Issue 19 – September 12, 2025

Manitoba Potato Report

Seasonal Reports Weekly Weather Maps Potato Production

Provincial Summary

- Harvest for direct-from-field delivery to processors is continuing. Potato harvest of early bulking and maturing varieties for storage started mostly on Monday, September 1. Harvesting ranges from yet to start to about 25% of individual farm completed. Harvest was interrupted on Sep 4 and 11 due to rains.
- During the week of Sept 2 to 7, daytime highs ranged from 27.5 to 30.9ºC, about 2-3ºC cooler than the previous week, and the overnight lows ranged from -1.0 (Wawanesa) to 2.3ºC, which were 4-5ºC cooler than the previous week in selected potato growing areas.
- There was widespread rainfall in the week across the province mainly on Sep 4, ranging from 8.9 to 27.0 mm. Crop water demand was higher than provided by rainfall in many potato growing areas, but irrigation was not needed due to beginning of harvest, and sufficient soil moisture.
- No late blight disease reported in Manitoba. Potato Early Dying disease is increasing across Manitoba.

Ag Weather Data

Precipitation and Soil Moisture

- The cumulative rainfall in the week ranged from 8.9 to 27.0 mm across potato growing areas. Total rainfall May 1 to Sep 7 was close to normal only in Portage. A few sites Altona, Bagot, Shilo and Winkler had ~80% rainfall, while Treherne, Austin and Carman remained around 60% of normal (Table 1, Fig.1). There were widespread thundershowers across Manitoba on Sep 4 and scattered rains earlier in the week in some potato growing areas (Fig 3). There was widespread rainfall again on Sep 11 (Fig. 3), but the data is not yet available (and is not included in this week's numbers).
- The week's crop water demand (CWD) ranged from 15.9 to 26.7 mm and was not covered by rainfall at many of the weather station sites (Table 1). *https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf*.
- Due to widespread rainfall in the week, the 0 to 30cm soil depth moisture (relative to field capacity) stayed as generally optimum to dry by Sept 7 (Fig. 2*). https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf*.

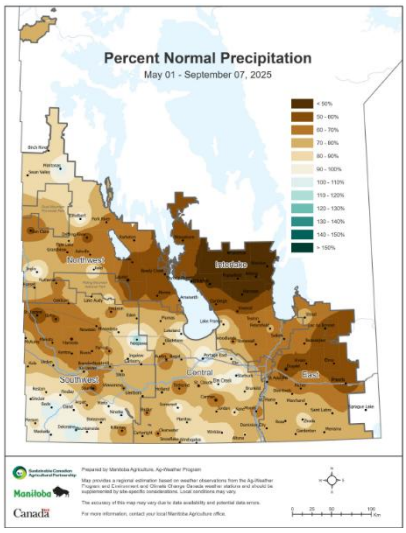
Temperatures – Air and Soil

- During the week of Sept 2 to 7, daytime highs ranged from 27.5 to 30.9ºC, about 2-3ºC cooler than the previous week, and the overnight lows ranged from -1.0 (Wawanesa) to 2.3ºC, which were 4-5ºC cooler than the previous week in selected potato growing areas (Table 1).
- Cumulative heat as Growing Degree Days (GDD, base 5ºC) from May 1 to Sept 1 is close to normal, ranging from 100 (Treherne, Wawanesa) to 109% (Winkler) of normal GDD (Table 1).

Report compiled by Dr. Vikram Bisht
Potato and Horticulture Crop Pathologist, Manitoba Agriculture
Subscribe to the weekly Potato Report

Manitoba

- P-Days (Cumulative potato heat units) from June 1 to Sep 1 ranged from 712 (Carberry) to 787 (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 from Sep 11 to 15 at various locations, and cloudy till Sep 17. This could slow the drying of fields. The daytime temperatures are expected to be around mid-20s and the overnight lows in mid-teens up from Sep 11 to 17. Southern Manitoba may have partially cloudy days from Sep 13 to 16. [Manitoba - Weather Conditions and Forecast by Locations - Environment Canada]



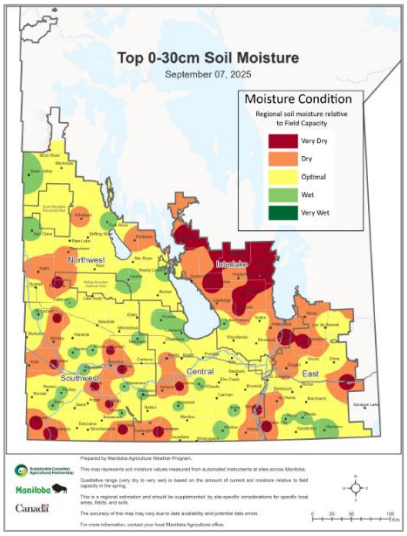


Fig.1 (left). *There was widespread rainfall in the week (Sep 2 - 7) in the potato growing areas of Manitoba. The cumulative rainfall from May 1 to Sept 07 is still below normal in most potato growing areas, except Portage.*

