Issue 8 – June 27, 2025

Manitoba Potato Report

Seasonal Reports Weekly Weather Maps Potato Production

Provincial Summary

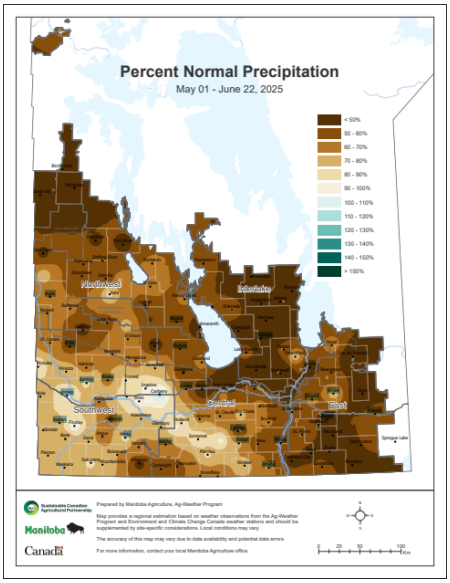
Potato fields are in various stages of tuberization, from hooking to nearly 2-inch tubers.

- The week (June 16 - 23) has been generally warmer with daytime peak around 28-30ºC while the overnight lows ranged from 9.4 to 12.5ºC in selected potato growing areas; and rainfall ranging from 6.6 to 28.7 mm. Irrigation is in full swing due to low soil moisture.
- Late blight spores were detected in a few spore traps in Manitoba. No late blight disease has been reported. There were thunderstorms and hail damage on June 18/19 in Carberry region.

Ag Weather Data

Precipitation and Soil Moisture

- There was scattered and variable amounts of rainfall in the week from June 16 to 23 across Manitoba. (Table 1). Rainfall in the week ranged from 7mm in Bagot to 28.7 mm in Portage La Prairie. Cumulative rainfall May 1 to June 23 are below normal, from low of 36% of the normal in Bagot to Shilo (95%) and Carberry (112%) which were closer to normal rainfall (*Table 1, Fig. 1*). *https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf*.
- Due to lack of rainfall, the 30cm soil depth moisture (relative to field capacity) became drier by June 23 compared to last week, and larger areas are now generally dry to optimal (*Fig. 2)*. Shilo was the driest of the selected sites *https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf*



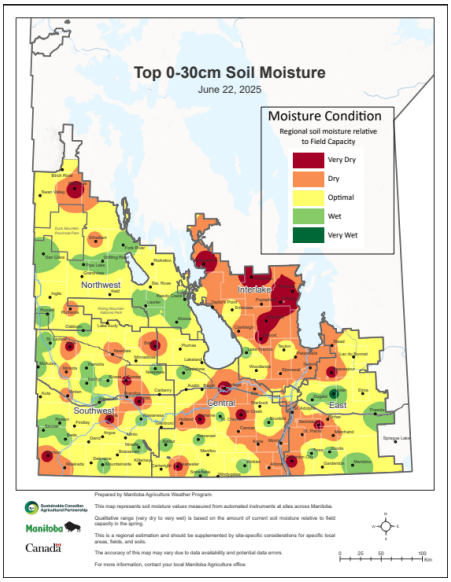


Fig.1 (left). *There was scattered rainfall in the week, and the cumulative rainfall from May 1 to June 23 was much below normal ranging from 36 to 112% of the normal in the potato growing areas.*

Fig.2 (right). *Soil moisture (relative to field capacity) at 0-30cm depths (up to June 23) indicates many potato growing areas have become drier compared to last week. Many areas now have dry to very dry conditions.*

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Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – **June 16 – 23**, 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 base 5C (% of normal)
Altona	30.1	10.9	11.5	83	60	121
Austin	28.2	11.4	15.3	69	60	116
Bagot	28.6	10.8	7.0	42	36	115
Carberry EC	27.3	10.7	25.0	132	112	117
Carman	28.8	9.7	15.6	68	49	122
Glenboro	27.9	11.5	9.5	90	77	118
Holland	28.0	10.7	11.5	105	84	116
Portage EC	28.5	12.2	28.7	81	68	122
Rivers	26.2	9.4	12.8	83	66	119
Shilo	26.6	10.9	15.6	111	95	114
St. Claude	27.7	12.5	9.3	85	62	119
Treherne	28.3	11.0	8.1	86	68	115
Wawanesa	27.6	10.2	6.6	89	72	113
Winkler	29.5	11.1	24.7	108	76	128

