

Issue 21 – October 5, 2023

# Manitoba Potato Report



## Weekly Provincial Summary

- The week (Sept 25 – Oct 2) was slightly cooler than last week with daytime highs ranging from 22.9 to 29.1°C, and the overnight lows ranged from 3.5 to 8.3°C in various potato areas. There was no frost recorded in the week.
- Rainfall was light in most of the Manitoba potato areas and ranged from 10.2 to 8.3 mm but much more was recorded on October 3 and 4.

## Overview

- In potato growing areas, daytime high temperatures ranged from 22.9 to 29.1°C, which was much cooler than last week. The highs of the week were on Sept 30 and Oct 1, reaching 28°C. The overnight temperatures ranged from 3.5 to 8.3°C, slightly cooler than last week in potato areas, but there were a few warm nights in the 14°C range.
- Little rainfall was recorded in the week ranging from 0.2 to 8.3 mm, but substantially more across Manitoba on October 3 and 4. Harvest was slowed due to rains in some areas.
- Harvest status of farms ranges from 75% to 100% done. Overall estimate for Manitoba would be over 90% of acres harvested. Yield estimates are generally higher than average according to many growers. Some acres have been left unharvested.
- Potato raw delivery to the processors is still ongoing for 8th week “direct-from-field” resulting from better than projected yields.
- No late blight has been reported. There are reports of minor tuber rotting in storage.
- Regular weekly reports and other features will also be available at: <http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/index.cfm>.

## Ag Weather Data

### Precipitation and Soil Moisture

- There was little rainfall in the week (Sept 25 – Oct 2) ranging from 0.2 to 8.3 mm in the potato areas (Table 1); but substantially more rainfall across Manitoba on October 3 & 4 not included in the data table below (Fig. 1).
- The cumulative precipitation for the growing season to-date is still much below normal, mostly ranging from 47 to 69%; with the exception of Rivers (87%) (Table 1). <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf>
- After some rainfall in the week, the soil moisture status in the province improved to generally optimum in potato areas, with some on the dry and also wet side. (Fig. 1). Rivers, Wawanesa, St. Claude and Winkler soils were considered wet in 30cm soil profile; while Holland and Treherne 30cm depth soil profile was dry. <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf>

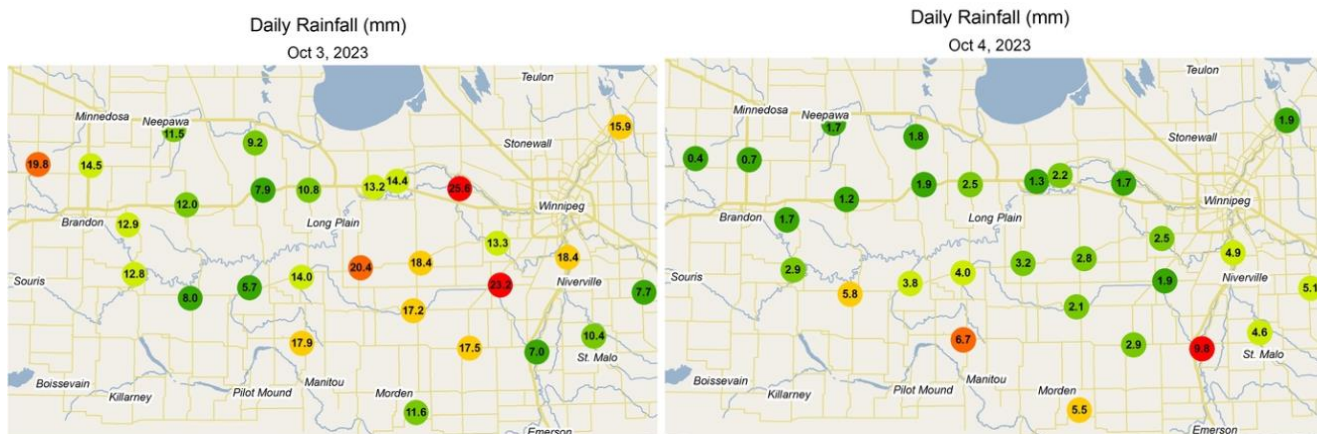


Fig. 1. Widespread rain and drizzle across Manitoba on Oct 3 and 4. [Weather \(mbpotatoes.ca\)](http://Weather.mbpotatoes.ca). These rains have slowed harvesting in some fields.

