

Issue 2 – May 14, 2026

Manitoba Potato Report



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Provincial Summary

- With a start of planting on April 24, the planting is around 60% finished in the province, ranging from 0 to 100% for various farms. By mid-week many more farms would have finished planting.
- The 2026 season had a colder start of the season compared to 2025; soil moisture is adequate for planting.
- 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 [Province of Manitoba | agriculture - Potato Report](#) and <http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/index.cfm>.

Ag Weather Data

Precipitation and Soil Moisture

- In the potato growing areas, the soils are generally categorized as optimal to wet (based on Regional Soil Moisture Relative to Field Capacity) at 0-30 cm and 0-120 cm depths: with variations depending upon local field topography and soil characteristics. (Fig 1 & 2).
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf>
- Precipitation (mm) in the week of May 4-10 was practically nil, but the ground has sufficient moisture for field work. The precipitation continues to be significantly below normal (Fig 3a).
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf>

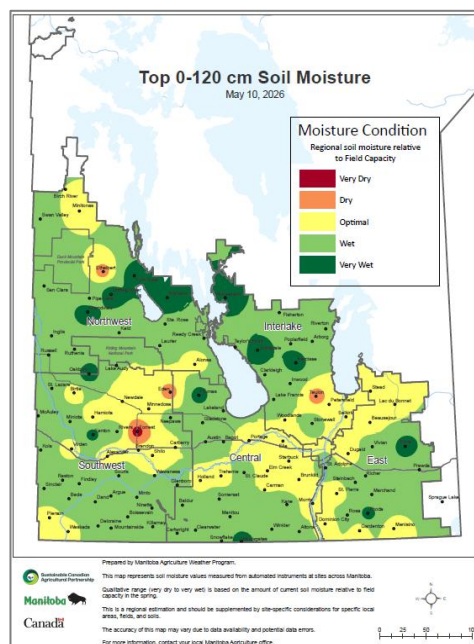
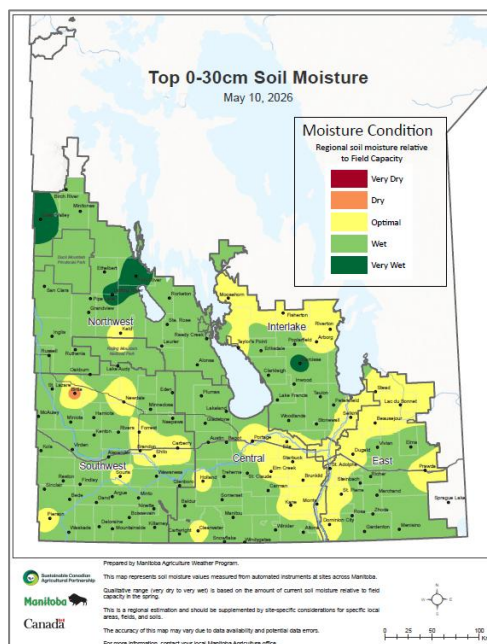
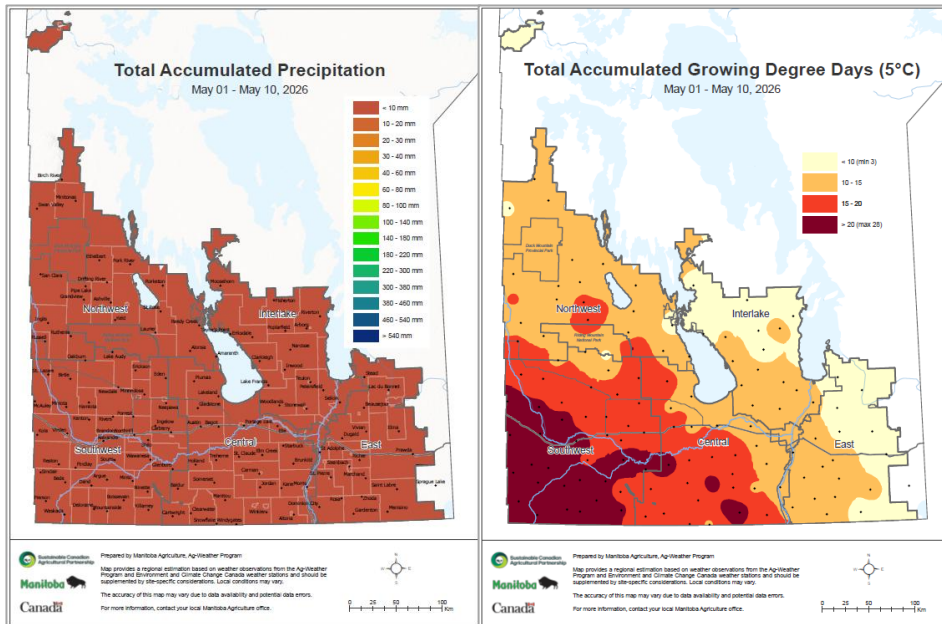


