Issue 7 – June 20, 2025

Manitoba Potato Report

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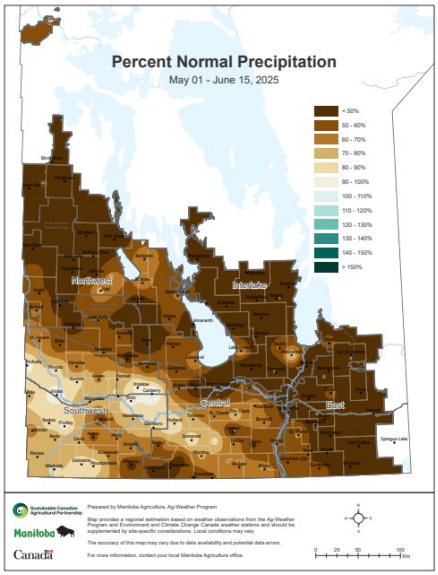
Provincial Summary

- Almost all fields have reached the emergence stage. Early planted fields are in various stages of tuberization.
- The week (June 9 - 15) has been generally warm with daytime peak around 26ºC while the overnight lows ranged from 5.2 to 8.3ºC in the potato growing areas; and practically no rainfall. Irrigation is in full swing due to low soil moisture. There were thunderstorms and hail damage on June 18/19 in Carberry region.

Ag Weather Data

Precipitation and Soil Moisture

- There was very little rainfall in the week from June 9 to 15 across Manitoba (Table 1). Cumulative rainfall May 1 to June 15 are below normal, from low of 35% of the normal in Bagot. Only Shile (96%) and Carberry (106%) were close to normal rainfall (*Table 1, Fig. 1*). https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf.
- Due to lack of rainfall, by June 15, the 30cm soil depth moisture (relative to field capacity) became drier compared to last week, and larger areas are now generally dry to optimal (*Fig. 2)*. https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf
- After the rains in mid-May the soils have steadily lost moisture from 5-cm depth in the selected potato sites but thunderstorms on June 18/19 brought 15-25 mm rainfall in Carberry area and showed an immediate impact on Carberry 5cm soil moisture. (*Fig. 3*). Shilo was the driest of the selected sites.



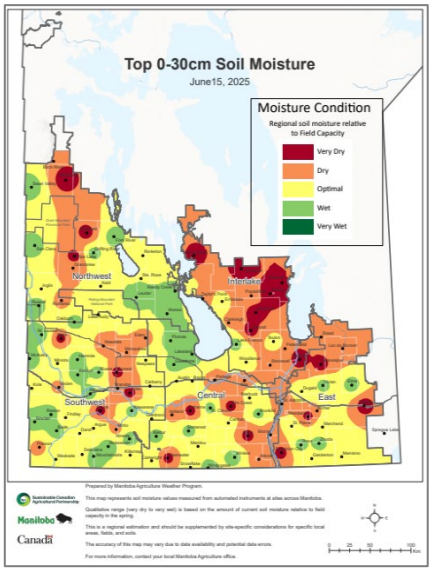


Fig.1 (left). *There was very little rainfall in the week, and the cumulative rainfall from May 1 to June 15 was much below normal. The cumulative rainfall was 35 to 106% of the normal in the potato growing areas.*

Fig.2 (right). *Soil moisture (relative to field capacity) at 0-30cm depths (up to June 15) indicates many potato growing areas have become drier compared to last week. Many areas now have dry to very dry conditions.*

Report compiled by Dr. Vikram Bisht
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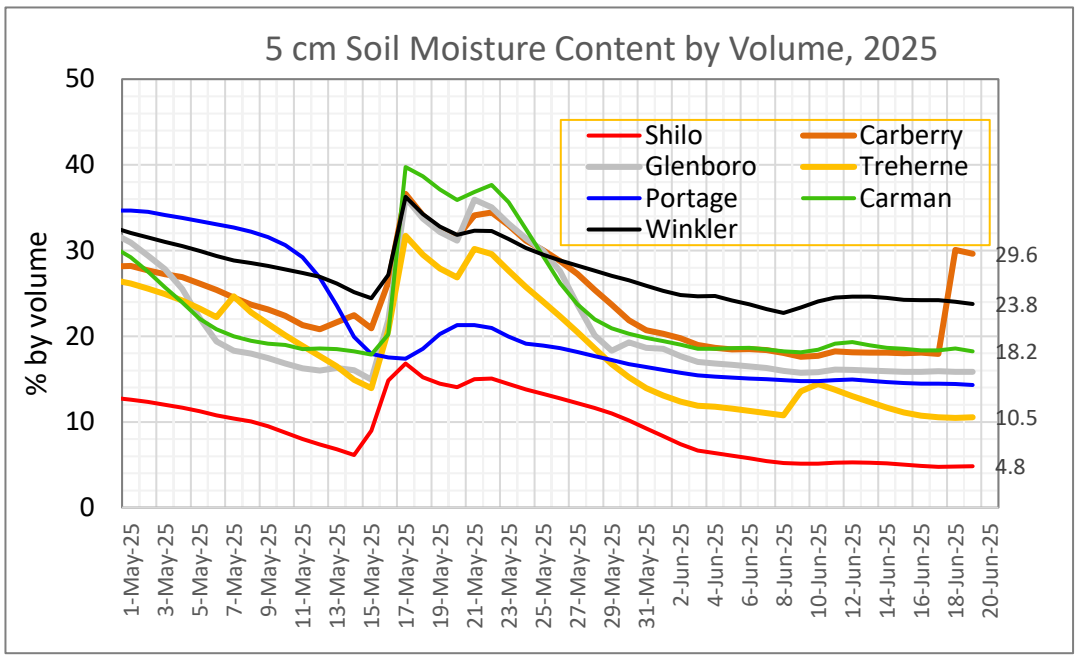

