

Issue 18 – September 3, 2026

Manitoba Potato Report



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Provincial Summary

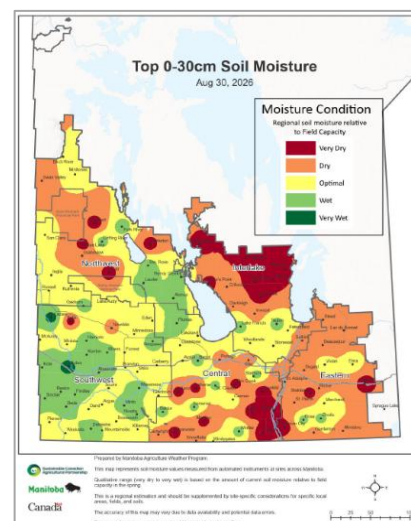
- With P-days around 700 in most potato growing areas, the potato crops are in maturation and bulking stages. The tuber size has reached up to over 6 inches (12-16 oz) in many more fields.
- Irrigation has been stopped for many potato fields. Harvest for “direct from field” to processing has begun.
- No late blight disease has been reported in the province so far. Late blight risk was low to high in the week across the province. Spore monitoring was stopped after Aug 24.
- In the 12th week of aphid monitoring in seed potato fields, the aphid numbers were still high. No Green peach aphids but four Potato aphids were trapped from three sites. A total of 7489 aphids were trapped from eight sites in the season – one of the highest counts over 10 years.
- Aster leafhoppers continue to be high in some areas, leading to higher purple-top disease. Colorado potato beetle continues to be a challenge.

Ag Weather Data

Precipitation and Soil Moisture

- During the week of Aug 24 to 30, there was practically no precipitation across the potato-growing areas of Manitoba, except Treherne with 27.4 mm (Table 1, Fig. 2). Cumulative precipitation from May 1 to Aug 30 expressed as a % of the 30-year normal, ranged from 61% at Altona to more than 135% at Rivers and Wawanesa. Selected areas like Austin, Bagot were also still above normal (Table 1, Fig. 2).
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf>.
- By Aug 30, the soils at the 0-30 cm depths in potato growing areas had become generally optimal on the western side of the province, while on the eastern side the soils became “dry to very dry” moisture, based on Soil Moisture Relative to Field Capacity (Fig. 1).
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf>.

Fig. 1. By Aug 30, soil moisture relative to field capacity at the 0-30 cm depth was generally optimal in the western side of the province, became “dry to very dry” in eastern potato-growing regions. At the 120 cm depth, soil moisture lowered mostly to optimal range (map not shown).



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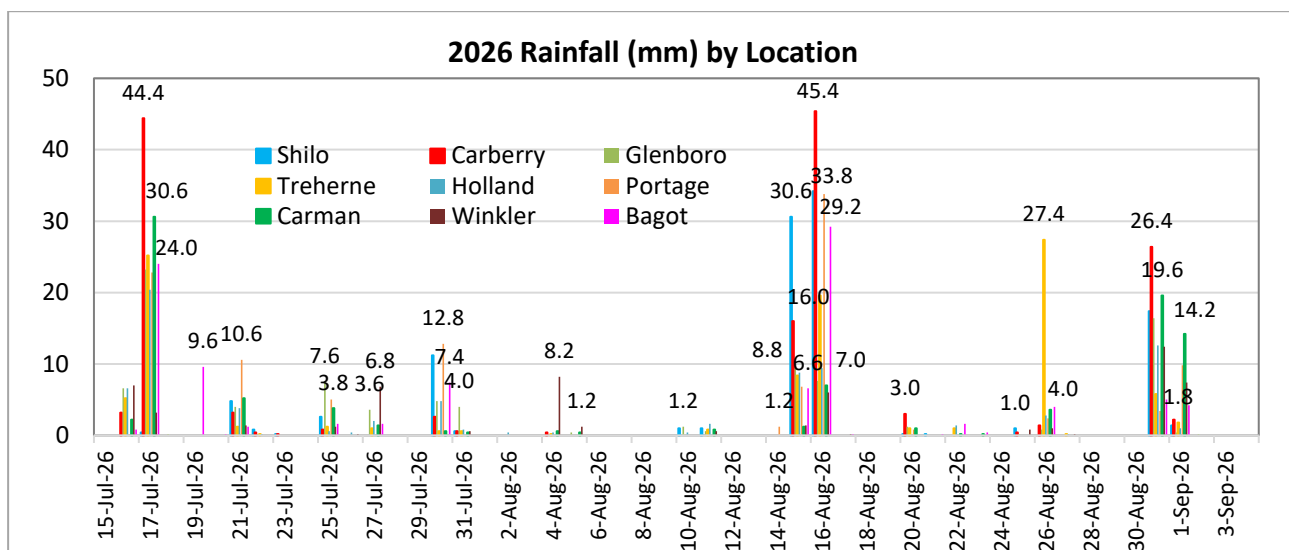


