

Issue 14 – August 7, 2026

Manitoba Potato Report



[Seasonal Reports](#) [Weekly Weather Maps](#) [Potato Production](#)

Provincial Summary

- The potato crops are in rapid bulking phases, with P-days over 500 in most potato growing areas with tuber size ranging from one to over 5-inches.
- Crop protection operations including fungicide and insecticide sprays have progressed well, for late blight, up to five to seven fungicides spray applications have been made.
- Late blight spores were detected at 7 sites across Manitoba from July 27 to August 4. No late blight disease has been reported in the province so far. Late blight risk is moderate to high.
- In the 8th week, the total aphid numbers saw a sudden surge. Ten Potato aphids but no green peach aphids were trapped from 8 sites. Sudden surge of Aster leafhoppers has been reported.

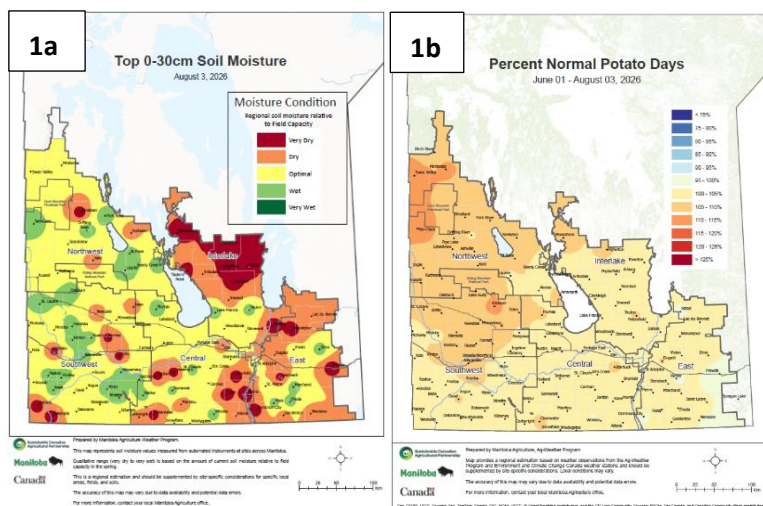
Ag Weather Data

Precipitation and Soil Moisture

- In the week, July 27-Aug 3, there was low and scattered showers across the province (Fig. 1, Fig. 2).
- Rainfall during the week was generally lower than the previous week and ranged from nearly zero mms in Rivers, Austin, Treherne to 14.9 mm in Altona across Manitoba's potato growing areas (Table 1). The cumulative precipitation (May 1 to Aug 3) as % of 30-year normal, ranged from ~70% (Altona, Portage, and Treherne) up to 139% (Wawanesa) (Table 1, Fig. 2).
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf>.
- By Aug 3, the soils at the 0-30 cm depths in potato growing areas were generally "optimal", with 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 3, soil moisture relative to field capacity at the 0-30 cm depth indicated generally "optimal" but with few "dry to very dry" areas in potato-growing regions. At the 120 cm depth, soils were wet to optimal (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.



