

Issue 2 – May 16, 2025

# Manitoba Potato Report



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## Provincial Summary

- Manitoba potato planting is estimated to be 95% complete, ranging from 65 to 100% for various farms.
- The past week was generally hot and dry; but a big drop in temperatures to near 0 °C projected in the coming few days. Rain from May 14 to 16.
- 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](#).

## Ag Weather Data

### Precipitation and Soil Moisture

- Precipitation (mm) by May 11, 2025, was still <50% of the normal (Table 1), Generally, the rainfall was 0 to 8mm in selected sites, with only Carberry (10.5 mm) recording more for the week (May 5 - 11). <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf>.
- There has been more rainfall recorded after May 12 (Fig. 2).
  - Rain and thunderstorms were forecast from May 14 to 16 in various potato growing areas.
- By May 11, the 30cm soil depth moisture became optimal (by soil moisture relative to field capacity) from generally wet conditions last week, but there are some drier areas in the province (Fig. 1). <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf>

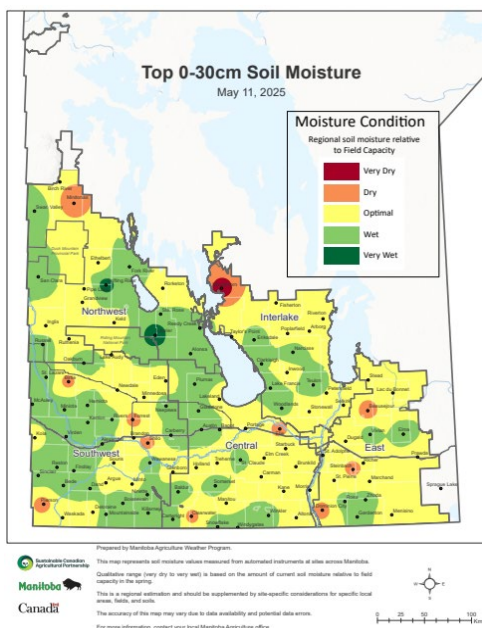


Fig.1. Current soil moisture at 0-30cm depth indicates many potato growing areas were optimum relative to field capacity; the fields were generally drier than last week.

Report compiled by Dr. Vikram Bisht  
Potato and Horticulture Crop Pathologist, Manitoba Agriculture  
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Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – May 5 – 11, 2025

Region	Max Temp (°C)	Min Temp (°C)	Rainfall (mm) for the week	Rainfall (mm) (Since May 1)	2025 Rainfall (% of normal) May 5 - 11	GDD (% of normal)
Altona	36.4	-0.3	0.0	0	1	200
Austin	29.8	-2.4	4.9	5	23	201
Bagot	29.8	-3.1	2.6	3	12	184
Carberry EC	30.1	-2.6	10.5	11	50	214
Carman	31.6	-0.1	1.0	2	7	203
Glenboro	31.4	-3.5	4.8	5	24	211
Holland	30.8	-2.8	8.0	8	34	208
Morden	29.7	1.1	0.6	1	3	183
Portage EC	31.2	-0.7	2.6	3	12	206
Rivers	30.3	-2.3	0.5	1	2	<b>223</b>
Shilo	30.4	-3.5	4.4	4	22	196
St. Claude	30.4	-1.1	5.9	6	24	202
Treherne	30.0	-3.9	3.7	4	17	201
Wawanesa	31.0	<b>-4.1</b>	5.6	6	27	204
Winkler	<b>37.4</b>	0.9	0.0	0	0	218

