Issue 22 – October 3, 2025

Manitoba Potato Report

Seasonal Reports Weekly Weather Maps Potato Production

Provincial Summary

- Harvest for storage is now in full swing. Harvest progress varies widely across farms, ranging from 40 to 100% completed. It is estimated that over 80% of the Manitoba's potato acres have been harvested. Harvest was interrupted due to warm tubers on many hot afternoons in the week. Most of the harvesting in the province is projected to finish within a week.
- During the week of Sep 22 to 28, daytime highs ranged from around 27.6 to 32.1ºC, 4-5ºC warmer than last week, and the overnight lows ranged lower from 0.9 to 6.4ºC, about 5ºC cooler than last week in selected potato areas.
- There was no rainfall in the week across the province during the week from Sep 22-28. Break in rains allowed uninterrupted harvesting, but hot afternoons also interrupted harvest. Crop water demand was generally over 21 to 34.6 mm but during harvest supplementary irrigation was not needed.
- No late blight disease reported in Manitoba. Potato Early Dying disease and powdery scab are now present in many more fields.

Ag Weather Data

Precipitation and Soil Moisture

- There was no rainfall in the week, Sep 22-28 for all the potato growing areas of the province (Fig. 1, 3).
- The cumulative rainfall from May 1 to Sep 28 was below normal in all potato areas of Manitoba; only two sites, Portage and Winkler, were close to normal (over 90% of normal). Altona and Glenboro were 80-90% of normal, while Bagot, St. Claude, Holland, Rivers, Shilo, Wawanesa were 70 to 80%. Glenboro, while Austin, Carman and Treherne were only 60-70% range of normal (Table 1, Fig.1).
- The 0 to 30 cm soil depth moisture (relative to field capacity) became drier than last week and most areas remained within the optimal to wet moisture conditions by Sept 28 (Fig. 2). https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf.
- The week's crop water demand (CWD) ranged from around 21 mm (Carman) to 34.6 mm (Rivers, Shilo) but being in maturation and harvest stage, not much supplementary watering was needed (Table 1). https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf.

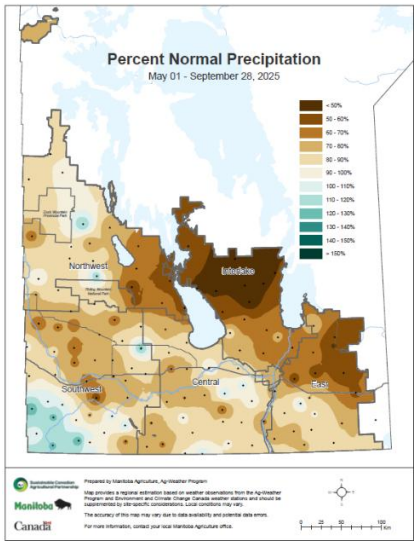
Temperatures – Air and Soil

- During the week of Sept 22 to 28, daytime highs ranged from 27.6 to 32.1ºC, 4 to 5ºC warmer than last week, and the overnight lows ranged from 0.9 to 6.4ºC, which were around 4-7ºC cooler than the previous week in selected potato growing areas (Table 1).
- Cumulative heat as Growing Degree Days (base 5ºC) from May 1 to Sept 28 is now above normal, ranging from 105 to 114% of normal GDD – indicating a warm harvest in potato growing areas (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 28 ranged from 883 (Carberry) to 974 (St. Claude) in the potato areas (Table 1), ranging from 100 to 110 % of normal P-Days.
- Following several warm/hot days, temperatures are expected to cool down. Daytime highs will drop to the mid-teens, while overnight lows are forecast to fall below freezing reaching -2° to -4°C in some areas between Sunday and Monday (Oct 5-6). There is a chance of showers from Oct 3 to Oct 5 at various potato growing areas. After a dry spell in the province, light rainfall and cool temperatures could assist in harvesting. [Manitoba - Weather Conditions and Forecast by Locations - Environment Canada]



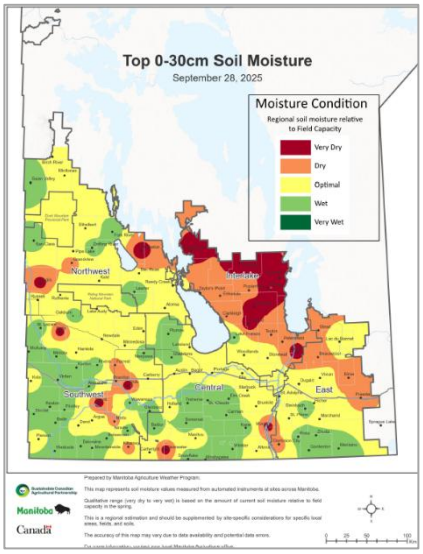


Fig.1 (left). *There was no rainfall in the week on Sep 22-28 in any potato growing areas of Manitoba. The cumulative rainfall from May 1 to Sept 28 is below normal in most potato growing areas.*

Fig.2 (right). *Soil moisture (relative to field capacity) at 0-30cm depths (up to Sep 28) indicates that many potato growing areas are now generally have optimum moisture conditions. Shilo moisture was generally dry.*