Fig.3. *After mid-May rains there was a steady decline in soil moisture content at 5 cm depths at selected potato growing sites. Carberry had a thunderstorm on June 18-19, and it showed up clearly in the graph. Shilo remained the driest.*

Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – **June 9 – 15**, 2025

Region	Max Temp (°C)	Min Temp (°C)	Rainfall (mm) for the week	Rainfall (mm) (Since May 1)	2025 Rainfall (% of normal) Since May 1	GDD (% of normal)
Altona	25.9	7.3	0.0	72	62	122
Austin	25.0	7.4	0.0	54	54	117
Bagot	25.1	7.4	0.0	35	35	116
Carberry EC	25.1	6.5	0.0	107	106	119
Carman	26.8	7.5	0.3	53	44	123
Glenboro	25.2	5.8	0.0	81	80	119
Holland	24.5	6.1	0.0	94	85	116
Portage EC	25.6	8.3	0.0	52	51	125
Rivers	26.5	5.4	0.0	71	69	121
Shilo	26.0	5.9	0.2	95	96	115
St. Claude	25.1	8.5	0.0	75	64	121
Treherne	24.1	5.9	0.1	78	71	117
Wawanesa	26.0	5.2	2.4	72	81	109
Winkler	26.3	8.2	0.0	83	68	129

X- Data not available

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

Temperatures – Air and Soil

- The week (Jun 9 - 15) has been generally warm with daytime highs around 26°C, while the overnight lows ranged from 5.2 to 8.5°C in selected potato growing areas (*Table 1, Fig. 4*). This day-night temperature differential supports good tuber initiation.
- Cumulative heat as Growing Degree Days (GDD, base 5°C) from May 1 to Jun 15 continues to be warmer than normal, ranging from 109% (Wawanesa) to 129% (Winkler) of normal GDD (Table 1).

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- Soil temperatures at 5cm depths on June 15 ranged from 14.2 (Portage) to 19+^{O}C (Carman and Carberry) at the selected weather stations (www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather). These temperatures will support good emergence.