Fig. 2: Rainfall after mid-Aug was scant across the potato growing areas of the province. Only Treherne had much rain in the week up to Aug 30. More rains occurred on Aug 31 and Sep 1 (time-stamped 24 hrs later).

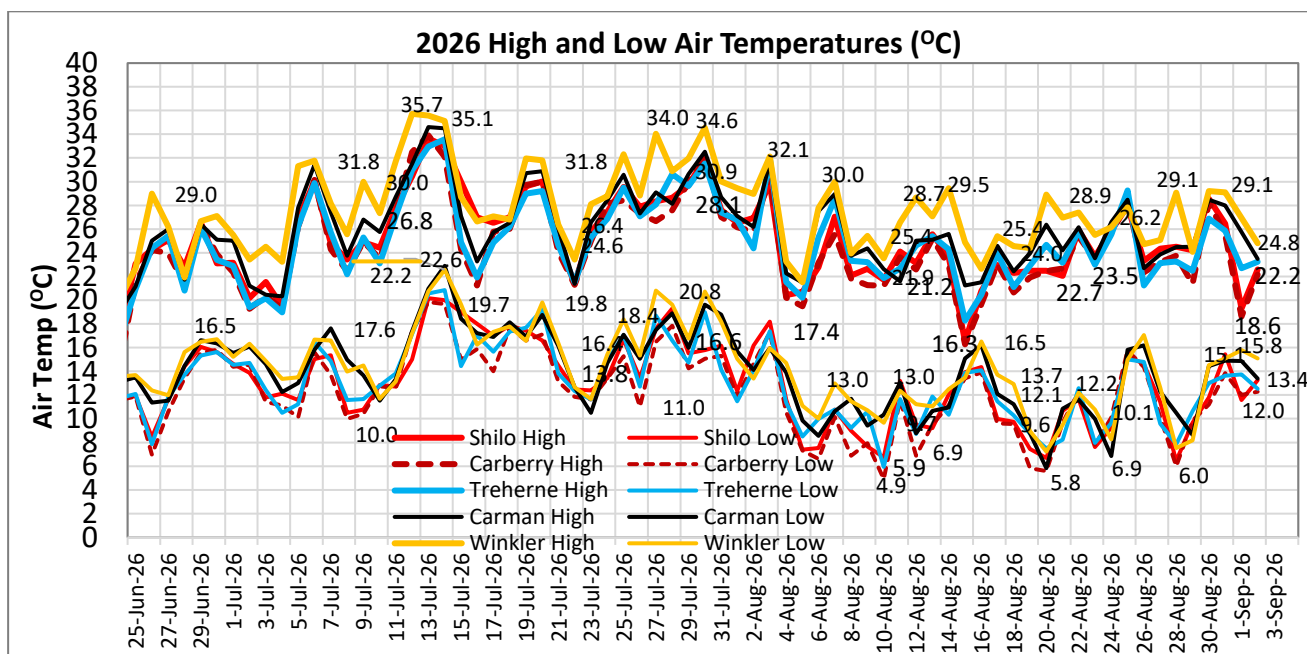


Fig. 3: In the week Aug 24-30, the daytime temperatures peaked around end of Aug, reaching high 20s°C at many sites, but lowered to mid-20s on Sep 1-2. Nighttime temperatures in potato-growing areas have ranged from 6 to 16°C. These day-night temperature differences favour bulking of tubers.