Fig 1 (left). Current soil moisture relative to field capacity at 0-30 cm depth, indicates the fields have optimal to wet conditions in potato growing areas.

Fig 2 (right). Soil moisture at 120 cm depth also indicating optimal to wet soil moisture relative to field capacity

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3a

3b

Fig 3a (left): Total precipitation (mm) from May 1 to 10 has been very low and less than 10mm cumulative, which is <math><50\%</math> of normal.

3b (right): The air temperatures have been cold in the last few days; leading to very low cumulative GDD from May 1 to 10, which is <math><50\%</math> of normal.

Temperatures – Air and Soil

- From May 4 to 10 the daytime high temperatures ranged from 14.2°C at Portage to 19.5°C at Winkler (Table 1, Fig 4). Overnight lows were from -4.8°C at St. Claude and Winkler to -9.8°C at Wawanesa. These temperatures were much cooler than at the same time in 2025.
- Cumulative heat as Growing Degree Days (GDD, base 5°C) for May 4-10 indicates the week has been much colder than normal, ranging from 31 to 49% of normal GDD (Table 1, Fig 3b) and much colder than 2025, when GDD was around 200% of the normal. 2025 had an abnormally warm start of the season.
- Soil temperature averages at 5 cm depths ranged from 4.6 to 9.4°C in the week May 4 -10 (Fig 5) and were cooler in the 20 cm depths, around 3.3 to 8.2°C in the selected potato sites (Fig 6).
- The 2026 soil temperatures at 5 cm and 20 cm are colder than at the same time in 2025, so a slower emergence of potatoes could be expected.

