Issue 20 – September 19, 2025

Manitoba Potato Report

Seasonal Reports Weekly Weather Maps Potato Production

Provincial Summary

- Harvest for direct-from-field delivery to processors is continuing. Potato harvest for storage is now in full swing. Harvesting ranges from yet to start to over 50% of individual farm completed. Harvest was interrupted on Sept 4, 11 and 14-15 due to rains and warm tuber temperatures (>18.3ºC) on some days.
- During the week of Sept 8 to 14, daytime highs ranged from 26.3 to 29.6ºC, similar to the previous week, and the overnight lows ranged from 5.3 to 7.6ºC, which were 3-4ºC warmer than the previous week in selected potato growing areas.
- There was widespread rainfall in the week across the province mainly on Sept 11 and 14-15, ranging from 9.0 to 41.6 mm. Crop water demand was generally met by the rainfall in many potato growing areas, and irrigation was not necessary during the harvest.
- No late blight disease reported in Manitoba. Potato Early Dying disease is now more severe in many fields across Manitoba.

Ag Weather Data

Precipitation and Soil Moisture

- The cumulative rainfall in the week (Sept 8-14) ranged from 9.0 (Portage) to 41.6 mm (Rivers) across potato growing areas. Total rainfall May 1 to Sept 14 was close to normal only in Portage and Winkler. A few sites Altona, Bagot, Rivers, Shilo, Glenboro and Holland had ~80% rainfall, while Austin, Carman, St. Claude, Treherne and Wawanesa remained between 60 to 70% of normal (Table 1, Fig.1). There were widespread thundershowers across Manitoba on Sept 14-15 and scattered rains earlier in the week in some potato growing areas.
- Due to widespread rainfall on Sept 11 and 14-15 in the week (Fig. 1, 3), the 0 to 30 cm soil depth moisture (relative to field capacity) became generally optimum to wet by Sept 14 (Fig. 2*).* *https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf*.
- The week's crop water demand (CWD) ranged from 12.5 to 20.9 mm and was not covered by rainfall at many of the weather station sites (Table 1). *https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf*. However, irrigation was not necessary at this late stage in crop season with a maturing crop.

Temperatures – Air and Soil

- During the week of Sept 8 to 14, daytime highs ranged from 26.3 to 29.6ºC, mostly similar to the previous week, and the overnight lows ranged from 5.3 to 8.8ºC, which were 4-5ºC warmer than the previous week in selected potato growing areas (Table 1). There were many days when overnight temperatures stayed above 17-18ºC at many locations, which prevented overnight cooling down of tubers.

Report compiled by Dr. Vikram Bisht
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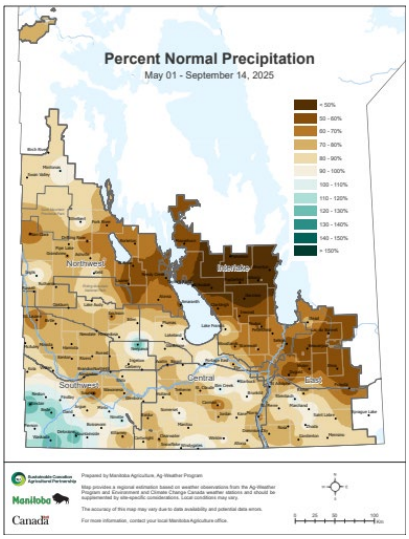
- Cumulative heat as Growing Degree Days (GDD, base 5ºC) from May 1 to Sept 14 is close to normal, ranging from 101 to 111% of normal GDD in potato growing areas (Table 1).
- P-Days (Cumulative potato heat units) from June 1 to Sept 14 ranged from 764 (Carberry) to 839 (St. Claude) in the potato areas (Table 1). These heat units are near normal P-Days and indicate that most crops are in tuber maturation stage.
- There is forecast for scattered rainfall from Sept 19 and 20 with below 20ºC temperatures at various locations. There is forecast for sunny days from Sept 21 to 24 and daytime highs around mid-20s, which could help dry the fields and aid in harvest. The overnight lows are expected to be around 10ºC or lower. Manitoba - Weather Conditions and Forecast by Locations - Environment Canada



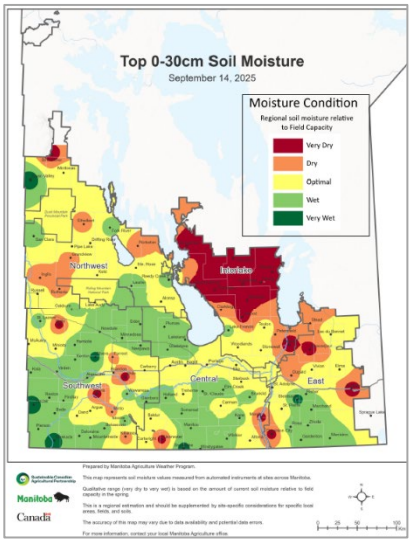


Fig.1 (left). *There was widespread rainfall in the week (Sept 11-15) in the potato growing areas of Manitoba. The cumulative rainfall from May 1 to Sept 14 is still below normal in most potato growing areas, except Portage La Prairie.*

