

Issue 15 – August 13, 2026

Manitoba Potato Report



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Provincial Summary

- The potato crops are in rapid bulking phases, with P-days over 550 in most potato growing areas. The tuber size has reached up to over 5-inches (7-9 oz) in many fields.
- Crop protection operations including fungicide and insecticide sprays have progressed well; and for late blight and early blight control up to nine fungicide spray applications have been made by ground or air.
- Late blight spores were detected at 12 sites across Manitoba from August 4 to 11. No late blight disease has been reported in the province so far. Late blight risk was low to moderate in the week.
- In the 9th week, there was another surge in the total aphid number trapped, Nineteen Potato aphids but no green peach aphids were trapped from 8 sites. Aster leafhoppers have also increased in numbers.

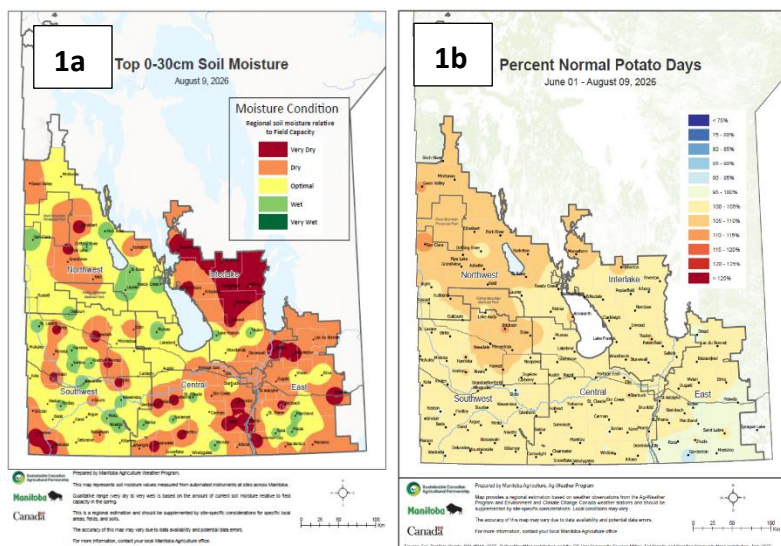
Ag Weather Data

Precipitation and Soil Moisture

- In the week, Aug 3 to 9, there was very little and scattered precipitation in potato growing areas of the province (Fig. 1, Fig. 2). The rainfall varied from nearly zero mm (at most of the potato weather stations) except Altona and Winkler (7 and 9.1 mm, respectively) (Table 1). The cumulative precipitation (May 1 to Aug 9) as % of 30-year normal, ranged from ~70% (Altona, Portage, and Treherne) up to 134% (Wawanesa) (Table 1, Fig. 2). <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf>.
- By Aug 9 the soils at the 0-30 cm depths in potato growing areas had become generally “optimal” with large pockets of “dry to very dry” moisture, based on Soil Moisture Relative to Field Capacity (Fig. 1a). <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf>.

Fig. 1a. By Aug 9, soil moisture relative to field capacity at the 0-30 cm depth indicated generally “optimal” but with larger “dry to very dry” areas in potato-growing regions. At the 120 cm depth, soil moisture lowered mostly to optimal range (map not shown).

Fig. 1b. The week daytime temperatures bringing the cumulative Potato Days (P-Days) to around 100 to 110% of normal across most potato-growing areas; it was similar to last week.