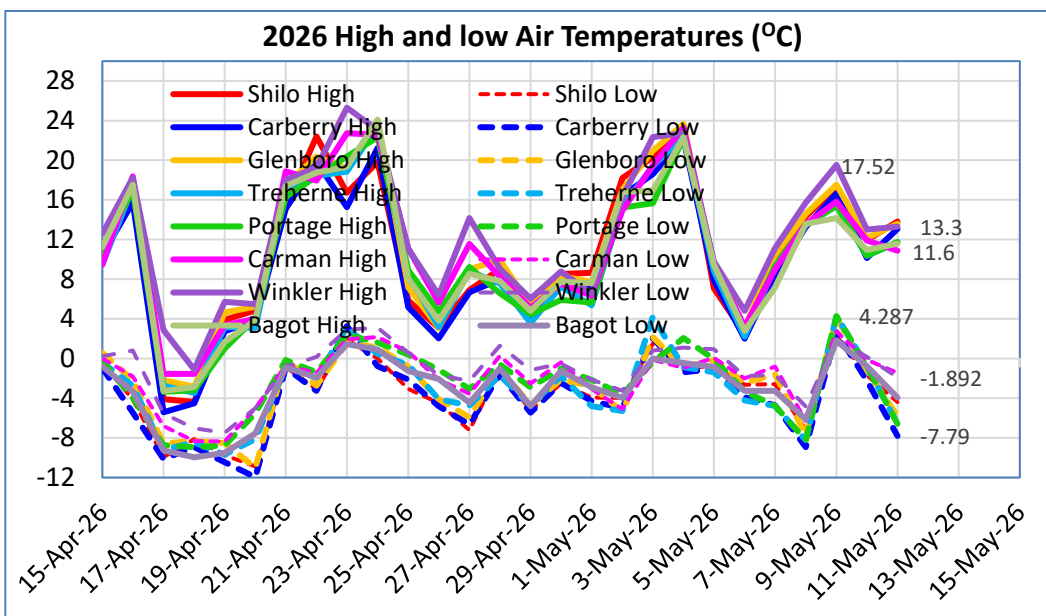


Fig 4. The air temperatures are quite variable – daytime ranging from 17.5 to 11.6 °C while overnight lows ranged from 4.3 to -7.8°C.

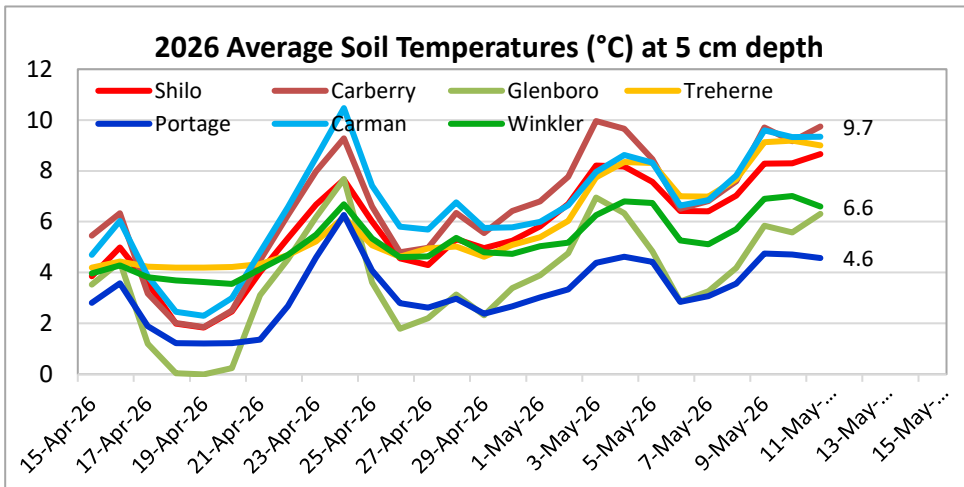


Fig 5. Soil temperatures at 5 cm depth at selected sites were reaching around 10 °C, in the week May. There was an early warming around 24th of April but cooled down soon.

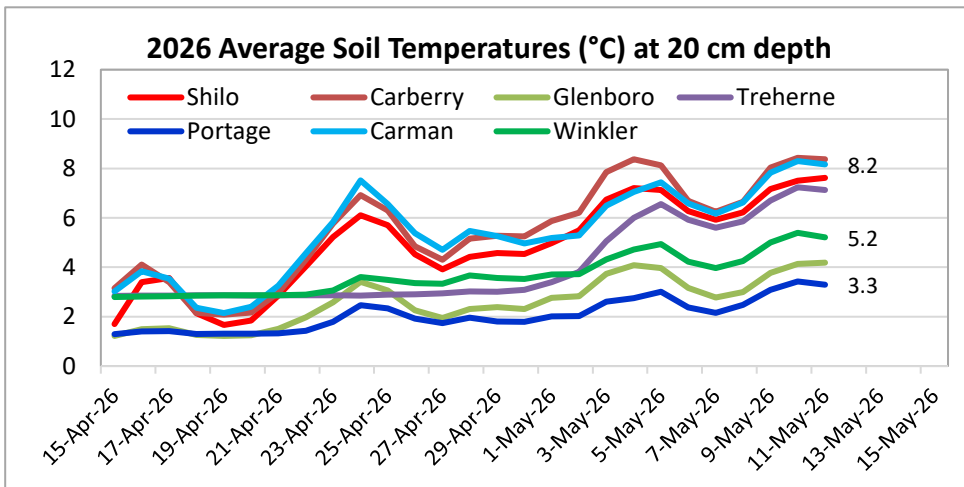


Fig 6. Soil temperatures at 20 cm depth at selected sites, were around 3.3 to 8.2 °C around planting time and lower than 5-cm depths.

Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – May 4-10

Region	Max Temp (°C)	Min Temp (°C)	Rainfall (mm) for the week	Rainfall (mm) (Since May 1)	2026 Rainfall (% of normal) since May 1	GDD (% of normal)
Altona	16.6	-7.2	0.6	1	7	34
Austin	14.8	-6.9	0	0	0	41
Bagot	14.2	-6.1	0	0	0	31
Carberry EC	18.2	-8.0	1	1	6	47
Carman	15.8	-6.3	0	1	3	35
Glenboro	17.5	-7.7	0.3	1	3	45
Holland	17.6	-7.8	0.4	1	4	49
Morden	17.1	-6.4	0	1	3	43
Portage EC	14.1	-5.4	0	0	0	38
Rivers	15.6	-6.6	0.5	2	11	44
Shilo	17.3	-7.2	0.3	1	7	43
St. Claude	15.1	-4.8	0	0	0	39
Treherne	15.4	-8.2	0	0	0	38
Wawanesa	17.6	-9.8	0.3	1	3	49
Winkler	19.5	-4.8	0	0	2	48

For more Manitoba weather information, visit: www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather

More information on:

Crop Water Demand (CWD) mm: www.mbpotatoes.ca/cwd.cfm

P-Days: www.mbpotatoes.ca/pday.cfm



Crop Progress

- After a timely start to potato planting on the 24th of April (as in 2025), the progress has been rapid, with almost no weather-related interruptions, especially in the western and warmer part of the province.
- Planting in the western side of the province is currently 50 - 100% complete on various farms. Central potato growing areas around Treherne, Portage and McGregor are around 50 - 100% planted. The southern part of the province (around Carman and Winkler) is 10 to 60% planted.
- Some fields with heavy soil types and slow drainage are still wet to start planting.
- Overall, potato planting is estimated to be around 60% complete in the province. Quite a few farms are expected to finish potato planting by middle of this week (May 14-15).
- This year a few farms have adopted precision belt-planters which can travel at 6.2 miles / hour planting speed, compared to 3.5 mph of other planters. These new belt planted have speeded up planting in some farms.
- There is a forecast for warm weather (daytime highs around mid-20s) and chance of showers May 14-15 and on May 17-18 (Sun/Mon). Overnight temperatures as low as 2 to 3°C are expected around the weekend. [Manitoba - Weather Conditions and Forecast by Locations - Environment Canada](#)
- Late blight risk maps, P-Days, and SprayCast maps will be available at <http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/index.cfm>.

Disease Monitoring

- Late blight risk forecasting will be provided on a regional basis at www.mbpotatoes.ca. Late blight disease risk is projected to start accumulating around June 1.
 - Late blight can start from air-borne spores, infected seed potatoes, from cull piles with late blight infection or sometimes from infected tomato plants.
- Diseases like blackleg, early blight, verticillium wilt and powdery scab will be monitored during the season.
- Herbicide injury on seed and non-target drift injury will be identified, if needed.

Insect Pest Monitoring

- Aphid monitoring using suction traps will start in early June in eight seed fields as done in 2025.
- European Corn Borer monitoring will be started in early July.
- Colorado potato beetle incidences will be monitored and if possible tested for insecticide resistance.
- Wireworm damage has been sporadic in the province.

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](mailto:vikram.bisht@gov.mb.ca)

Wishing Manitoba growers and industry colleagues a very good season ahead.

All reports and information will also be available at <http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/index.cfm> and archived at [Manitoba Potato Reports](#)