Temperatures – Air and Soil

- The week Aug 24 to 30, the daytime temperatures were a little warmer than last week. The daytime temperature highs in the selected potato growing areas ranged from 28.2°C to 30.4°C (Table 1, Fig. 3). Overnight lows were cooler than last week and ranged from 5.8°C to 10.1°C (Table 1, Fig. 3). The week's day-night temperature differential was favourable for bulking of tubers.
- The Cumulative heat (Growing Degree Days, GDD base 5°C) was just about normal and ranged from 103 to 113% of 30-year normal (Table 1). By Aug 30, the cumulative Potato Heat Units (P-Day) were nearly 700 or above in the potato growing areas. The P-Day values indicate that most potato crops are now in tuber maturation stage.

Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – Aug 24 - 30

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)	Crop Water Demand (mm) Jun 1 to Aug 24	P-Days (June 1 to Aug 23)
Altona	28.3	7.2	8.3	184	61	106	287.3	716
Austin	28.9	8.5	15.3	298	107	107	290.3	728
Bagot	30.4	6.5	8.7	298	107	108	292.0	717
Carberry EC	29.1	6.7	24.5	285	102	107	226.2	695
Carman	28.5	8.6	21.1	295	98	108	220.0	724
Glenboro	29.7	5.8	18.4	234	88	109	261.3	702
Holland	28.8	6.4	16.3	241	83	107	295.6	709
Morden	28.9	8.1	48.9	245	84	107	-	-
Portage EC	28.2	8.1	5.9	217	77	108	287.2	735
Rivers	28.3	8.2	27.9	394	137	107	252.7	706
Shilo	28.6	6.5	-	-	-	-	269.2	695
St. Claude	28.3	10.1	22.2	286	94	107	291.2	740
Treherne	29.3	7.8	31.9	231	79	103	254.5	708
Wawanesa	28.9	5.8	21.4	362	137	107	250.9	695
Winkler	29.2	7.5	13.2	289	94	113	290.4	714

For more Manitoba weather information, visit: www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather ; “ - ” Data not available in the week.

More information on:

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

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

Crop Progress

- In most fields, potatoes are now into mid to late stages of tuber-bulking and maturation. The current day-night temperature differentials were favorable for bulking.
- With lack of rainfall in the week, the within canopy relative humidity has dropped, drying up stem rot and white mold infections. Scattered rains on Aug 31-Sep 1 have again moistened within crop moisture.
- The cumulative Crop Water Demand (CWD) (<http://mbpotatoes.ca/cwd>) at many of the potato weather station sites (Table 1) have increased but still covered by the cumulative of the rainfall during the same period. Irrigation has been stopped in most fields.
- Many more fields have 6-inch and over tubers, measuring up to 12-16 oz (Fig 4). Rangers, Dakota Russet, Ivory Russet tubers appear with better shape profile than some Russet Burbank fields – which were affected by heat and high moisture stress in June and early July.
- Harvesting has started at some farms for “direct-from-field” to processors. Harvest for storage has not started in most farms – it is still too warm. It is important to stop harvesting when warm ($> 62^{\circ}\text{F}$) as warm tubers rot easier in storage.
- **As in 2025, we will have competition for the largest tuber harvested. Last year, the top tuber sizes were 4 lbs and over. In the early harvest, 1 tuber with 1 lb 3.1 oz was reported** (Fig. 5)
- There is a forecast for daytime high temperatures to remain around mid to high 20s°C at different potato areas. Overnight temperatures are expected to be warmer, ranging from 12 to 19°C. These day-night temperature differences are not very favorable for rapid bulking of tubers. Partially cloudy days are forecast for the whole week from Sept 3 to 8. Scattered rainfall is forecast at many areas of the province on Sep 3, 6, 7 and 8. [Manitoba - Weather Conditions and Forecast by Locations - Environment Canada.](#)



Fig. 4. Tuber bulking is progressing well, and many are now 6-inches or over in size. Photo: Orla Sheridan (Shilo Farms),



Fig. 5. a: Largest tuber reported in 2025 was 64.8 oz (4.05 lbs or 1.837 kg). b: In 2026, early harvest large tuber reported was 1 lb 3 oz.