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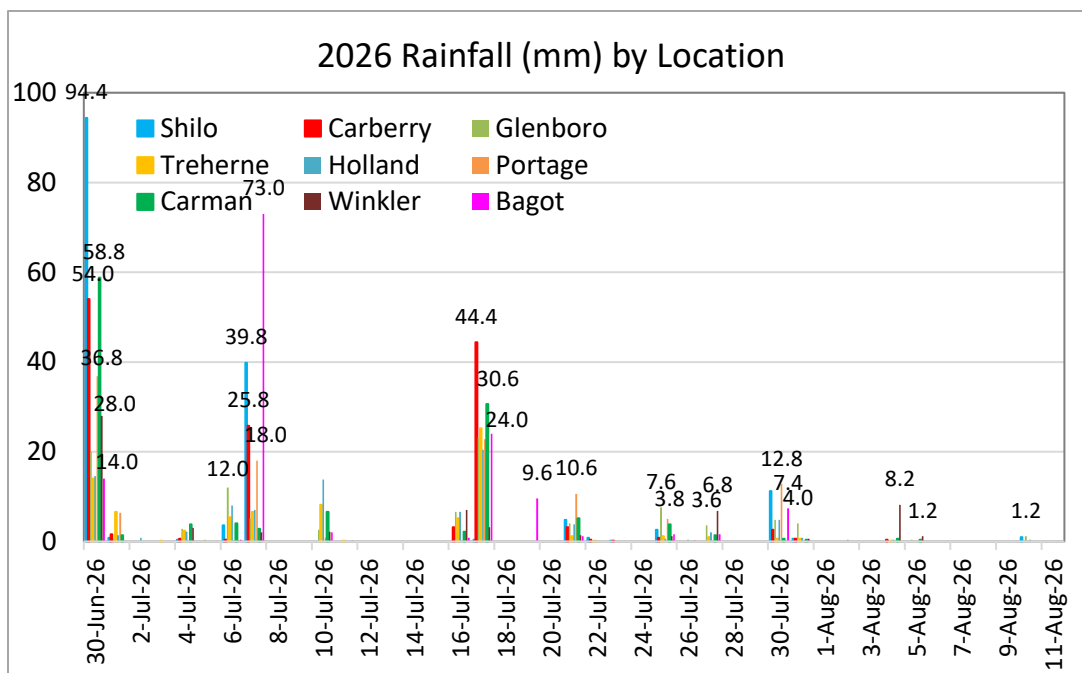


Fig. 2. Rainfall after mid-July was scant across the potato growing areas of the province. Practically no rainfall since Aug 1.

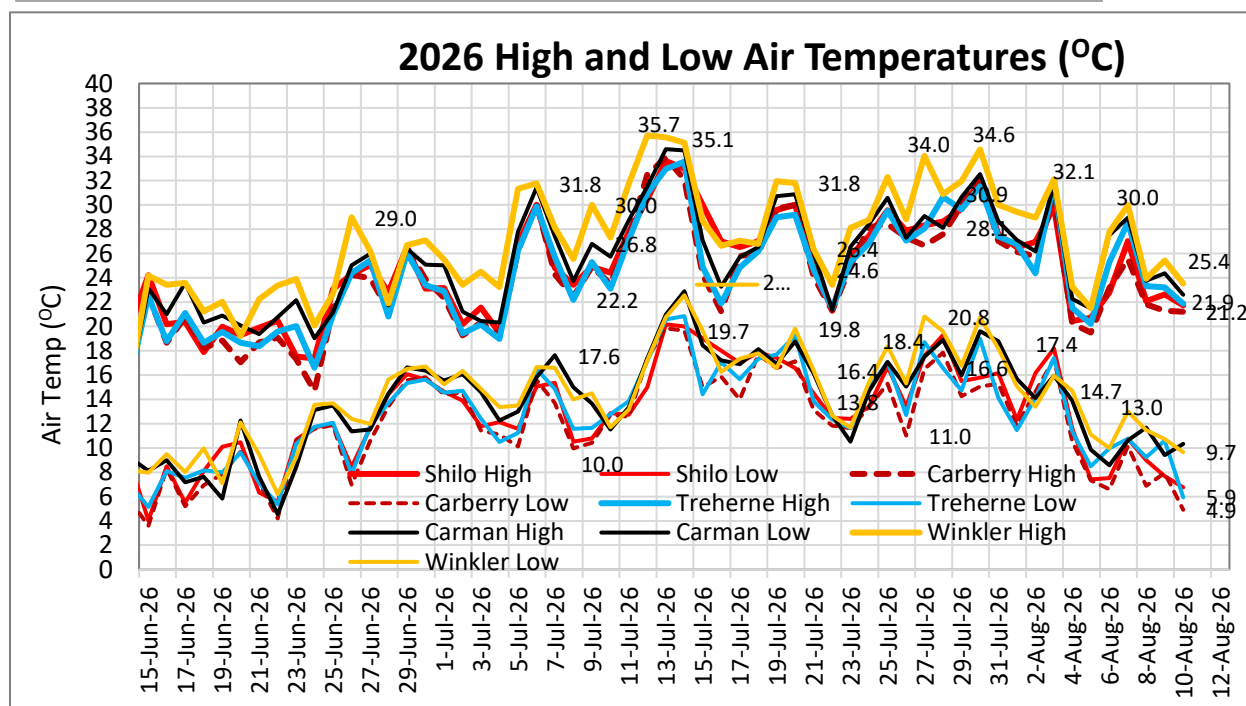


Fig. 3: Daytime temperatures peak on Aug 6, reaching 30°C in some sites the temperatures have come down to low 20s. The nighttime temperatures came down from were ranging from 11 to 14°C in the potato-growing areas. These day-night temperature differences favour rapid bulking of tubers.