Fig.2 (right). *Soil moisture (relative to field capacity) at 0-30cm depths (up to Sep 07) indicates that many potato growing areas have optimum to dry soil moisture conditions.*

Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – **Sept 2 - 7**, 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	28.0	0.5	20.1	16.7	260	80	772	104
Austin	28.6	1.3	16.1	21.3	**159**	58	735	103
Bagot	**30.9**	-0.3	21.4	26.7	235	79	735	101
Carberry EC	29.2	1.7	12.2	16.7	X	x	712	x
Carman	28.0	0.2	27	**15.9**	190	**60**	744	105
Glenboro	29.1	-0.3	8.9	16.8	213	77	729	103
Holland	29.3	0.1	20.7	**20.5**	224	74	747	102
Portage ~~EC~~	27.9	1.7	26.2	21.0	**304**	**103**	776	108
Rivers	28.6	0.1	9.7	19.5	201	67	714	104
Shilo	29.3	0.2	8.9	18.5	210	79	731	101
St. Claude	**27.5**	**2.3**	17.9	21.0	222	70	**787**	104
Treherne	29.0	0.3	15.9	19.0	188	61	734	100
Wawanesa	29.7	**-1.0**	14.9	16.2	190	69	722	100
Winkler	28.3	1.2	18.6	16.7	283	89	757	109

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*

Manitoba

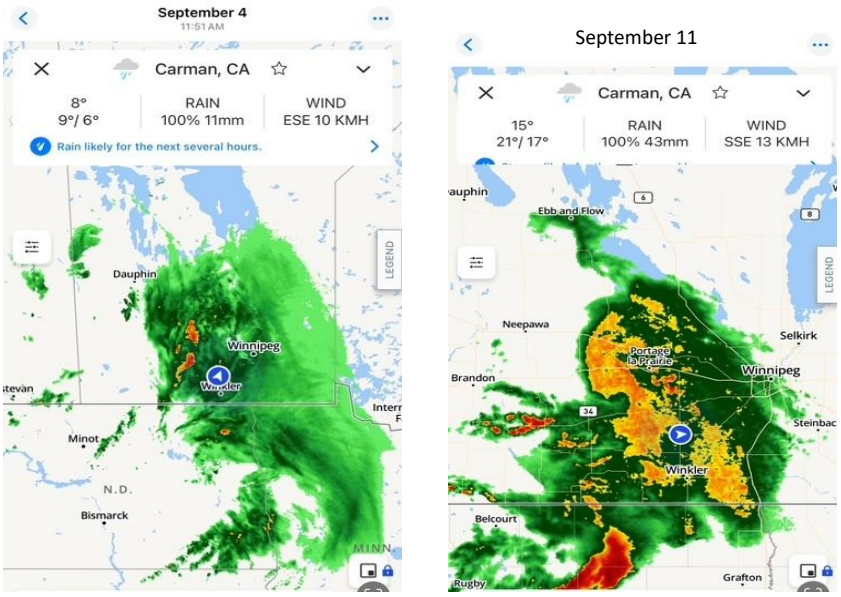


Fig.3. *Thunderstorms on Sep 4 (**left**) and Sep 11 (**right**) were quite widespread, and brought substantial rains, interrupting harvest each time.*

Crop Progress

- 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 and 11 interrupted harvesting across the province.
- Warm temperatures in the last few days may create conditions favourable for pink rot tuber infection.
- With recent rain events from Sep 2 to 11, the soil moisture is now mostly optimal in the 0-30 cm profile across Manitoba. Irrigation was not needed due to moist soil profiles.
- With fewer extreme hot days, the tuber bulking has progressed well. Many early bulking varieties like Dakota Russet have many very large tubers being harvested. Tubers over 2.75 lbs. (Fig 4) and 3 lbs. (Fig 5) have been recorded. Tuber set and size profiles generally appear good in most fields.
- Though some areas had below zero temperatures (down to -1^{O}C), there was no impact of tubers.