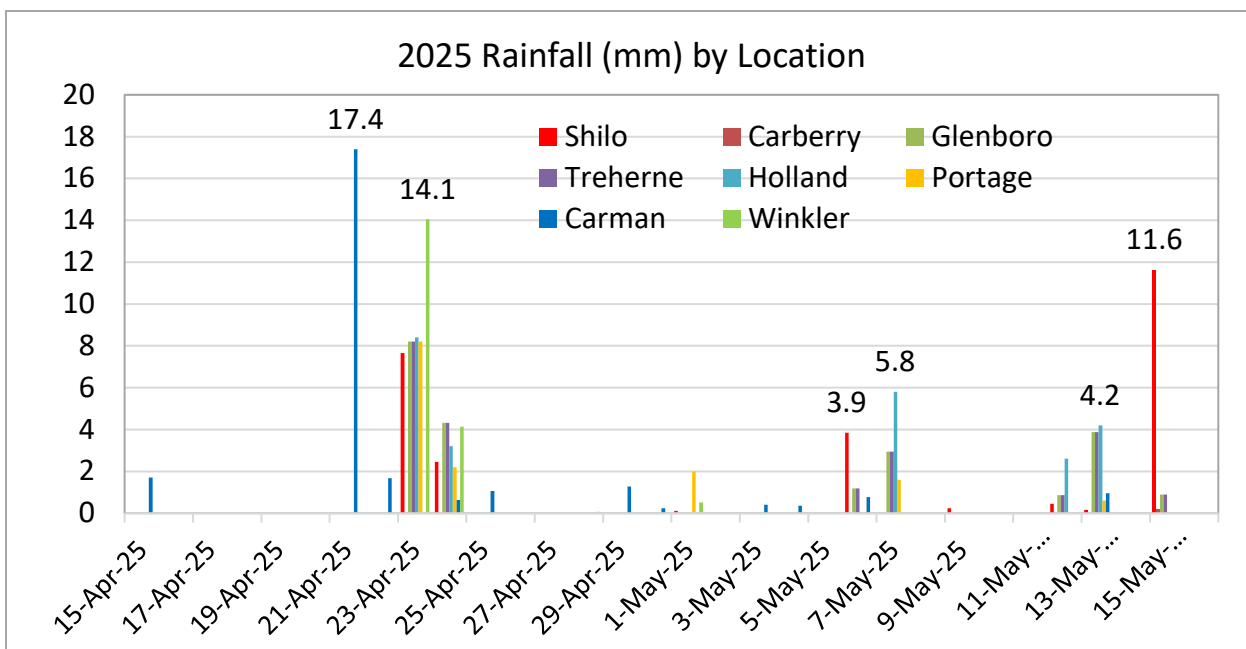


Fig. 2. Significant rainfall was recorded on April 22-23, 2025, and minimal precipitation from April 25 to May 12.

### Temperatures – Air and Soil

- The warm temperatures continued in the province. Daytime highs recorded ranged from 29.7°C (Morden) to 37.4°C (Winkler) (Table 1, Fig. 3). Such high temperatures are uncommon at this time of the year. Overnight lows from -4.1°C (Wawanesa) to 1.4 °C (Morden).
- Cumulative heat as Growing Degree Days (GDD, base 5°C) up to May 11 indicates the week has been much warmer than normal, ranging from 183 to 223% of normal GDD (Table 1).

- Soil temperatures at 5cm depths ranged from 9°C (Portage) to 18°C (Carman & Carberry) by May 11 (Fig. 4) and were cooler at 20cm depths, around 7-14°C (Fig. 5) in the selected potato sites.
- The 2025 soil temperatures at 5cm and 20cm were warmer than at the same time in 2024, so a quicker emergence of potatoes could be expected.

