Issue 18 – September 5, 2025

Manitoba Potato Report

Seasonal Reports Weekly Weather Maps Potato Production

Provincial Summary

- Potato crops are now in tuber maturation stage, with many fields showing good tuber set and size profile. Harvest for direct-from-field delivery to processors is continuing. Harvesting-for-storage of some early bulking and maturing varieties has started.
- During the week of Aug 25 to Sept 1, daytime highs ranged from 30.1 to 33.5ºC, about 2-3ºC warmer than the previous week, but the overnight lows ranged from 4.0 to 7.6ºC, which were 1-3ºC cooler than the previous week in selected potato growing areas.
- There was scattered and light rainfall in the week in the province, ranging from 0 to 10.8 mm (Holland). This has reduced soil moisture at 0-30 cm depths. Crop water demand was much higher than provided by rainfall in most potato growing areas, so irrigation was applied in some lighter soils.
- No late blight disease reported in Manitoba. Potato Early Dying disease is increasing across Manitoba.

Ag Weather Data

Precipitation and Soil Moisture

- There were scattered but light rainfall in some potato growing areas on Aug 27, 28 and Sep 2; but other areas got practically no rainfall (0 to 0.4 mm in the week). Cumulative rainfall May 1 to Sep 1 was close to normal only in Portage. A few sites Altona, Bagot, Shilo and Winkler had ~80% rainfall -, while Treherne, Austin and Carman remained below 60% of normal (Table 1, Fig.1).
- The week's cumulative rainfall ranged from 0 mm (Wawanesa) to 10.8 mm (Holland). The crop water demand (CWD) for the week ranged from 25.5 to 38.3 mm and was not covered by rainfall at any of the weather station sites (Table 1, Fig. 3). *https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf*.
- Due to scattered and light rainfall in the week, the 0 to 30cm soil depth moisture (relative to field capacity) became drier in many sites; and the soil moisture is categorized as generally optimum to dry by Sept 1 (Fig. 2*)*. At 20 cm depths, Shilo and Treherne continue to be the driest (by % moisture content by volume) of the selected sites. *https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf*.

Temperatures – Air and Soil

- During the week of August 25 to September 1, daytime high temperatures ranged from 30.1°C to 33.5°C, about 2–3°C warmer compared to the previous week. However, overnight lows ranged from 4.0°C to 7.6°C, which were 1–3°C cooler than the previous week in selected potato-growing areas (Table 1). This day–night temperature differential supports rapid tuber bulking.
- Cumulative heat as Growing Degree Days (GDD, base 5ºC) from May 1 to Sept 1 is close to normal, ranging from 102 (Treherne) to 112% (Winkler) of normal GDD (Table 1).

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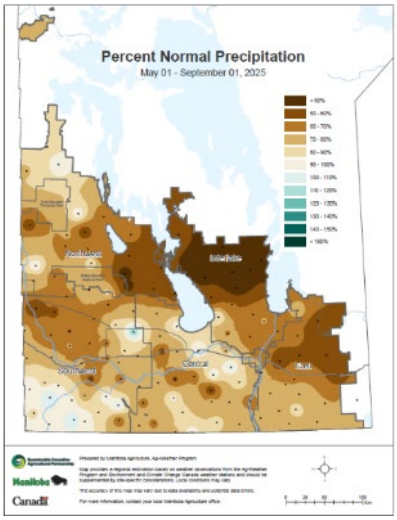
- P-Days (Cumulative potato heat units) from June 1 to Sept 1 ranged from 699 (Carberry) to 776 (St. Claude) in the potato areas (Table 1). These heat units are near normal P-Days and indicate that most crops are in tuber maturation stage.
- There is forecast for scattered rainfall on Sept. 5, 6, 10, 11 at various locations, sunny from Sep 6 to 8, and then partially cloudy on Sep 9 and10. The daytime temperatures are expected to be around teens till Sept 6 and then low 20s from Sep 7 to 10. The overnight lows are forecast to be in 10ºC or lower till Sep 10. [Manitoba - Weather Conditions and Forecast by Locations - Environment Canada]