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

Temperatures – Air and Soil

- The week (Jun 16 - 23) was generally warm, with daytime highs over 26°C (range 26.2 to 30.1°C), while the overnight lows ranged from 9.4 to 12.5°C in selected potato growing areas (*Table 1*). This day-night temperature differential supports good tuber initiation.
- Cumulative heat as Growing Degree Days (GDD, base 5°C) from May 1 to Jun 23 continues to be warmer than normal, ranging from 113% (Wawanesa) to 128% (Winkler) of normal GDD (Table 1).
- At 5 cm depths, Portage soils were coolest (14.5 °C), while Carman soils were warmest of the selected potato sites at 19.8°C.
- There is a forecast for warm daytime temperatures in high 20s to 30°C from June 27 (Friday) to July 2 (Wednesday), and scattered showers and a mix of sun & clouds on June 27 - 29. Thunderstorms are expected on June 27.

Crop Progress

- Potato-growing regions received scattered and inconsistent rainfall between June 16 and 23, following an almost completely dry week prior.
- The soil moisture in 0-30 cm soil profile continues to be dry and like last week.
- Crop canopy is closing in between rows; ground cover ranges from 50% to nearly 100%. Plants are over 18-inch tall in many fields (Fig. 3a). Tubers are pin-head to 2-inch size depending on planting dates (Fig. 3b).
- Weed control herbicide applications are now nearly completed in most fields.
- Thunderstorms on June 18 /19 around Carberry region and hail caused severe damage to crop in many fields. Protective fungicide applications have been made in these fields.
- Volunteer potato plants have been reported in some corn and wheat fields (Fig. 3c). Such plants usually will remain without late blight fungicide protection and could serve as unprotected hosts for late blight disease, Colorado potato beetles and even PVY vectoring aphids.

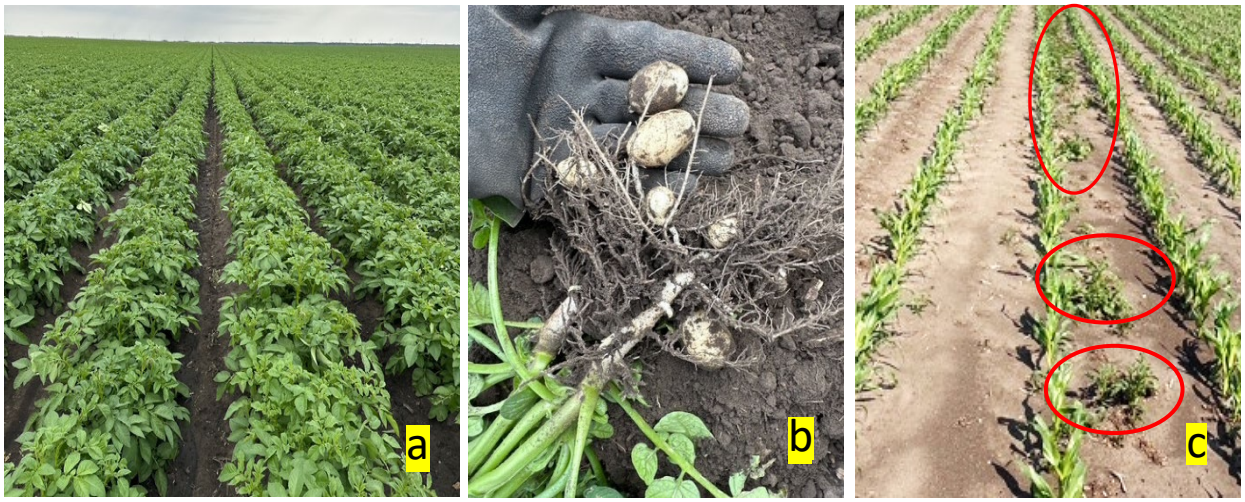

Fig.3. *a: Early planted fields are closing in between rows. b: Tubers up to 1 ½ - inches. Rilley Francis (Under The Hill Farms). c: volunteer potatoes in corn fields. Photo: Anonymous.*