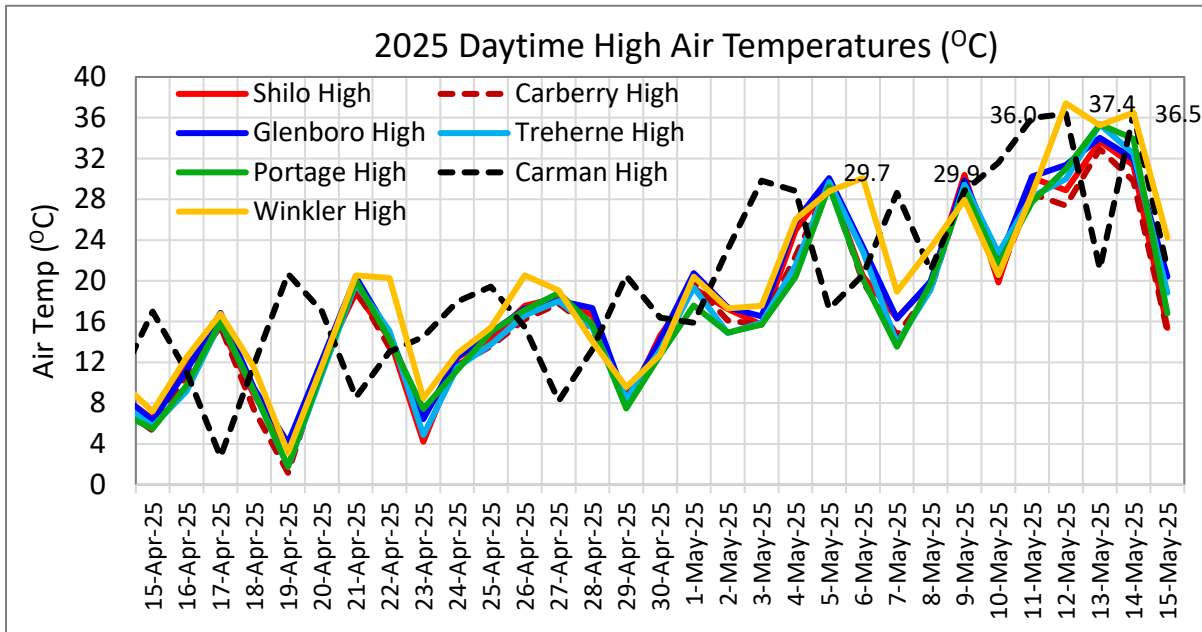


Fig. 3 The air temperatures were very high during some of the planting days. Highs of 35-37°C are uncommon at this time of the year.

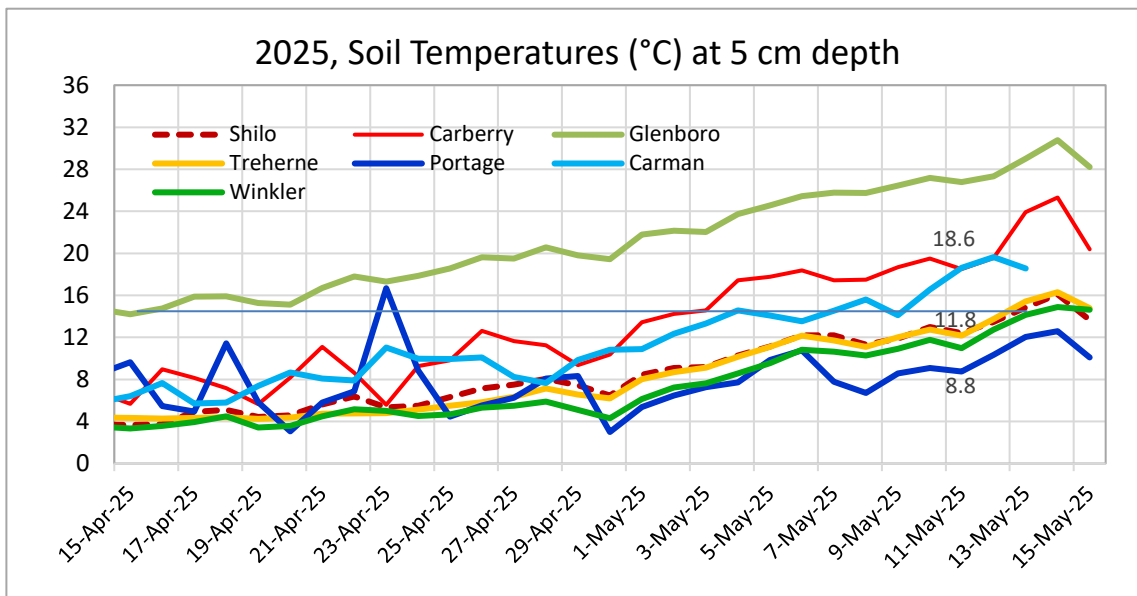


Fig. 4 Soil temperatures at 5cm depth at selected sites ranged from 9 to 18.6°C and higher by May 11. In comparison, 2024 had much lower temperatures around the same time.