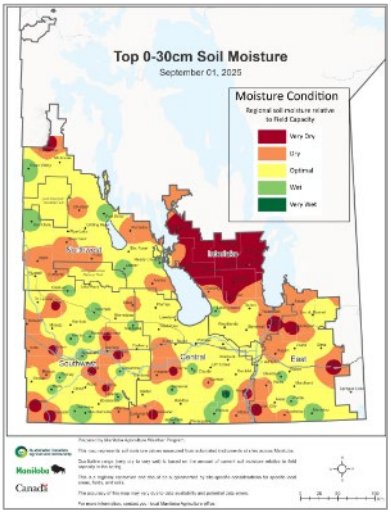


Fig.1 (left). *There was scattered but light rainfall in the week in Manitoba potato growing areas. The cumulative rainfall from May 1 to Sept 01 is still below normal in most potato growing areas.*

Fig.2 (right). *Soil moisture (relative to field capacity) at 0-30cm depths (up to Sep 01) indicates that many potato growing areas have optimum to dry soil moisture conditions.*

Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – **August 25 – Sept 1**, 2025

Region	**Max Temp (° C)**	**Min Temp (° C)**	**Rainfall (mm) for the week**	**Crop Water Demand (mm) - week**	**Rainfall (mm)** (Since May 1)	**2025 Rainfall (% of normal)** Since May 1	**P-Days** (Cumulative from Jun 1)	**GDD (% of normal)**
Altona	30.1	5.3	2.2	33.4	242	78	754	107
Austin	**31.7**	**7.2**	**3.9**	37.4	**147**	56	742	105
Bagot	31.5	5.0	**6.8**	30.2	**220**	77	721	104
Carberry EC	32.1	5.3	1.0	27.4	200	x	699	x
Carman	31.8	5.1	**8.9**	**25.5**	171	**56**	728	108
Glenboro	31.7	4.0	0	28.8	204	76	714	106
Holland	31.0	4.6	10.8	**38.3**	214	73	733	104
Portage ~~EC~~	31.9	7.6	**9.2**	33.4	284	100	757	110
Rivers	**31.1**	**4.0**	**1.3**	35.7	193	67	703	106
Shilo	32.1	5.4	**0.2**	34.3	201	78	716	104
St. Claude	30.9	6.1	**0.4**	35.1	204	66	**776**	106
Treherne	31.6	5.8	**0.4**	36.2	172	58	722	102
Wawanesa	31.9	**4.9**	1.0	31.0	176	66	709	103
Winkler	**33.6**	5.5	**0**	33.3	**265**	85	738	112

Crop Water Demand (CWD) mm: www.mbpotatoes.ca/cwd.cfm. P-Days: www.mbpotatoes.ca/pday.cfm
x: data unavailable in Crop Weather Reports.
For more Manitoba weather information, visit: *www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather*

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Crop Progress

- Warm temperatures in the last few days may create conditions favourable for pink rot tuber infection.
- With recent rain events from Aug 25-Sep 1, the soil moisture is now optimal to dry in the 0-30 cm profile across Manitoba. The crop water demand (CWD) was not covered by rainfall in the week. Irrigation was applied in a few fields.
- Most crops are in tuber maturity phase, and many fields with over 6-inch size (Fig. 3) depending on planting dates. Tuber set and size profiles generally appear good in most fields.
- Plants are down on ground in many fields, making the under-canopy more humid and leading to minor incidences of white mold and stem rotting.
- Direct-from-field delivery to the processing plants is continuing. Harvest for storage has just started and yields appear to be good. Extensive rainfall on Sep 4 interrupted harvesting for a few days.
- High daytime temperatures in the last week, with sufficient soil moisture may pose a risk of pink rot and pythium leak diseases on tubers in fields with wet spots. Phosphorus acid fungicides during the season and post-harvest application could help reduce the pink rot issue.