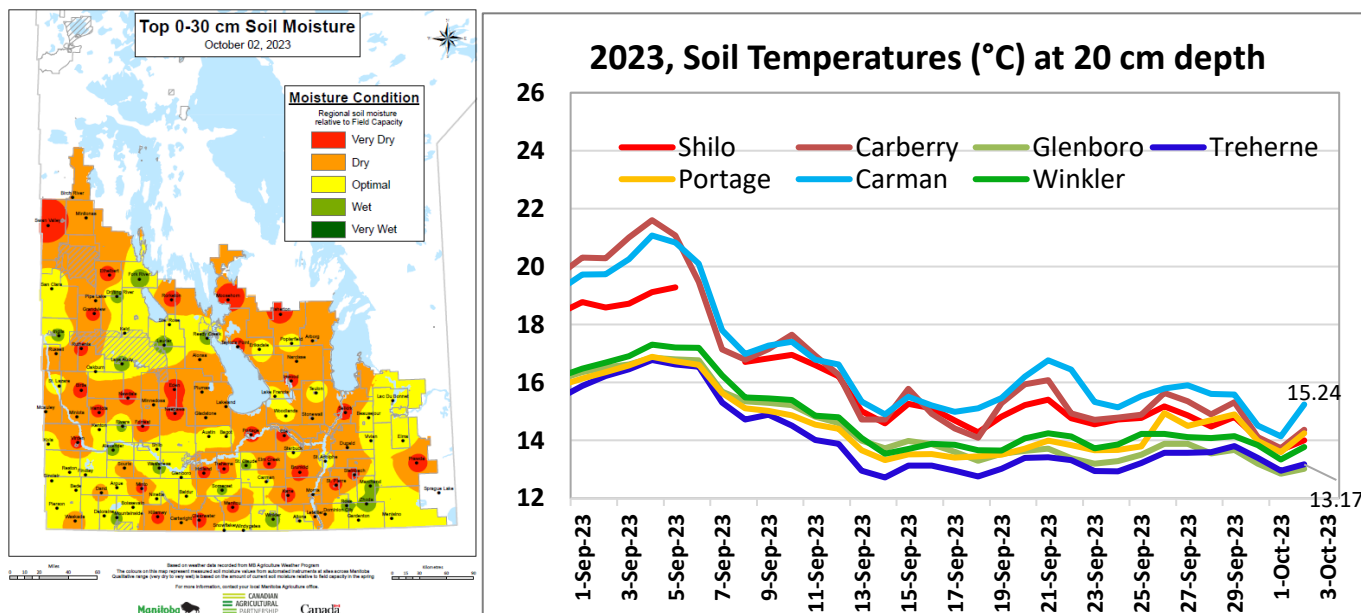


Fig. 1. (Left). Soil moisture condition relative to field capacity (0-30 cm depth) by Oct 2 improved to generally optimum in many potato areas. There were a few dry and also wet potato areas.

Fig.2. (Right) Soil temperatures by Oct 2 at 30 cm depth at selected potato areas weather stations have warmed up after higher temperatures on Oct 1.

### Temperatures – Air & Soil

- In potato growing areas, the daytime high temperatures ranged from 22.9 to 29.1°C, which was much cooler than last week (Table 1). The highs of the week were on Sept 30 and Oct 1, reaching up to 29°C in south-east potato areas of Winkler and Altona. The overnight temperatures ranged from 3.5 to 8.3°C, slightly cooler than last week in potato areas, but there were a few warm nights in the 14°C range.
- Soil temperatures at 30 cm depth have stayed below 16°C in most potato areas by October 2 (Fig. 2). Carman, Shilo and Carberry were warmer at around 15°C; Treherne was the coolest at 13°C.