Fig.2 (right). *Soil moisture (relative to field capacity) at 0-30cm depths (up to Sept 14) indicates that many potato growing areas now generally have optimum to wet soil moisture conditions.*

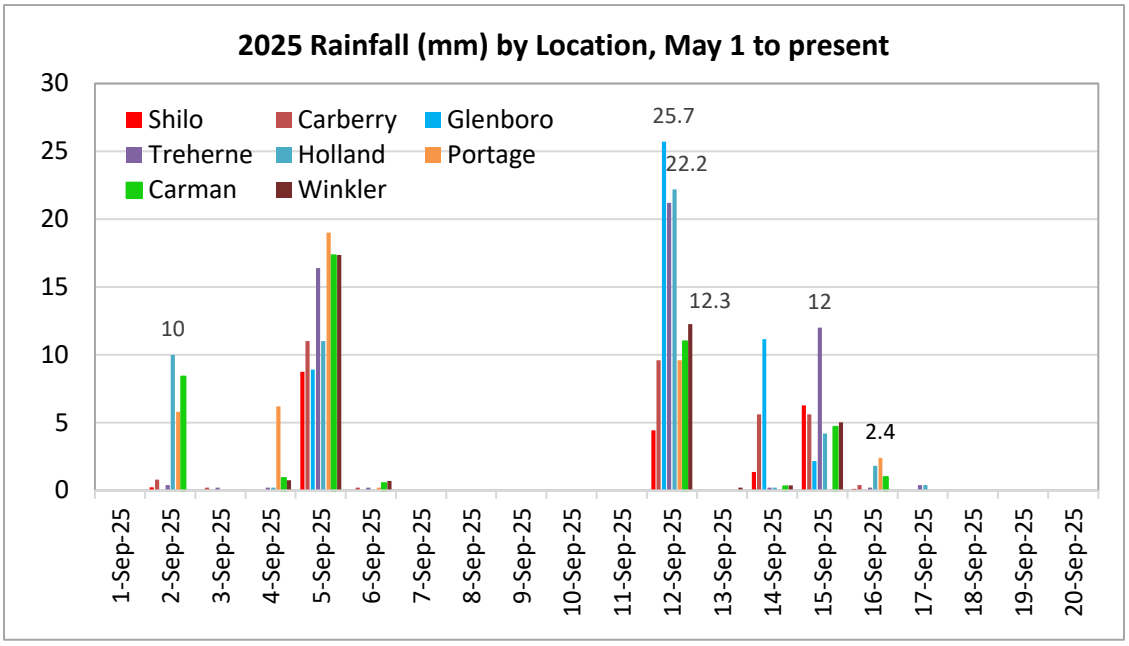


Fig.3. *Rainfall in September has been frequent, even though not heavy, the fields are getting sticky in many areas and interrupting harvest. Good drying days are needed to dry many fields with heavy soils for ease of harvest.*

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Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – **Sept 8 - 14**, 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	27.4	7.0	**11.2**	16.1	271	81	822	106
Austin	27.7	7.6	36.3	**17.7**	**195**	69	812	105
Bagot	26.7	6.9	21.7	**16.3**	**257**	83	784	102
Carberry EC	27.6	5.9	**15.2**	16.2	x	x	764	x
Carman	27.0	6.0	15.7	**12.5**	206	63	793	107
Glenboro	28.1	7.3	38.9	**18.1**	252	88	781	105
Holland	27.9	7.6	26.6	**20.9**	251	80	800	104
Portage ~~EC~~	27.6	5.7	**9.0**	18.5	313	**102**	827	109
Rivers	27.9	5.6	41.6	**20.2**	243	79	768	106
Shilo	28.5	6.4	**11.9**	20.6	222	81	784	103
St. Claude	**26.3**	6.0	19.7	**16.8**	241	73	**839**	105
Treherne	27.7	**8.8**	32.5	**16.6**	220	70	787	101
Wawanesa	28.5	5.3	17.5	**17.1**	208	72	773	102
Winkler	**29.6**	5.8	**17.7**	**14.9**	**301**	91	807	111

Crop Water Demand (CWD) mm: www.mbpotatoes.ca/cwd.cfm. P-Days: www.mbpotatoes.ca/pday.cfm
x: data unavailable in Crop Weather Reports.
For more Manitoba weather information, visit: *www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather*