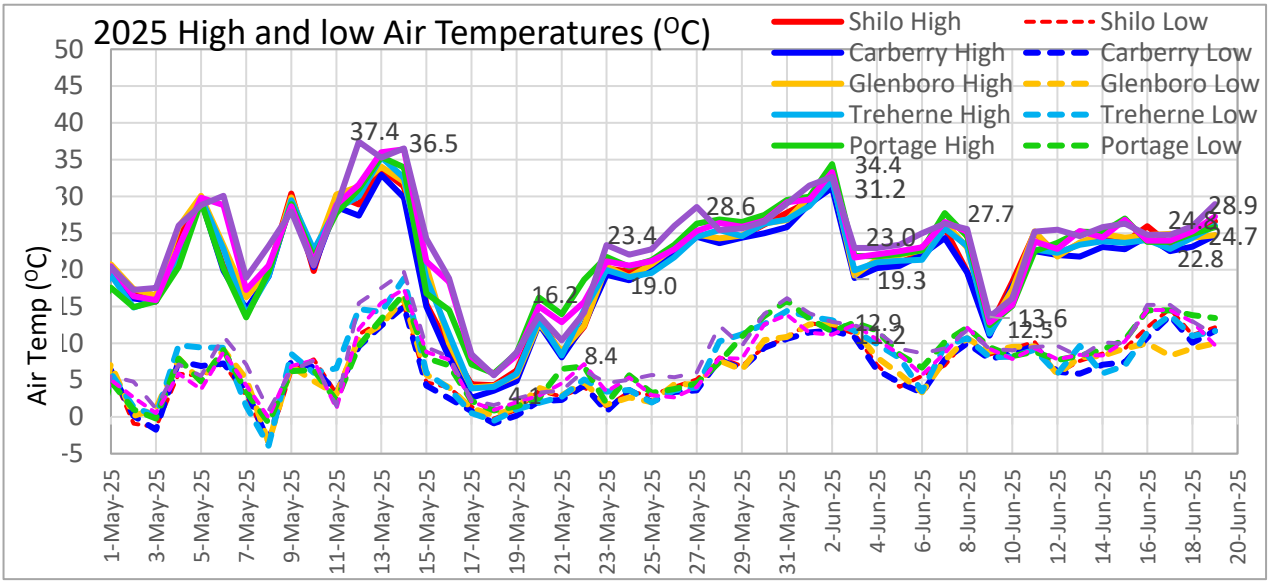


Fig. 4 *The daytime air temperatures were very high from May 12-15 (35-37^{O}C), followed by a cold snap and then a warming trend reaching above 31 ^{O}C around June 1-2., followed by a substantial temperature drop on June 9. Temperatures have become warmer since then.*

Crop Progress

- Potato-growing areas have received practically no rainfall from June 9-15, which resulted in moisture in 0-30 cm soil profile becoming drier compared to last week. Irrigation is now being applied in many fields across Manitoba.
- Even later May planted fields have now generally fully emerged.
- Hilling and dam/dike operations are in full swing. Weed control herbicide applications too now in full swing in many fields. Plants are over 12 inch tall in early planted fields (Fig. 5), and hooking to early tuberization has been recorded (Fig.6). However, heat-runners are already being noticed in some fields.
- Thunderstorms around Carberry region, Hallboro-Wellwood-Gregg were accompanied by severe hail damage to potato crops (Fig. 7).

Fig.5. *Early planted fields are closing in between rows. a: Orla Sheridan (Shilo farms), b: Kurtis McKee (JPW Farms).*

Fig.6. *Tuberization is strong in most fields. Photos: a: Tavis Mangin (Simplot); b, Kurtis McKee (JPW Farms), c: Orla Sheridan (Shilo farms).*

Fig.7. *Thunderstorms on June 18/19 in Carberry area brought lot of hail resulting in damage to many fields, Photos: a, b: Mitch Blyth (CropCare); c, d, e: Steve Saunderson (Choice Agri).*

Disease Monitoring

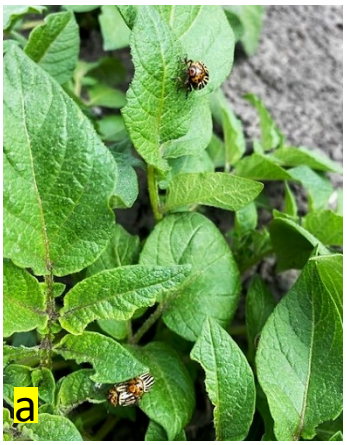
- As part of late blight spore trapping network in Manitoba Spornado traps (passive capture) have been set up on June 16 (Fig 8). Cassette collection will be done weekly at various sites across potato growing areas of the province.
- Late blight risk forecasting will be provided on a regional basis at *www.mbpotatoes.ca*. Late blight disease risk values (DSVs are cumulative values starting from June 1. DSV over threshold of 18 in normally considered a stage when late blight control applications are recommended.
- P-Days, and SprayCast maps will be available at *http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/index.cfm.*

Insect Pest Monitoring

- We have set up suction traps in eight seed potato fields (Fig. 9). Suction and pan traps will be used for monitoring aphid and leafhopper populations during the season.
- 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 (CPB) adults and egg-masses are already being noticed (Fig. 10). High populations are being reported from southern Manitoba, where resistance to many insecticides has been recorded. Many of these egg-masses are already hatching.

Fig.8 (left). *Spornado passive spore trap set near potato field. Photo: Vikram Bisht, (Manitoba Agriculture).*

Fig.9 (right). *Suction trap for aphid monitoring set up near seed potato field. Photo: Vikram Bisht, (Manitoba Agriculture).*



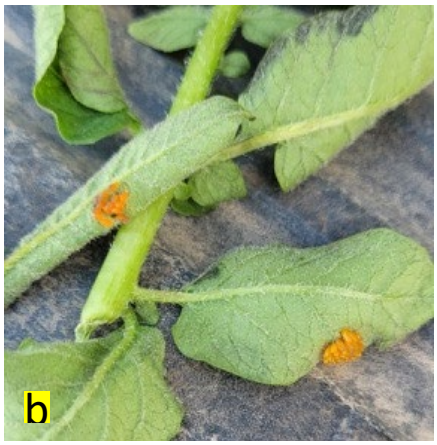


Fig.10. *Colorado potato beetle adults and egg masses are being observed in more fields. Photo: a: Vikram Bisht, (Manitoba Agriculture), b: Greg Dyck (CropCare).*

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- There is a forecast for cool daytime temperatures in high teens to low 20s from June 21 (Saturday) to June 25 (Wednesday), and rains are forecast for Jun 21 to 23. Thunderstorms are expected on June 20.

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

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

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