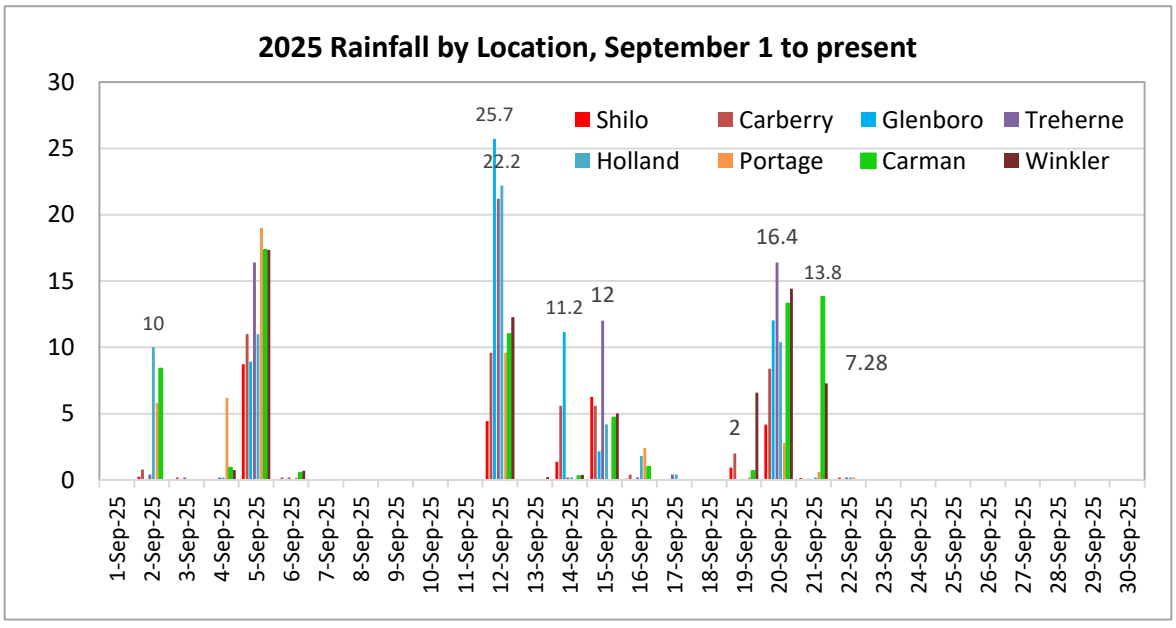


Fig.3. *Rainfall in September has been frequent, even though not heavy, the fields were sticky in many areas and interrupted harvest. With a break in rainfall after Sep 19-21, the harvest is now progressing smoothly, but for the high daytime temperatures.*

Manitoba

Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – **Sept 22 - 28**, 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	28.8	4.6	0	25.8	306	84	956	109
Austin	30.8	5.3	0	31.8	**204**	67	941	109
Bagot	30.0	2.9	0	**27.7**	260	78	906	106
Carberry EC	**27.6**	4.6	0.2	25.7	x	x	**883**	x
Carman	29.8	2.5	0	21.0	234	**66**	923	110
Glenboro	31.3	3.5	0	30.6	264	87	904	109
Holland	30.6	4.9	0	**34.6**	262	78	927	107
Portage ~~EC~~	31.2	3.4	0	29.6	318	96	959	113
Rivers	29.6	0.9	0	33.7	245	75	889	110
Shilo	32.0	3.5	0	34.0	227	77	904	107
St. Claude	30.2	**6.4**	0	28.7	267	75	**974**	109
Treherne	30.7	5.4	0	30.8	236	69	914	**105**
Wawanesa	**32.1**	3.6	0	31.6	219	71	893	106
Winkler	31.8	3.3	0	26.0	**329**	92	956	**114**

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*

Crop Progress

- Harvest for storage was in full swing. There were no harvest interruptions due to rain, however, hot daytime temperatures caused delays. Warm tubers have poor storability. Most of the harvesting in the province is projected to finish within a week.
- On many days the soil temperatures at 5 cm depth were warm, and tubers were >65ºF (18.3ºC) due to which many farms stopped their harvest.
- Warm temperatures in the week may have created conditions favourable for pink rot tuber infection.
- High daytime temperatures, around 30ºC in the last week, with sufficient soil moisture may pose a risk of pink rot disease on tubers in fields with wet spots. Post-harvest phosphite fungicides, if not applied during the season, may be helpful in improving storability.
- There is risk of frost in the coming few days, which could lead to freezing of tubers near surface of soil.
- There is now an interest in competing for the bragging rights for the largest tuber of the season. **The largest tuber weight submitted so far has been 4 lbs. (1.814 kg).**

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 29, **had accumulated 1 to 2 DSVs, suggesting very low risk of late blight disease occurring in the presence of late blight inoculum.** *www.mbpotatoes.ca*.

Manitoba

- Powdery scab root infection galls have been observed in many more fields (Fig. 4). Powdery scab is a vector for Potato Mop Top Virus (PMTV), which is becoming a disease of concern.
- Many more fields are now showing “potato early dying” (PED), ranging up to 90% incidence in various fields (Fig. 5). The incidence within a field could be 10 to 100% affected plants. More plants are also showing black dot infection. The severity of both diseases has increased as the crops matured and with stress from heat or water deficit.

Fig.4. *Powdery scab root infection appears as root galls, white when young. After maturing these white colored nodules darken and overwinter in the soil. Infested soil is an important carrier of inoculum into new fields.*

Fig.5. *Early dying ranged from over 90% dying plants (left), to 10-15% early dying (right).*

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