Temperatures – Air and Soil

- The week Aug 3 to 9, the daytime temperatures were 3-5 °C cooler than last week. The daytime temperature highs in the selected potato growing areas ranged from 25.5 to 30°C (Table 1, Fig. 3). Overnight lows were 3 to 6°C cooler than last week, and ranged from 5.6 to 14°C (Table 1, Fig. 3). The week's day-night temperature differential was very favourable for rapid bulking on tubers (Fig. 5).

- The Cumulative heat (Growing Degree Days, GDD base 5°C) ranged from 102 to 114% of 30-year normal (Table 1). By Aug 9, the cumulative Potato Heat Units (P-Days) was nearly 550 or above at many potato growing areas and were 100 to 110% of 30-year normal (Fig. 1b). The P-Day values indicate that crops are in rapid bulking stage.

Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – Aug 3 - 9

Region	Max Temp (°C)	Min Temp (°C)	Rainfall (mm) for the week	Rainfall (mm) (Since May 1)	2026 Rainfall (% of normal) since May 1	GDD (% of normal)	P-Days (June 1 to Aug 3)
Altona	30.3	7.8	7.0	174	68	107	546
Austin	27.2	8.1	0.0	224	102	109	555
Bagot	26.3	7.8	0.0	252	108	108	552
Carberry EC	26.4	5.6	0.2	194	82	110	537
Carman	29.0	8.6	1.0	264	104	111	553
Glenboro	27.3	6.2	1.3	196	86	112	542
Holland	27.0	6.5	0.7	203	80	110	547
Morden	30.3	10.9	0.9	190	76	110	-
Portage EC	27.7	10.9	0.3	170	72	111	560
Rivers	25.3	5.8	1.3	292	120	109	548
Shilo	27.0	6.7	0.9	241	111	102	535
St. Claude	28.8	9.9	0.1	227	88	109	563
Treherne	28.6	5.9	0.2	170	67	106	544
Wawanesa	26.8	6.3	1.3	304	134	110	538
Winkler	30.0	9.7	9.1	268	103	114	546

For more Manitoba weather information, visit: www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather ; “ – “ Data not available in the week.

More information on:

Crop Water Demand (CWD) mm: www.mbpotatoes.ca/cwd.cfm

P-Days: www.mbpotatoes.ca/pday.cfm

Crop Progress

- By Aug 10, in most fields, the potato canopy ground cover was generally 100% making it difficult for pesticide penetration deep into the crop canopy. Potato crops have started to settle down on the ground, increasing humidity within crop canopy (Fig 4). Stem rot can often be noticed in such fields.
- With daytime and nighttime temperatures around 20 and 10°C, the conditions are favourable for rapid bulking of tubers. Many of the early planted fields have up to 5 to 6-inch tubers (Fig. 5 a-c). Later planted fields are catching up, but the crops are a week behind last year.
- Due to heavy rains in mid-July, some low-lying areas had nitrogen loss, resulting in generally yellowing plants by August (Fig 4 c, d). Soil test results showed 30 to 60 lbs/ac of available N in the affected areas, compared with 100 to 120 lbs/ac N in areas that were not impacted by leaching.
- Due to warmer temperatures in the last 2-3 weeks, irrigation is now needed in many areas. Heat and moisture stressed plants are producing misshapen tubers in some fields (Fig. 5 c, e).
- There is a forecast for daytime high temperatures to remain around 21-25°C with mixed sun and cloudy conditions until Aug 18. Overnight temperatures are expected to be cooler, ranging from 9 to 17°C. These temperature differences are very favorable for rapid bulking of tubers. Scattered and variable rainfall is forecast for Aug 13 to 15. [Manitoba - Weather Conditions and Forecast by Locations - Environment Canada](#).



Fig. 4. a, b: Crops have generally 100% ground cover and settling down on ground. c: Ranger field normal, and d: Rangers with areas with nitrogen leaching away. Photos: a: Ethan Friesen (Manitoba Agriculture), b: Kurtis McKee (JPW Farms), c, d: Greg Dyck (Crop Care)



Fig. 5. Tuber bulking is progressing well, and many are now 4-5 inches in size, and up to 7-9 oz.; c, e: Moisture stressed fields have poorer tuber profile. a-c: single plant tubers; d & e: 8 plants. Photos: a: Vikram Bisht (Manitoba Agriculture), b: Kurtis McKee (JPW Farms), c - e: Kyle Froese (Corduoy Farms).

