

Issue 4 – May 30, 2025

Manitoba Potato Report



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Provincial Summary

- Potato planting in Manitoba for 2025 is now complete, about one week earlier than 2024. Some early planted fields are reporting close to 50% emergence.
- The week (May 19-25) has been generally warm with scattered rainfall across Manitoba. The daytime temperatures across Manitoba were normal after a cold snap last week.
- 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

- From May 19 to 25, there was scattered rainfall in the potato growing areas of the province, ranging from 0.4 mm (Portage) to 21.2 mm (Holland) (Table 1). Cumulative rainfall May 1 to 25 is now quite varied, from low of 58% of the normal in Bagot to 218% in Carberry and 190% Shilo (Table 1, Fig.1). There was more rainfall in the western potato growing areas.
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf>
- By May 25, the 30cm soil depth moisture (relative to field capacity) became generally optimal to wet from generally wet last week (Fig. 2). <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf>

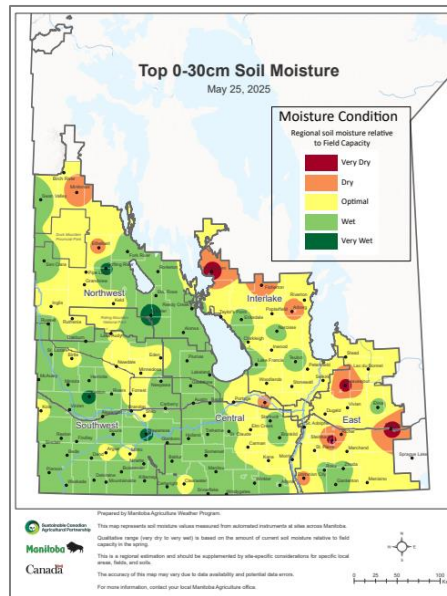
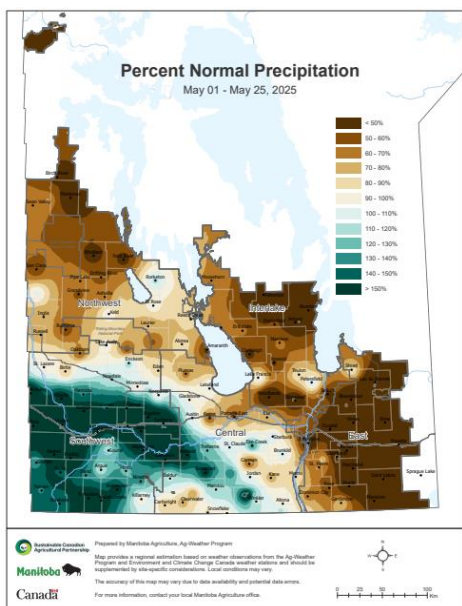


Fig.1 (left). There was scattered rainfall last week, and the cumulative rainfall from May 1 to 25 shows that south southwest Manitoba had greater than normal rains. The cumulative rainfall was 58 to 218% of the normal in the potato growing areas.

Fig.2 (right). Current soil moisture (relative to field capacity) at 0-30cm depth indicates many potato growing areas are getting drier in the top 30cm compared to last week.

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Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – May 19 – 25, 2025

Region	Max Temp (°C)	Min Temp (°C)	Rainfall (mm) for the week	Rainfall (mm) (Since May 1)	2025 Rainfall (% of normal) May 1 - 25	GDD (% of normal)
Altona	23.2	2.8	3.7	53	93	144
Austin	22.4	1.5	4.5	49	102	128
Bagot	22.3	1.5	1.6	29	58	126
Carberry EC	23.2	1.4	14.3	102	218	132
Carman	22.8	2.7	5.0	36	62	142
Glenboro	23.0	1.7	18.5	75	160	131
Holland	23.0	0.8	21.2	82	150	131
Morden	20.9	3.5	8.0	52	84	148
Portage EC	22.8	1.2	0.4	41	85	141
Rivers	23.1	2.4	9.1	64	150	136
Shilo	22.9	1.4	14.7	84	190	123
St. Claude	22.0	2.3	3.3	62	108	135
Treherne	21.7	1.9	18.2	68	125	129
Wawanesa	23.6	1.5	13.8	74	153	126
Winkler	26.0	3.3	8.2	68	109	149

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

Temperatures – Air and Soil

- The week (May 19 – 25) had moderate temperatures, around mid-20s daytime highs. (Table 1, Fig. 3). The overnight lows ranged from 0.8°C (Holland) to around 3.5 °C (Morden, Winkler).
- Cumulative heat as Growing Degree Days (GDD, base 5°C) from May 1 to May 25 continues to be warmer than normal temperatures, ranging from 126 (Bagot) to 149% (Winkler) of normal GDD (Table 1).
- Soil temperatures at 5cm depths on May 19 to 25 were ranging from 10 to 15°C at selected weather stations (www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather)