## Weather Data Summary for Selected Potato Site Stations

For more Manitoba weather information, visit: [www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather](http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather)

Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – Sept 25 - Oct 2 for selected potato growing areas.

Region	Max Temp (°C)	Min Temp (°C)	Rain (mm) for the week	Crop Water Demand this Week	Rain (Since May 1) (mm)	Crop Water Demand Jun 1-Oct 2	2023 Rainfall (% of normal) from May 1 to Oct 2
Altona	29.1	6.2	0.2	-	132	-	47
Austin	25.0	7.6	0.7	19.2	186	405.8	66
Bagot	25.2	6.2	8.3	18.5	135	404.9	48
Carberry EC	24.6	5.6	2.6	14.0	157	339.6	59
Carman	24.9	4.0	0.2	13.3	187	360.9	68
Cypress River	24.8	6.3	6.2	-	155	-	54
Glenboro	25.2	4.4	0.5	17.2	182	363.9	67
Holland	25.0	5.5	7.4	20.7	171	447.4	59
Morden	25.1	6.3	1.5	-	100	-	36
Portage EC	25.6	8.3	1.1	21.2	116	457.5	41
Rivers	22.9	3.5	5.6	17.6	212	396.8	87
Shilo				No Data			
St. Claude	23.3	7.3	7.9	16.5	155	410.9	58
Treherne	23.9	7.3	3.7	17.5	105	426.9	40
Wawanesa	25.1	4.9	1.5	17.3	184	376.0	69
Winkler	28.5	5.4	0.4	16.3	158	394.4	58

\* Shilo weather station was down from Aug 10 to 24.

† Crop Water Demand: cwd ([www.mbpotatoes.ca](http://www.mbpotatoes.ca))

## Agronomics

- Calculated crop water demand (CWD) for the week (Sept 25 to Oct 2) was 13.3 to 21.2 mm depending on rains and wind (Table 1). The scattered rains last week kept soil moisture high in some locations.
- Cumulative P-Days from June 1 to October 2 were around 900 to 960 in the potato growing areas ([P-Days mbpotatoes.ca](http://mbpotatoes.ca)) and are 100 to 115% of normal.

## Crop Progress

- Delivery of raw material for processing “direct-from-field” is still continuing for the 8<sup>th</sup> week in a row, resulting from higher than expected early yields.
- Harvest for storage is coming to an end and just over 90% of Manitoba potato acres is estimated to have been harvested; with arm harvests ranging from two-thirds to all finished.
- Due to better than budgeted yields, some farms have decided not to harvest all their crop. In 2023, Manitoba may have unharvested acres partly out of growers’ choice, unlike some of the previous years, where weather played a key role.
- Rain on Oct 3 and 4 slowed harvest in some fields.

## Disease & Insect Pests Monitoring

- Very low incidence of tubers with visible rot are coming into the storage. With soil temperatures generally below 16°C in potato areas, the conditions will be less favourable for pink rot and leak as compared to >18°C tubers.
- However, some instances of tuber rot in storage are being reported – mostly soft rots.

## Late Blight Monitoring

- The 7-Day Disease Risk values are pointing to moderate to high risk of late blight disease ([Late Blight \(mbpotatoes.ca\)](https://mbpotatoes.ca)) due to some rains on Oct 3 and 4.
- No late blight has been reported in Manitoba this season.

## Weather Forecast

- Rains: The 10-day forecast ([Weather \(mbpotatoes.ca\)](https://weather.mbpotatoes.ca) and <https://weather.gc.ca/>) in short: there could be rain/drizzle around Oct 5/6, but no forecast after that until after Oct 15.
- Temperature: There is forecast of freezing temperatures over Friday/Saturday (Oct 6/7) down to -3°C or slightly lower in western potato areas. In some locations overnight freezing is forecast till around Oct 10.

If you suspect late blight in your area, please contact [vikram.bisht@gov.mb.ca](mailto:vikram.bisht@gov.mb.ca)

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