Disease Monitoring

- Late blight risk forecasting will be provided on a regional basis at www.mbpotatoes.ca. Late blight disease risk values (DSVs) started accumulating from June 1.
 - The 7-Day cumulative DSVs from Aug 4 to 10 show accumulations from 0 to 4, **indicating low to moderate risk of late blight** (Fig. 6), if inoculum were present in the areas. Even at such low-risk situations, fungicide applications are recommended, based on local risk assessment.
 - The forecasting is complemented with late blight spore monitoring using Spornado passive spore traps. Spore traps have been set up in many fields and monitoring began on June 8.
 - **Results from the 9th round of monitoring from Aug 4 to 10 showed that *Phytophthora infestans* spores were trapped at 12 out of 13 monitoring sites, in Rivers, north and south of Carberry, Cypress River, Melbourne, MacGregor, Bagot, and Carman areas.** This marks the 6th consecutive week of positive spore detection in the province.
 - **As yet, no late blight has been reported in the province.**
 - **Potato late blight (clonal lineage/genotype US-23) was discovered in a south-western Michigan County (St. Joseph) on August 12, 2026 – Amanda Gevens, U of Wisconsin.**
 - It is important to scout the fields in higher risk areas which could stay wet longer, like wind-protected tree shelter-line, low lying areas/valleys in a field. It is also important to remove risk from cull-piles in the yards or near potato fields. Areas likely to be missed by aerial fungicide applications (under high hydropower lines, field corners and edges near trees, should be covered by ground applications.
- The late blight risk was low to moderate, and fungicides applications targeting late blight disease could be considered, even with protective-contact products. Local conditions which extend wet-leaf period should be considered if spray frequency is to be reduced.
 - In some fields, seven to nine fungicide applications have been made by ground or air.
 - In seed potato fields, up to four-five mineral oil sprays have been made, with or without insecticides for aphid control.

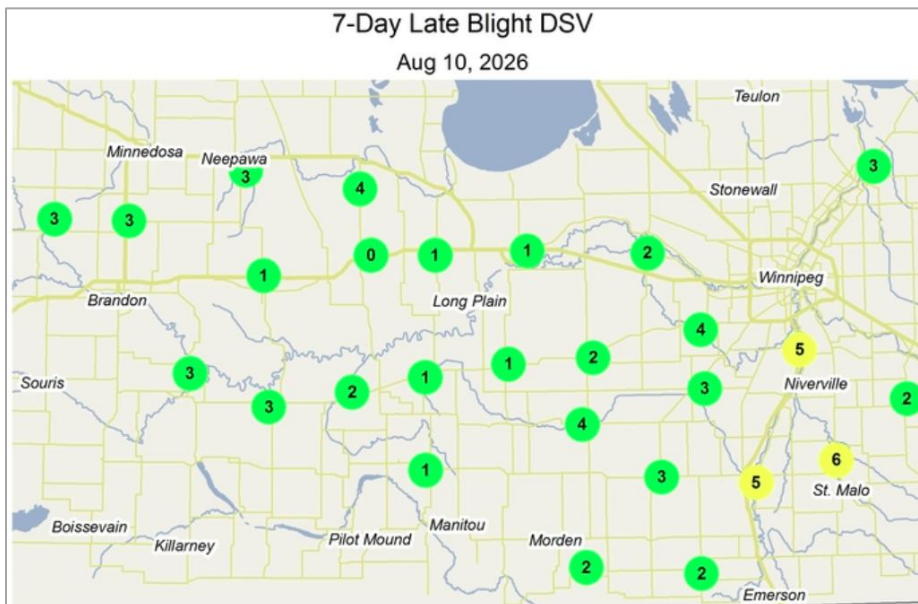


Fig. 6. 7-Day Cumulative Late Blight Disease Risk Values (DSVs) ranging from 0 to 4, in the potato growing areas, suggest low to moderate risk of late blight across the province, if the late blight inoculum was present.

- The P-Day values are now around 550 by Aug 9, at these P-Days levels the plants are in rapid bulking phase. These values are above the critical level for early blight risk, requiring targeted fungicide applications. Very low levels of early blight or brown spot have been reported so far.