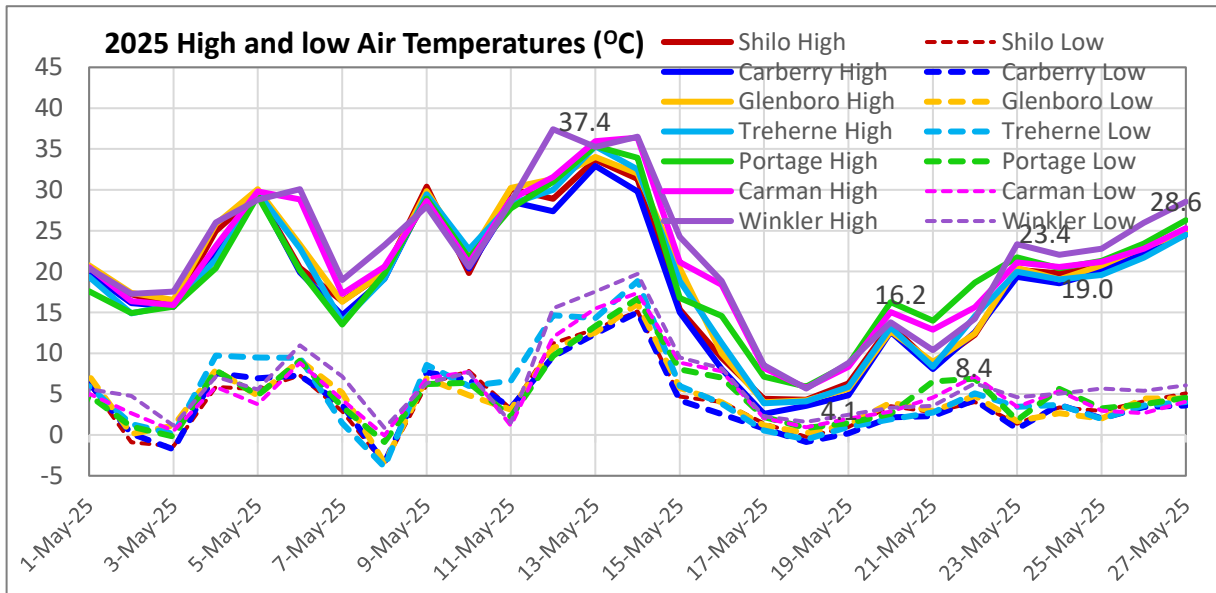


Fig. 3 The air temperatures were very high during some of the planting days. Daytime highs of 35-37°C on May 15 and dropped rapidly to 2.3 to 5.7°C on May 19. Daytime highs have now warmed up from the cold snap last week.

Crop Progress

- With very little rainfall, potato planting in the province was completed by May 30. In 2024, planting was completed by June 7, partly due to snowfall on May 24. In 2023 planting finished on June 8, and in 2022 on June 18.
- A few fields are reporting 50% emergence (Fig. 4). The 2025 soil temperatures at 5cm and 20cm are warmer than at the same time in 2024, so a quicker emergence of potatoes could be expected.
- Very strong winds in the last couple of weeks has led to more reports of eroded potato hills in sandy areas of some fields (Fig. 5). Hilling operations have started.
- Forecast is for hot daytime temperatures into 30 °C until June 1 (Sunday) and then scattered rains are expected June 2 & 3.



Fig.4 (left). Field in Shilo showing 50% emergence. Photo: Orla Sheridan (Shilo Farms)

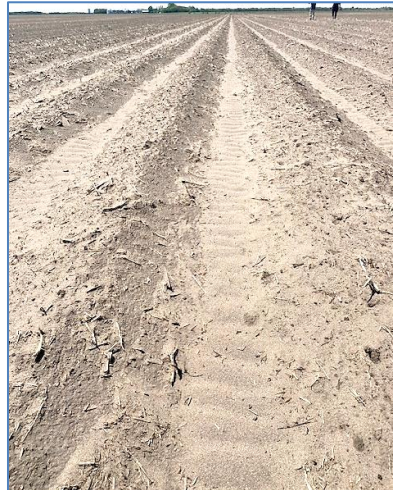


Fig.5 (right). Wind eroded hills in a sandy patch of a Carberry field. Photo: Vikram Bisht (Manitoba Agriculture)

Disease Monitoring

- 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. Late blight disease risk is projected to start accumulating around June 1, when normally 50% of the fields show emergence.
- Manitoba will again have late blight spore trapping network of passive Spornado traps. Individual farms are also encouraged to set up spore traps to assess near-farm risk of late blight.
- 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