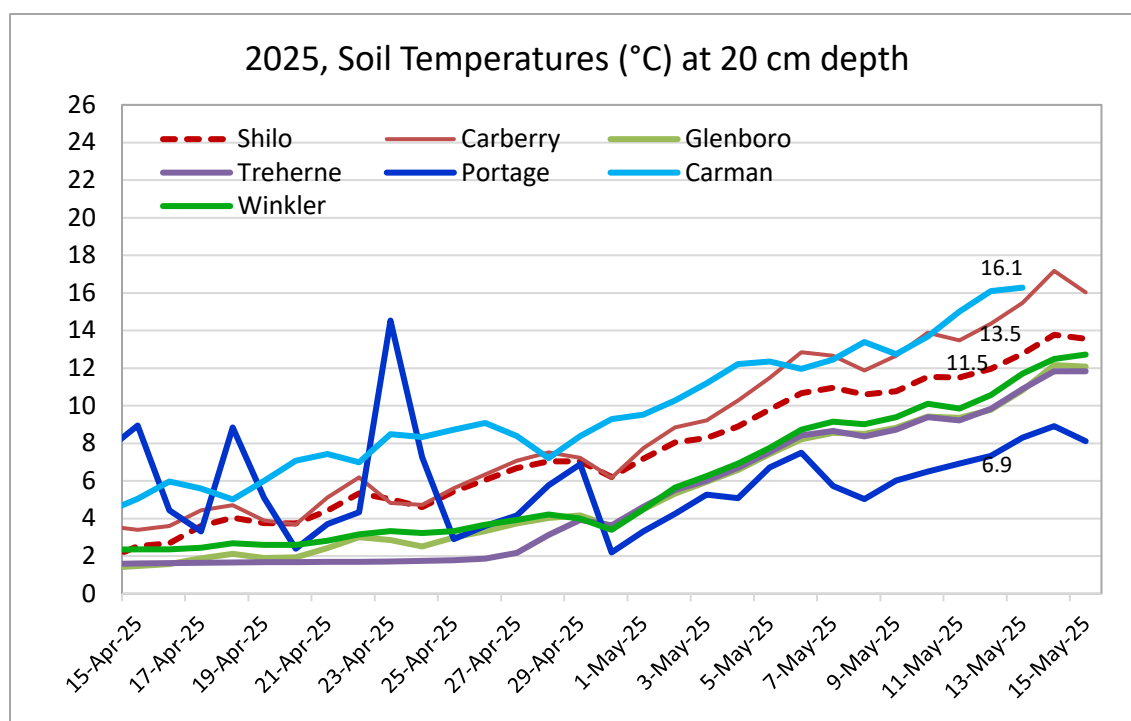


Fig. 5 Soil temperatures at 20cm depth at selected sites, were around 7 to 16°C but much higher than in 2024 around the same time (<10°C).

## Crop Progress

- Without weather related interruptions, the planting has progressed very rapidly.
- Potato planting completed for the province is estimated to be close to 95% of the intended acres. Many of the remaining farms will be done by the weekend.
- Due to warm and dry conditions in the week, a few fields were already being irrigated to keep the seed from getting too warm.
- Some rain is expected from May 14 to 16 in many potato growing areas of the province.
- By the weekend, there is a risk of frost in some areas; its impact on potato seed may be minimal.

## Disease Monitoring

- Now that the planting is almost complete, it is important to take care of **the cull piles** in or near the potato fields. Often cull piles can be a source of diseases like late blight and blackleg.
- Late blight risk forecasting will be provided on a regional basis at [www.mbpotatoes.ca](http://www.mbpotatoes.ca). Late blight disease risk is projected to start accumulating around June 1, when normally 50% of the fields show emergence. In the last five years, no late blight has been observed in Manitoba.
- P-Days, and SprayCast maps will be available at <http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/index.cfm>.

## Insect Pest Monitoring

- Aphid monitoring using suction traps will start in early June in 8 or 9 seed fields. Green peach aphid and Potato aphids could be a concern for seed potatoes. In 2023 and 2024 the aphid catches were high.
- European Corn Borer (ECB) monitoring will be started in early July. The ECB catches in traps have been reducing over the past few years. If ECB catches are low in 2025, the trapping program may be ended.
- Colorado potato beetle incidences will be monitored and if possible tested for insecticide resistance. In some areas beetles appear as soon as the potato plants emerge.

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.**