- Due to high levels of aster leafhoppers (ALH) purple-top affected plants are being reported (Fig 7a). Purple-top disease is ALH transmitted phytoplasma disease. Higher numbers of potato leafhoppers are causing leaf-tip burn symptoms in many areas.
- Minor levels of Rhizoctonia root infection, white mold (early blight look-alike) on leaves within crop canopy can be seen in many fields. Verticillium wilt is appearing in more fields.
- Early signs of powdery scab root galls can be seen in many fields.
- Late blight risk maps, P-Days, and SprayCast maps are available <http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/index.cfm>.

Insect Pest Monitoring

Aphid monitoring using suction and pan traps have been set up in eight seed potato fields. The **Ninth** week's collection was done from Aug 4 -11. Following are the details of sampling and counts:

- **Ninth week (Aug 4 - 11)**
 - There was again another surge in the total aphid numbers, totalling 1,114.
- Potato aphid (PA) numbers nearly double compared to last week. PAs are efficient transmitters of potato viruses and are nearly as effective as green peach aphids.
- The total number of aphids trapped were higher than last week.
 - Colonizing Aphids:
 - No Green peach aphid
 - Nineteen Potato aphids (PA) were trapped from seven out of eight locations.
 - The Non-colonizing Aphids "Others":
 - The "Other" aphids were very high (=1095). The high numbers make up for the difference in transmission efficiency. Aphids leaving maturing crops like wheat, canola land in to green potato crops and by probing multiple plants lead to virus transmission.
 - Use of mineral oil is going to be helpful in reducing transmission.
- Thrips population has surged at some locations.
- This was the last week for European corn borer trapping. Only 1 of 6 sites trapped one adult.
- Aster Leafhoppers have surged in the province and hopper burn symptoms can be seen as tip burn. Potato Leafhoppers were found at only one location (Fig 7a). ALH transmits aster yellows, while PLH causes leaf-tip burns especially in plants under stress.
- Colorado potato beetle feeding damage has continued to be a concern in newer areas of Manitoba, despite many foliar insecticide applications (Fig 7b). It appears that CPB insecticide resistance is spreading in Manitoba.



Fig. 7a: There has been a surge in Aster leafhopper (ALH) trapping and reports from many areas in the province. ALH often lead to purple top of potatoes due to phytoplasma infection, Photo: Kyle Froese (Corduoy Farms). b: Colorado Potato beetle feeding damage in Arizona/Melbourne area. Photo: Kurtis McKee (JPW Farms).

Table 2. Weekly Aphid Report – Week 9 (Aug 4 - 11) 2026

Field #	Town	RM	Green Peach Aphid	Potato Aphid	Other Aphids	Total	ALH	PLH	Comments
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Southern Region

Field 1-H	Winker	Stanley	0	1	72	73	0	0	
Field 2-K	Stephenfield	Dufferin	0	0	30	30	0	2	
Field 3-S	Winkler	Rhineland	0	1	229	230	2	0	50 thrips

Central Region

Field 4-S	Holland	Victoria	0	8	266	274	0	0	40 Thrips
Field 5-S	Glenora	Argyle	0	3	163	166	0	0	Too many thrips to count
Field 6-S	Westbourne	Portage La Prairie	0	2	100	102	0	0	

Western Region

Field 7-A	Wellwood	North Cypress-Langford	0	2	224	226	0	0	50 thrips
Field 8-S	Carberry		0	2	11	13	0	0	Too many thrips to count
			0	19	1095	1114	2	2	

The aphid counts are a summation from a suction and traps.

- “ – “ indicates – samples not received till time of reporting.
- ALH = Aster leafhopper, PLH = Potato leafhopper

Table 3. Summary of All Sites - Weekly Aphid Counts:

Monitoring Period	Week #	Green Peach Aphid	Potato Aphid	Other Aphids	Total	ALH	PLH	Comments
Aug 4 - 11	Week 9	0	19	1095	1114	2	2	
July 27 to Aug 4	Week 8	0	10	296	304	17	7	
July 20 - 27	Week 7	0	19	16	35	2	4	
July 13 - 20	Week 6	0	7	14	21	3	8	
July 6 - 13	Week 5	0	1	20	21	6	5	
June 29 – July 6	Week 4	0	1	19	20	1	0	
June 22 - 29	Week 3	0	4	42	46	0	1	
June 15 -22	Week 2	0	11	69	80	1	1	
June 8 – 15	Week 1	0	0	0	3	3	0	

Growers and industry stakeholders, please report or submit for diagnosis, any disease or insect observations of importance. If you suspect late blight disease in your area, please contact vikram.bisht@gov.mb.ca

All reports and information will also be available at <http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/index.cfm> and also archived at [Province of Manitoba | agriculture - Potato Report](#).