Disease Monitoring

- Late blight risk forecasting is provided on a regional basis at www.mbpotatoes.ca. Late blight disease risk values (DSVs) started accumulating from June 1.
 - The 7-Day cumulative DSVs by Sep 2 showed accumulations from 3 to 8, had indicated low to high risk of late blight (Fig. 6), if inoculum were present in the areas. Fungicide applications are recommended, based on local risk assessments.
 - The late blight forecasting was complemented with late blight spore monitoring using Spornado passive spore traps.
 - The late blight spore monitoring was stopped on Aug 24. Results from the 11th round of monitoring from Aug 17 to 24 showed that *Phytophthora infestans* spores were trapped at three of the seven monitoring sites.
 - **As yet, no late blight has been reported in the province.** There is no other report of late blight from Michigan after Aug 12. No late blight has been reported from North Dakota or Minnesota.
 - It is important to scout the fields in higher risk areas which could stay wet longer, like wind-protected tree shelter-line, low lying areas/valleys in a field. With lots of dew in the mornings the leaves stay wet longer in wind-protected areas.
 - Areas likely to be missed by aerial fungicide applications (under high hydropower lines, field corners and edges near trees, should be covered by ground applications if possible.

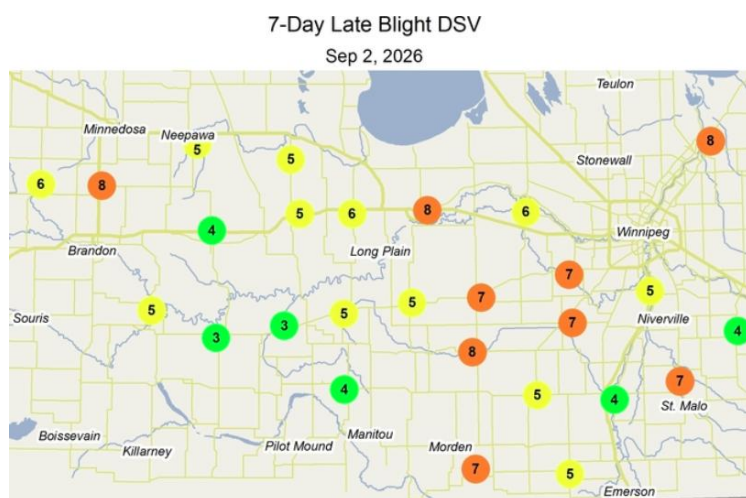


Fig. 6. 7-Day Cumulative Late Blight Disease Risk Values (DSVs) ranging from 3 to 8, in the potato growing areas, suggest low to high risk of late blight across the province, if the late blight inoculum was present. Spore monitoring was stopped on Aug 24.

- The P-Day values are now around 700 and over by Aug 30. At these P-Day levels the plants are in tuber maturation phase.
- Due to high levels of aster leafhoppers (ALH) more purple-top affected plants are being reported. Purple-top disease is ALH transmitted phytoplasma disease.
- Many crops have settled on the ground, and combined with rainfall from Aug 31 and Sep 1, could have increased within-canopy moisture and prolonged wetness, leading to grey mold and white mold on wet stems. Generally low levels of early blight or brown spot have been reported so far. Blackleg and aerial stem rot continuing to show up (Fig. 7).
- Verticillium wilt is appearing in more fields but not very extensive. Early rains and good soil moisture may have helped keep the early die complex low. Black dot disease is now showing on early-die plants. Powdery scab root galls are now showing up in many fields, mostly on the western side.
- Late blight risk maps, P-Days, and SprayCast maps are available <http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/index.cfm>.



