

Issue 21 – September 26, 2025

Manitoba Potato Report



[Seasonal Reports](#)

[Weekly Weather Maps](#)

[Potato Production](#)

Provincial Summary

- Harvest for storage is now in full swing. Harvest progress varies widely across farms, ranging from not yet started to over 75% completed. A few small farms are either just beginning or nearly finished with their harvest. Harvest was interrupted on Sep 19/20 due to rains and warm tuber temperatures ($>18.3^{\circ}\text{C}$) on some days. Over 60% of the Manitoba's potato acres will have been harvested by now.
- During the week of Sept 14 to 21, daytime highs ranged around $25-26^{\circ}\text{C}$, $2-3^{\circ}\text{C}$ cooler than last week, and the overnight lows ranged from 5.3 to 12.3°C , $2-3^{\circ}\text{C}$ warmer than last week in selected potato areas.
- There was widespread rainfall, ranging from 1.9 to 35.6 mm in the week across the province, mainly on Sep 19-20, but none after that. Break in rains has allowed uninterrupted harvesting. Crop water demand was met by the rainfall in some of the potato growing areas. Irrigation was not needed during the harvest.
- No late blight disease reported in Manitoba. Potato Early Dying disease is now more severe in many fields across Manitoba. Powdery scab infections on roots have been observed in many more fields.

Ag Weather Data

Precipitation and Soil Moisture

- There was widespread rainfall on Sep 19-20 and none since in the week, but more so in the south & and southeast of Manitoba (Fig. 1, 3).
- The cumulative rainfall in the week (Sep 15-21) ranged from 1.9 mm (Rivers) to 35.6 mm (Altona) across potato growing areas. Total rainfall May 1 to Sep 21 was close to normal only in Portage and Winkler. A few sites Altona, Bagot, Rivers, Shilo, St. Claude, Glenboro and Holland had $\sim 80\%$ rainfall, while Austin, Carman, St. Claude, Treherne and Wawanesa remained around 70% of normal (Table 1, Fig.1).
- The 0 to 30 cm soil depth moisture (relative to field capacity) became generally wet to optimum level by Sept 21 (Fig. 2). <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf>. Irrigation was not necessary at this late stage in crop season with a maturing crop.
- The week's crop water demand (CWD) ranged from around 9 mm (Carberry, Carman, Treherne) to 15.3 mm (Portage) and was not covered by rainfall at many of the weather station sites, mostly in western Manitoba (Table 1). <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf>.

Temperatures – Air and Soil

- During the week of Sept 15 to 21, daytime highs ranged $25-26^{\circ}\text{C}$, slightly cooler than last week, and the overnight lows ranged from 5.8 to 12.3°C , which were $2-3^{\circ}\text{C}$ warmer than the previous week in selected potato growing areas (Table 1).
- Cumulative heat as Growing Degree Days (GDD, base 5°C) from May 1 to Sept 21 is close to normal, ranging from 103 to 112% of normal GDD in potato growing areas (Table 1).

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- P-Days (Cumulative potato heat units) from June 1 to Sep 21 ranged from 819 (Carberry) to 900 (St. Claude) in the potato areas (Table 1). These heat units are near normal P-Days.
- There is forecast for no rainfall till Oct 2, which will dry some of the wet areas in many fields. But, the daytime temperatures are expected to go up to 30°C in much of Manitoba, which would interrupt afternoon harvesting. The overnight lows are generally going to be above 10°C after the weekend. [Manitoba - Weather Conditions and Forecast by Locations - Environment Canada](#)

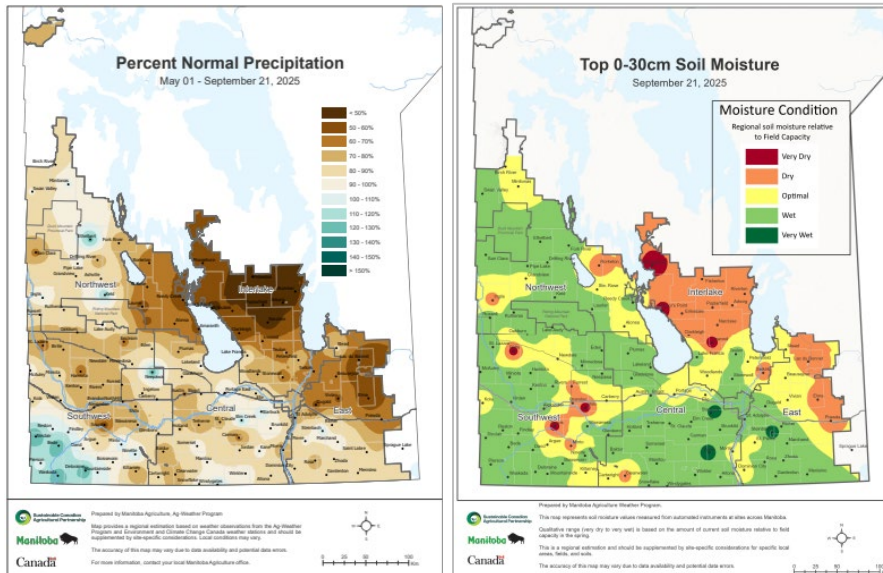


Fig.1 (left). There was widespread rainfall in the week on Sep 19-20 in many potato growing areas of Manitoba. The cumulative rainfall from May 1 to Sept 21 is still below normal in most potato growing areas, except Portage La Prairie and Winkler.

