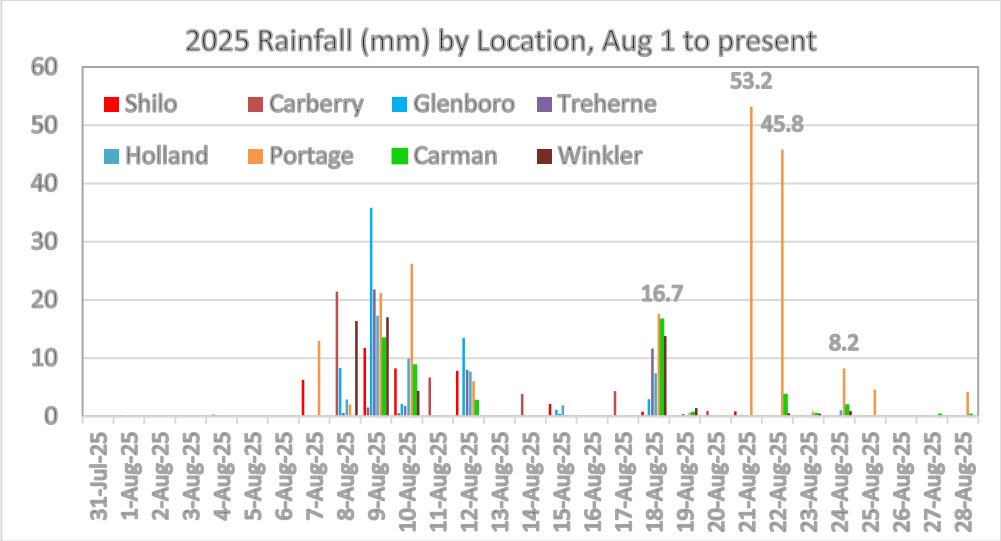

Fig.3. *Rainfall was intense in Bagot and Portage on August 21 and 22, but not much later.*

Crop Progress

- With recent rain events from Aug 18-24, the soil moisture is now optimal to wet in the 0-30 cm profile across Manitoba, however crop water demand (CWD) has only been met in Bagot and Portage. Irrigation has started again in most other areas to meet CWD.
- Most crops are in tuber maturity phase, and many fields with over 6-inch size depending on planting dates. Tuber set and size profiles generally appear good in most fields.
- Plants have settled down on ground in many fields, making the under-canopy more humid and leading to minor incidences of white mold and stem rotting.
- Many seed potato fields are being desiccated this week.
- Direct-from-field delivery to the processing plants is continuing.

Disease Monitoring

- ***Phytophthora infestans*** **spores were not detected at any of the Spornado trap sites** in the tenth week of monitoring from August 18 to 25.
- **No late blight has 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 28, **had accumulated 1 to 4 DSVs, suggesting low risk of late blight disease occurring in the presence of late blight inoculum** (Fig. 4)**.** *www.mbpotatoes.ca*. However, a few days earlier, on August 25 the DSVs (5 to 10) indicated that the risk of late blight was moderate to high across Manitoba (Fig. 5)
- 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 more fields are now showing “potato early dying” (PED), ranging from 0 to over 30% plants showing Verticillium infection. A few plants are starting to show black dot infection. The severity of both diseases is expected to increase as the crops mature and with stress from heat or water deficit.