Fig.4. *Tuber bulking is strong. A large tuber of Dakota Russet of 1.25 kg (2.76 lbs and over 9-inch size harvested at Robertson Farms. Photos: Vikram Bisht (Manitoba Agriculture).*

Manitoba

Fig.5. *To-**date the largest tuber** (Dakota Russet) of 2025 season is 3.06 lbs, collected and photographed. Photo: Kyle Froese (Corduroy Farms)*

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

Disease Monitoring

- **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 10, **had accumulated 1 to 3 DSVs, suggesting low risk of late blight disease occurring in the presence of late blight inoculum** (Fig. 6)**.** *www.mbpotatoes.ca*.
- Powdery scab infections on roots have been observed in more fields (Fig. 7). 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 disease incidences of early blight, white mold and botrytis leaf and stem rot reported within the canopy. Minor incidences of blackleg and stem rot are seen in some wet fields after recent rains. Tubers from low lying areas carry the rot bacteria into storage.
- Many more fields are now showing “potato early dying” (PED), ranging from 0 to 25 % incidence in various fields (Fig. 8). The incidence within a field could be 5 – 50% affected plants. 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.
- 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.

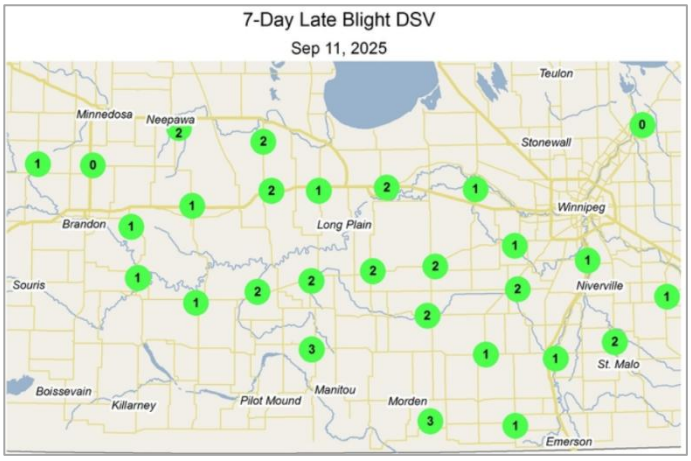


Fig.6. *By September 11 the 7-day DSVs in potato areas ranged from 1 to 2 in the potato growing areas, indicating low risk for late blight.*

Manitoba

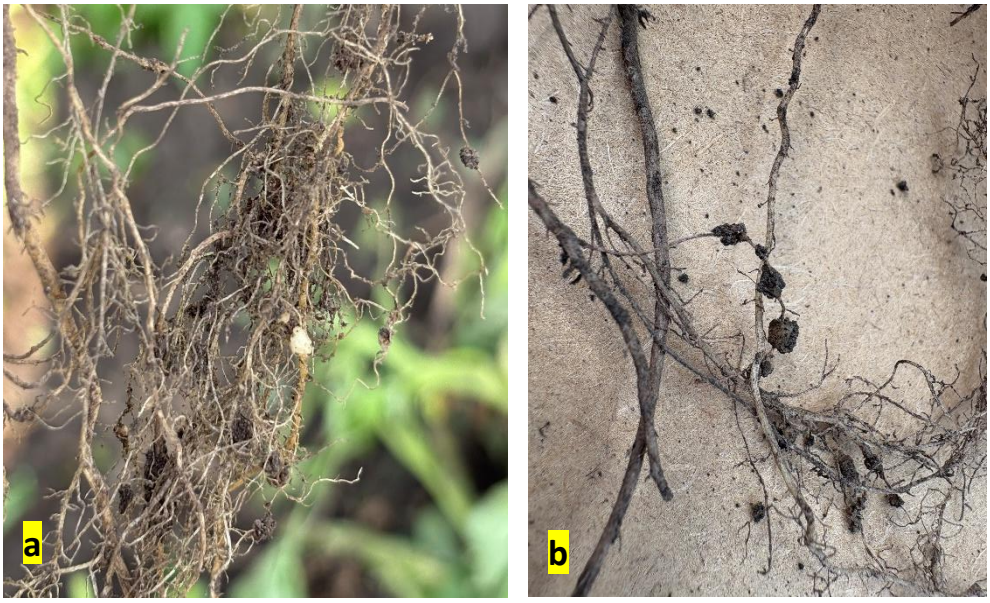


Fig.7. *Root infection with powdery scab fungus appears as nodules. Root infection by powdery scab fungus is needed for PMTV transmission. Photos: Vikram Bisht (Manitoba Agriculture).*

Fig.8. *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. Photo: Vikram Bisht (Manitoba Agriculture).*

Insect Pest Monitoring

Regular insect monitoring has stopped in Manitoba.

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