Disease Monitoring

- As part of late blight spore trapping network in Manitoba Spornado traps (passive capture) had been set up on June 16 and cassette collection done on June 23.
- ***Phytophthora infestans*** **spores were detected on a few of these traps -** in the rural municipalities of North Norfolk, North Cypress, Norfolk-Treherne, North Cypress-Langford and Riverdale. **No late blight has been reported in Manitoba.**
- Late blight cumulative disease risk values (DSVs) starting from June 1 to 26 are low ranging from 1 to 9 (Fig. 4), suggesting a low risk for late blight. However, the wind-protected areas of the potato fields could still have a higher risk. Also, it is important to have fungicide protection if the crop canopies are closing between rows, so there is protection within the canopy.
- A DSV of 18 is the initial threshold for disease occurrence if the inoculum is present in the area. Late blight risk forecasting is provided on a regional basis at www.mbpotatoes.ca.
- Low levels of blackleg infection were detected in a few fields. (Fig. 5). Low incidence of early blight spots was reported from a few fields, with symptoms observed on the lower canopy. PVY infected plants were noted in a few fields (Fig. 6).
- P-Days, and SprayCast maps will be available at [http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/index.cfm.](http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/index.cfm)

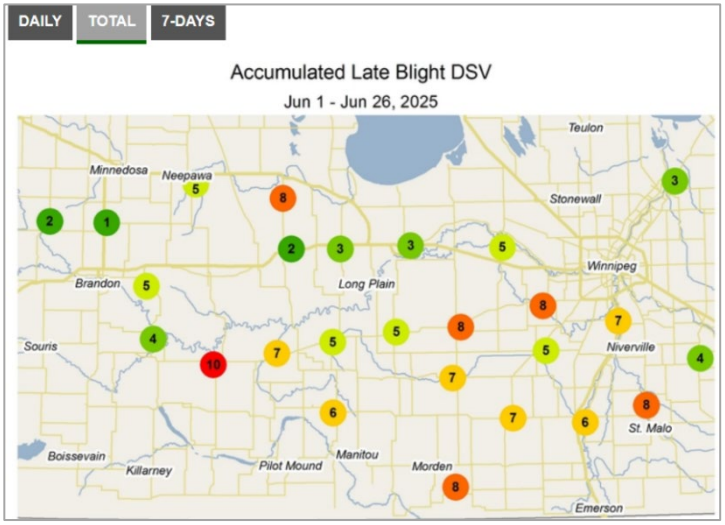

Fig.4. *The cumulative DSVs from June 1 to 26 suggests generally a low risk of late disease occurring. However, wind-protected micro-climate and within 100% closed in crop canopies could provide conditions favourable to late blight.*

Manitoba

Fig.5 (left). *In a few fields, minor incidence of blackleg infection was noticed.*

Fig.6 (right). *Potato plants infected with PVY showing distinct mosaic symptoms were noted in a few fields.*

Insect Pest Monitoring

- Aphid traps (suction and pans) set up in eight seed potato fields were checked for aphids. We are monitoring for PVY-efficient vectors – Green peach aphid and Potato aphid, and "others". No aphids were trapped at seven sites, while the eighth site captured two "other" aphids that were not green peach or Potato aphids (Table 2).
- There have been some reports of Colorado potato beetle (CPB) adults and egg masses from different areas of the province. Severe CPB damage has been reported from southern Manitoba (Fig. 7a), where resistance to many insecticides has been recorded. Many of these egg-masses are already hatching (Fig. 7b). Scouting for the insecticide-sensitive larval stages could help efficient CPB control.
- Cull piles can still be seen around farmyards and fields. Plants in some of the piles are heavily infested with CPB adults (Fig. 8a, b).

*Table. 2. Weekly Aphid Report – **Week 1** (June 16– June 23) 2025*

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

* *The aphid counts are a summation from a suction trap and two pan traps in a field.*
ALH = Aster leafhopper, PLH = Potato leafhopper

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Fig.7. *a: Newly emerged CPB adults caused severe damage on young potato plants in southern Manitoba. Photo: Anonymous. b: CPB egg mass hatchings are being observed fields across Manitoba. Photo: a: Vikram Bisht, (Manitoba Agriculture),*

Fig.8 *a, b: Cull piles are still present around farmyards and fields. On many of these cull piles potato plants are infested with CPBs. Photo: Vikram Bisht (Manitoba Agriculture).*

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

Manitoba