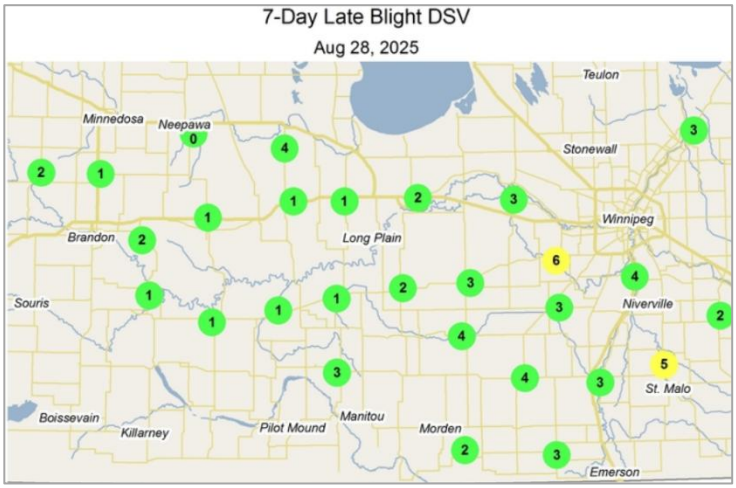

Fig.4. *By August 28 the 7-day DSVs in potato areas ranged from 1 to 4 indicating very low risk for late blight*

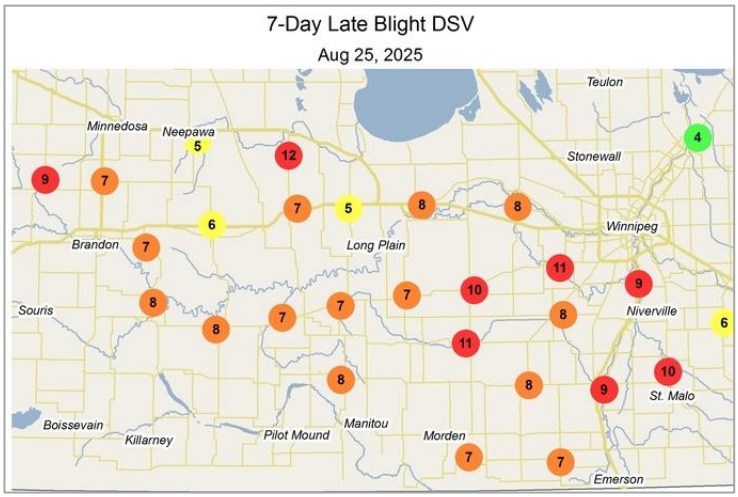

Fig.5. *By August 25 the 7-day DSVs in potato areas ranged from 5 to 10 indicating moderate to high risk for late blight.*

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 10th week (Aug 18 to 25) (Table 2) were 18 from three sites, apparently much higher than last week’s total of 53 from five sites.
  - This week, no Potato Aphids (PA) or green peach aphids (GPA) were trapped from the 3 samples, compared to 9 last week from 5 sites. PA and GPS are efficient vectors of potato mosaic viruses
  - 2025 had much lower aphid-trap counts compared to the last few years. Low numbers for the season have also been observed in ND-MN aphid monitoring.
  - Aphid monitoring is being stopped since most of the seed fields are being desiccated.
- Colorado potato beetle adults and various larval stages and egg-masses can be seen in many fields at low incidences. Possibly these are the resistant populations surviving for the next generation.

*Table. 2. Weekly Aphid Report – **Week 10** (Aug 18-25) 2025*

Field #	Town	RM	Green Peach Aphid	Potato Aphid	Other Aphids	Total *	ALH	PLH	Comments
Southern Region									
Field 1-H	**Winker**	Stanley	x	x		x			x
Field 2-K	**Stephenfield**	Dufferin	0	0	16	16	1	0	High thrip numbers
Field 3-S	**Winkler**	Rhineland	x	x					x
Central Region									
Field 4-S	**Holland**	Victoria	x	x		x			x
Field 5-S	**Glenora**	Argyle	x	x		x			x
Field 6-S	**Westbourne**	Portage La Prairie	0	0	1	1	0	0	Some thrips
Western Region									
Field 7-A	**Wellwood**	North Cypress-Langford	x	x		x			x
Field 8-S	**Carberry**	North Cypress-Langford	0	0	1	1	0	0	High thrip numbers
	TOTAL		**0**	**0**	**18**	**18**	**1**	**0**	

** 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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