Fig.3. *Tuber bulking is strong. Many tubers around 1.8 lbs and over 6-inch size have been harvested. Photos: a: Daylene Moir (Simplot), b: Vikram Bisht (Manitoba Agriculture).*

Manitoba growers and agronomists are welcome to share photos of the largest tuber of the season!

Disease Monitoring

- ***Monitoring for late blight (Phytophthora infestans)* spores was stopped at the end of last week.**
- **No late blight has been reported in Manitoba.**
- The 7-day cumulative DSVs are now being used to assess late blight risk. **The last 7 days, up to** Sept 03, **had accumulated 1 to 6 DSVs, suggesting low to moderate risk of late blight disease occurring in the presence of late blight inoculum** (Fig. 4)**.** *www.mbpotatoes.ca*.
- Powdery scab infections on roots have been observed in more fields. Powdery scab is a vector for Potato Mop Top Virus (PMTV), which is becoming a disease of concern. Root infection by powdery scab fungus is necessary for transmission of PMTV.
- Minor incidences of early blight. white mold and botrytis leaf and stem rot are reported within the canopy, after the plants have settled on the ground. Minor incidences of blackleg and stem rot are seen in some wet fields after recent rains (Fig. 5 a-d). Tubers from low lying areas carry the rot bacteria into the storage.
- Many more fields are now showing “potato early dying” (PED), ranging from 0 to over 30% plants showing PED infection (Fig. 6). A few plants are also starting to show black dot infection. The severity of both diseases is expected to increase as the crops mature and with stress from heat or water deficit.

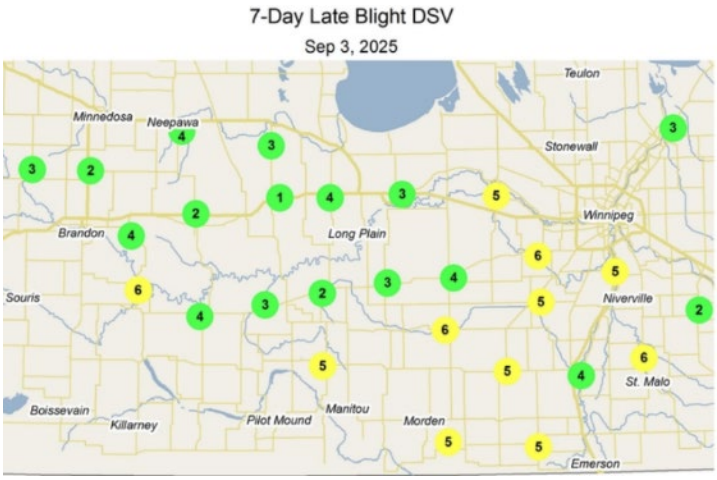

Fig.4. *By September 3 the 7-day DSVs in potato areas ranged from 1 to 6 indicating low to moderated risk for late blight.*

Fig.5. *a: White mold on stem in the under-canopy; b: Early blight leaf spots in mid-plant level; c and d: Blackleg and stem rot in low lying spots in a field leading to plant death. Photos: Vikram Bisht, Manitoba Agriculture.*

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Fig.6. *Potato early dying complex is showing up in more fields across the province. The incidence and severity appear to have increased in more fields since last week.*

Insect Pest Monitoring

- Aphid traps (suction and pans) monitoring for PVY-efficient vectors – Green peach aphid and Potato aphid, and "others" was ended last week. The session's summary is as follows:
  - **Total aphid** numbers trapped in 2025 crop season were much lower than in previous few years.
  - No Green peach aphids (GPA) were trapped in the season.
  - The Potato aphids (PA) were trapped but in lower numbers than the previous 2 years.
  - It is possible that the virus levels in the seed potatoes from Manitoba will be very low.
  - Low aphid numbers for the season have also been observed by ND-MN aphid monitoring program.

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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