Fig.2 (right). Soil moisture (relative to field capacity) at 0-30cm depths (up to Sep 21) indicates that many potato growing areas now generally have wet soil moisture conditions. Shilo moisture was generally dry.

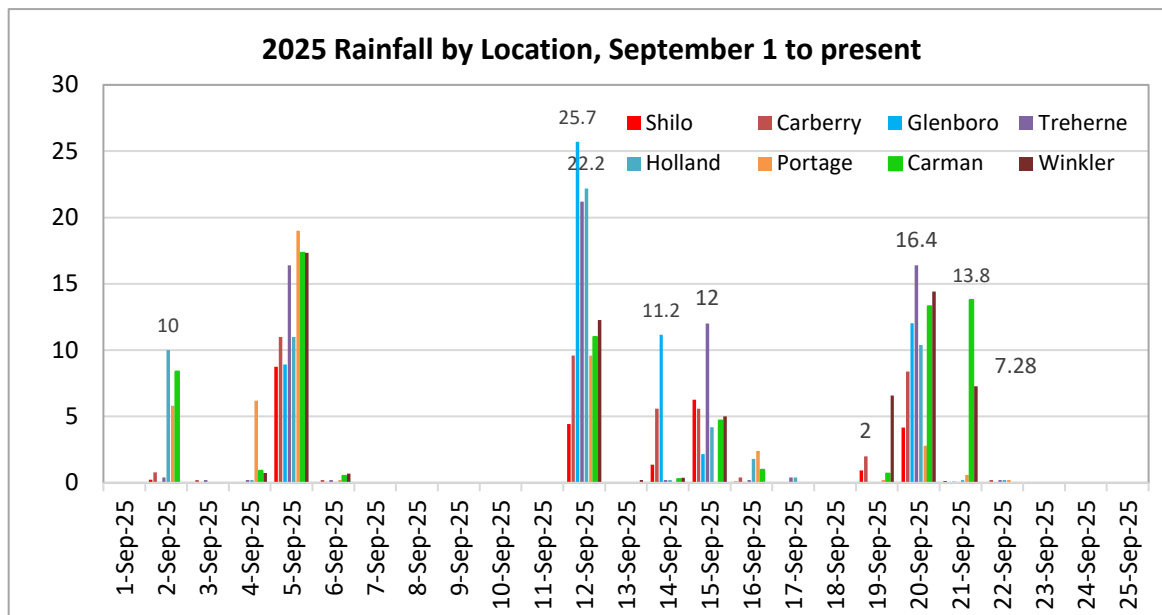


Fig.3. Rainfall in September has been frequent, even though not heavy, the fields are getting sticky in many areas and interrupting harvest. With a break in rainfall after Sep 19-21, the harvest is now progressing smoothly.

Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – Sept 15- 21, 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	26.5	12.3	35.6	14.5	306	88	883	107
Austin	25.0	11.8	8.9	11.7	204	69	872	106
Bagot	24.9	10.3	3.3	11.1	260	80	842	104
Carberry EC	23.8	9.7	16.4	9.3	x	x	819	x
Carman	25.7	10.9	28.5	9.4	234	68	855	108
Glenboro	25.2	7.3	12.0	11.2	264	89	835	107
Holland	25.4	9.8	11.1	12.4	262	79	844	105
Portage EC	26.4	12.3	4.2	15.3	318	99	888	111
Rivers	24.7	7.7	1.9	12.7	245	76	823	108
Shilo	25.0	6.5	5.2	11.7	227	79	841	105
St. Claude	25.0	12.1	25.4	12.4	267	77	900	107
Treherne	25.8	10.0	15.6	8.9	236	71	844	103
Wawanesa	25.6	5.8	10.9	10.2	219	73	831	104
Winkler	26.5	12.0	28.1	12.1	329	96	868	112

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

- Harvest for storage was in full swing. Extensive rainfall on Sep 19-20 interrupted harvesting across the province. With a break in the rains after Sep 19-20 has allowed harvesting.
- On many days the soil temperatures at 5 cm depth were warm, and tubers were > 65°F (18.3°C) due to which many farms stopped their harvest. Thus, in the week there were harvest interruptions due to rains or warm tuber temperatures.
- Though there is no risk of frost in the coming few days, many warm daytime temperatures are expected, and would interrupt harvest.
- So far, in many farms the yields appear to be as good or better than in 2024.
- 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.
- 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. **The largest tuber weight submitted so far has been 4 lbs. (1.814 kg) (Fig. 4).**

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



Fig.4. Entries with larger tubers: 4 lbs Ranger Russet tuber (Tavis Mangin, Simplot)

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 25, had accumulated 9 to 11 DSVs, suggesting very high risk of late blight disease occurring in the presence of late blight inoculum.** www.mbpotatoes.ca.
- Powdery scab infections on roots have been observed in many 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.
- Many more fields are now showing “potato early dying” (PED), ranging from <5 to 80% incidence in various fields. The incidence within a field could be 5 to 100% 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.
- High daytime temperatures in the last week, with sufficient soil moisture may pose a risk of pink rot disease on tubers in fields with wet spots. Phosphite fungicide applications help reduce the rot problem in storage.

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