Fig. 7. a: A wet surface blemish on tubers from low lying area; b: soft rot confirmed after cutting the tuber. Photos: Tavis Mangin (Simplot).

Insect Pest Monitoring

Aphid monitoring using suction and pan traps had been set up in eight seed potato fields. The **Twelfth** week's collection was done from Aug 24 - 28. Following are the details of sampling and counts:

- **Twelfth week (Aug 24-28)**
 - All seed fields being monitored for aphids have been top-killed; only three samples were collected.

- **There was a high trap count, totalling 375 from mostly two of 3 sites.**
- Use of mineral oil till the crop is completed desiccated - is going to be helpful in reducing late season PVY transmission.
- The total number of aphids trapped was high from just 3 sites:
 - Colonizing Aphids:
 - **No Green peach aphids (GPA)** were trapped this week.
 - **Four Potato aphid (PA) numbers were trapped from just three sites, compared to six from seven sites.** PAs are efficient transmitters of potato viruses and are nearly as effective as GPAs.
 - The Non-colonizing Aphids “Others”:
 - The “Other” aphids were very high (= 371).
 - The high numbers make up for the difference in transmission efficiency. Aphids leaving maturing crops like wheat, canola land in to green potato crops and by probing multiple plants lead to virus transmission.
- Aster Leafhoppers has continued to be high in some areas of the province and more purple-top is being reported from those areas.
- Colorado potato beetle feeding damage has continued to be a concern in newer areas of Manitoba, despite many foliar insecticide applications. Various CPB stages – from eggs to adults are still present in many fields. It appears that CPB insecticide resistance is spreading.

Table. 2. Weekly Aphid Report – Week 12 (Aug 24-30) 2026

Field #	Town	RM	Green Peach Aphid	Potato Aphid	Other Aphids	Total	ALH	PLH	Comments
Southern Region									
Field 1-H	Winker	Stanley	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Field 2-K	Stephenfield	Dufferin	0	1	245	246	0	4	
Field 3-S	Winkler	Rhineland	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Central Region									
Field 4-S	Holland	Victoria	0	3	124	127	12	0	
Field 5-S	Glenora	Argyle	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Field 6-S	Westbourne	Portage La Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Western Region									
Field 7-A	Wellwood	North Cypress-Langford							
Field 8-S	Carberry		0	0	2	2	0	0	
			0	4	371	375	12	4	

The aphid counts are a summation from suction and 2 pan traps.

- “-” indicates – samples not received till time of reporting.
- ALH = Aster leafhopper, PLH = Potato leafhopper

Table 3. Summary of All Sites - Weekly Aphid Counts:

Monitoring Period	Week #	Green Peach Aphid	Potato Aphid	Other Aphids	Total	ALH	PLH
Aug 24 - 30	Week 12	0	4	371	375	12	4
Aug 17 - 24	Week 11	0	6	2287	2293	9	14
Aug 11 - 17	Week 10	2	25	3150	3177	5	11
Aug 4 - 11	Week 9	0	19	1095	1114	2	2
July 27 to Aug 4	Week 8	0	10	296	304	17	7
July 20 - 27	Week 7	0	19	16	35	2	4
July 13 - 20	Week 6	0	7	14	21	3	8
July 6 - 13	Week 5	0	1	20	21	6	5
June 29 – July 6	Week 4	0	1	19	20	1	0
June 22 - 29	Week 3	0	4	42	46	0	1
June 15 -22	Week 2	0	11	69	80	1	1
June 8 – 15	Week 1	0	0	0	3	3	0
Total aphids for the 12 weeks		2	107	7379	7489	61	57

Growers and industry stakeholders, please report or submit for diagnosis, any disease or insect observations of importance. If you suspect late blight disease in your area, please contact vikram.bisht@gov.mb.ca

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