Crop Progress

- Direct-from-field delivery to the processing plants is continuing. Harvest for storage was in full swing, till extensive rainfall on Sept 4, 11-12 and 14-15 interrupted harvesting across the province. A break in the rains on Sept 17 and 18 has allowed for some harvesting.
- So far, in many farms the yields appear to be as good or better than in 2024.
- On many days the soil temperatures at 5 cm depth were > 65ºF (18.3ºC) due to which many farms stopped their harvest. Thus, in the week there were harvest interruptions due to rains or warm tuber temperatures. The conditions for harvest have improved since Sept 15 due to low overnight temperatures.
- Warm temperatures in the week may have created conditions favourable for pink rot tuber infection. Post-harvest phosphite fungicides may be helpful, if not applied during the season.
- With recent rain events on Sept 11-12 and 14-15, the soil moisture is now generally optimal to wet in the 0-30 cm profile across Manitoba. Frequent rains, even though not heavy are making the fields sticky. The maturing crops are unable to use much soil moisture from rains this stage late in season.
- Tuber set and size profiles generally appear good in most fields. There is now an interest in competing for the bragging rights for the largest tuber of the season. There are now entries of 3 lbs.14 oz (1.766 kg) and 4 lbs. (1.814 kg) submitted (Fig. 4). **The current largest (heaviest) tuber has been recorded at 4 lbs.**

Fig.4. *Entries with larger tubers compared to last week.*

Left: *3 lbs. 14.3 oz (Isaiah Hofer, Acadia Colony).*

Right: *4 lbs Ranger Russet tuber (Tavis Mangin, Simplot)*

To-date the largest tuber is 4 lbs. (1.814 kg).

Manitoba growers and agronomists are welcome to share photos of the largest tuber of the season!

Disease Monitoring

- **No late blight has been reported in Manitoba.**
- The 7-day cumulative DSVs are now being used to assess late blight risk. **The last 7 days, up to** Sept 10, **had accumulated 10 to 17 DSVs, suggesting very high risk of late blight disease occurring in the presence of late blight inoculum** (Fig. 5)**.** *www.mbpotatoes.ca*.
- 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 blackleg and stem rot are seen in some wet fields after recent rains. Tubers from low lying areas carry the rot bacteria into storage.
- Many more fields are now showing “potato early dying” (PED), ranging from <5 to 50% incidence in various fields (Fig. 6). The incidence within a field could be 5 to >80% affected plants. More plants are also showing black dot infection. The severity of both diseases is expected to increase as the crops mature and with stress from heat or water deficit.
- Minor incidence of premature plant death due to PVY infection was also noted in some fields; PVY infected plants had lower yield compared to non-PVY plant (Fig. 7).
- High daytime temperatures in the last week, with sufficient soil moisture may pose a risk of pink rot and pythium leak diseases on tubers in fields with wet spots. Phosphite fungicide applications help reduce the rot problem in storage.

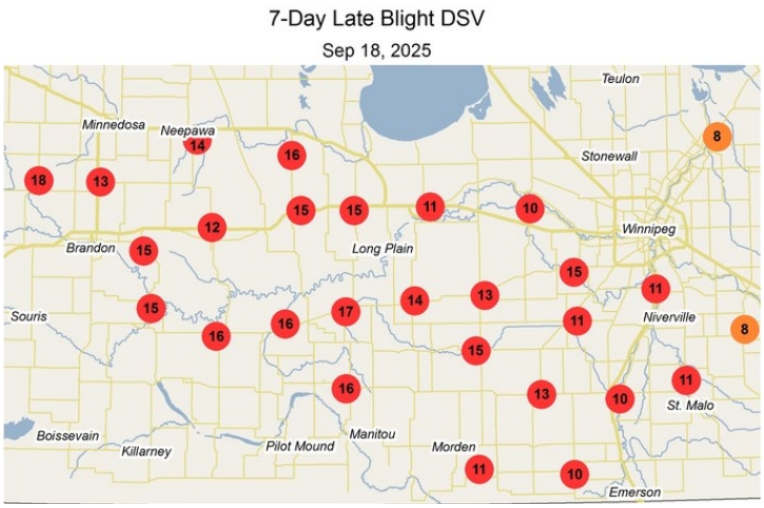

Fig.5. *By Sept 18 the 7-day DSVs ranged from 10 to 17 in the potato growing areas, indicating very high risk for late blight if the late blight inoculum were present.*

Fig.6. *Potato early dying complex is showing up in more fields across the province. The incidence and severity appear to have increased in more fields since last week. Photo: Vikram Bisht (Manitoba Agriculture).*

Fig.7. *Virus infected plant (flag marked) had pre-mature death and much lower yield than an adjacent uninfected plant (still green). A high virus level in a crop could impact productivity of the subsequent crop. Photo: Vikram Bisht (Manitoba*

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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