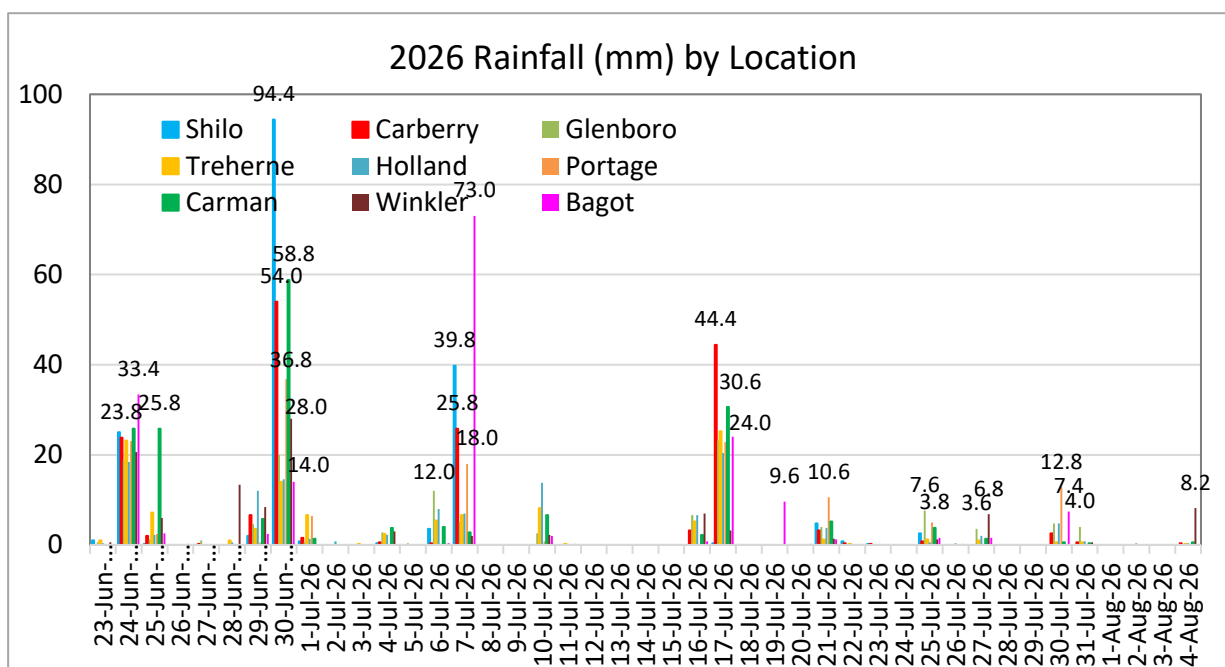


Fig. 2. Rainfall after mid-July was scattered across the potato growing areas of the province.

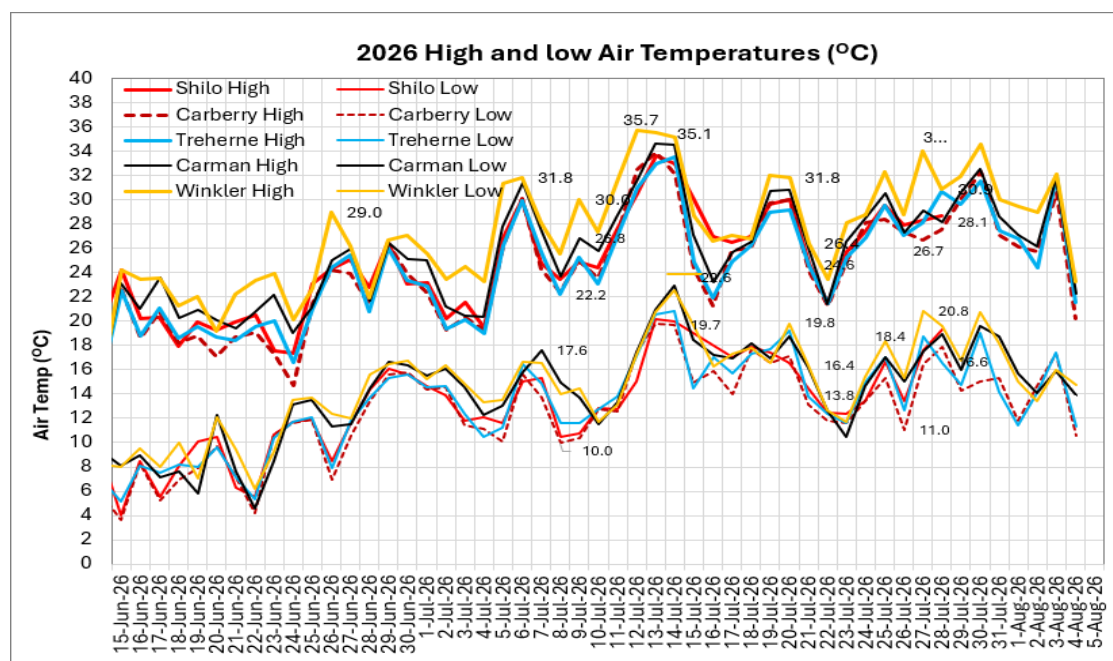


Fig. 3. Daytime temperatures peaked on Aug 3 reaching 32°C in some sites and nighttime temperatures were ranging from 11 to 14°C in the potato-growing areas.

Temperatures – Air and Soil

- The week's daytime and overnight temperatures were 3-4 °C warmer than last week,
- In the week, July 27 to Aug 3, the daytime temperature highs in the selected potato growing areas were hot and ranged from 32 to nearly 35°C (Table 1, Fig. 3). Overnight lows were similar to last week, and ranged from nearly 11-14°C (Table 1, Fig. 3). Daytime temperatures over 30 °C are not favourable for rapid plant growth, tuberization and bulking; often leading to stressed plant responses like heat runners and tuber sprouting.

- The Cumulative heat (Growing Degree Days, GDD base 5°C) ranged from 104 to 116% of 30-year normal (Table 1). By Aug 3, the cumulative Potato Heat Units (P-Days) nearly 500 and just above at many potato growing areas and were 100 to 110% of 30-year normal (Fig. 1b).

Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – July 26 – Aug 3

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	34.3	13.7	14.9	172	70	109	499
Austin	33.4	12.6	0.2	224	107	111	506
Bagot	32.2	12.8	7.4	252	114	111	504
Carberry EC	33.2	10.9	3.2	194	85	112	496
Carman	32.5	13.9	1.4	264	109	112	506
Glenboro	33.1	12.0	8.4	195	89	114	497
Holland	33.1	11.5	5.6	203	83	113	502
Morden	34.8	14.7	0.9	190	80	111	-
Portage EC	33.0	13.3	6.9	170	75	113	510
Rivers	32.9	11.2	0.0	290	125	112	509
Shilo	32.0	11.6	11.5	240	115	104	492
St. Claude	33.4	13.8	1.2	227	92	111	513
Treherne	32.0	11.4	0.8	170	70	108	498
Wawanesa	33.0	11.4	2.5	303	139	113	493
Winkler	34.6	13.4	8.5	267	107	116	497

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 4, in most fields, the potato canopy ground cover was generally 100%. Potato crops have started to settle down on the ground, increasing humidity within crop canopy. Stem rot can often be noticed in such fields.
- The crop growth and tuberization had slowed due to high daytime and nighttime temperatures. Many of the early planted, fields have up to 4-5 inch tubers (Fig. 4 a-c). Crops appear to be about 7 days behind last year's growth at the same time.
- Due to warmer temperatures in the last 2-3 weeks, irrigation is now needed in many areas. Heat and moisture stressed plants are producing heat runners and some tubers have developed new sprouts or become misshapen (Fig. 5).
- The late blight risk was moderate to high, and fungicides were applied targeting late blight disease. In some fields, six to seven fungicide applications have been made by ground or air. In seed potato fields, up to three-four mineral oil sprays were made with or without insecticides, for aphid control.
- There is a forecast for temperatures to cool down to around 22-25°C with mixed sun and cloudy conditions until Aug 12. Overnight temperatures are expected to be cooler, ranging from 9 to 13°C. [Manitoba - Weather Conditions and Forecast by Locations - Environment Canada](#). These temperatures differences are very favorable for rapid tuber bulking.

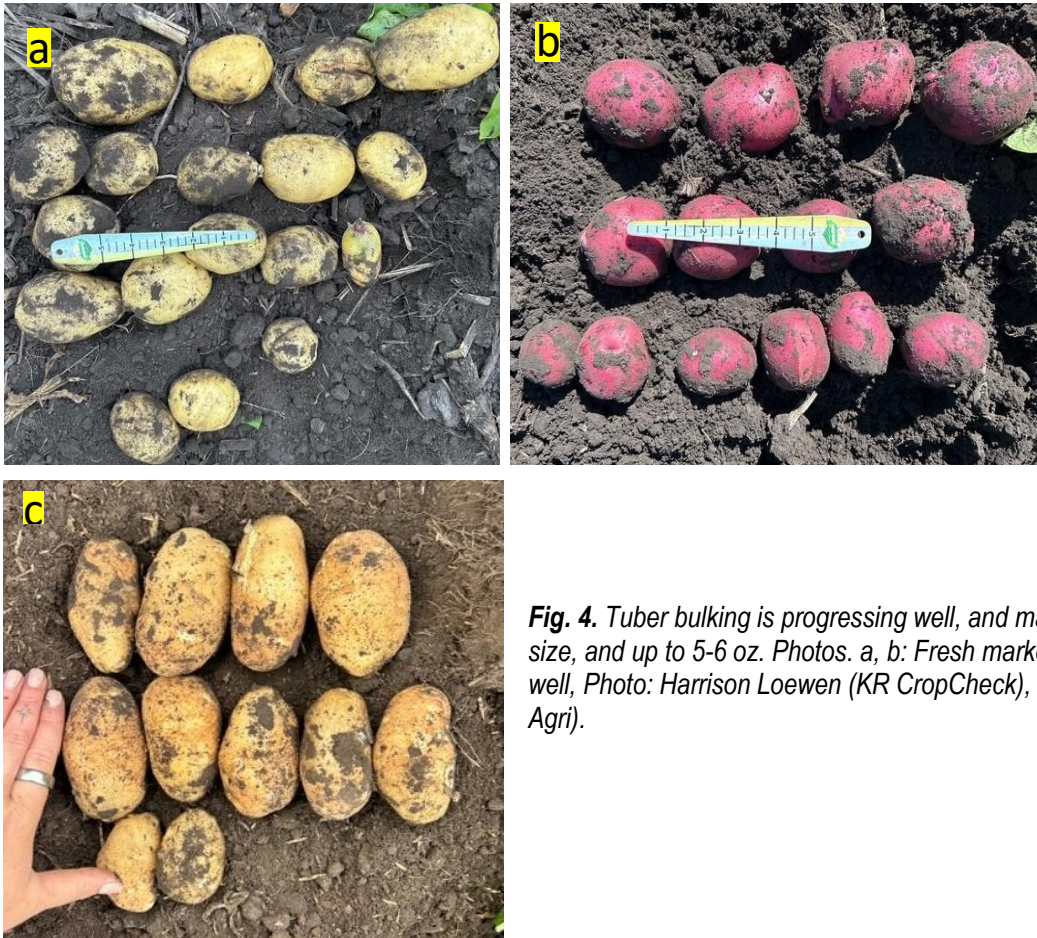


Fig. 4. Tuber bulking is progressing well, and many are now 4-5 inches in size, and up to 5-6 oz. Photos. a, b: Fresh market potatoes are sizing up well, Photo: Harrison Loewen (KR CropCheck), c: Janelle Lavich (Choice Agri).



Fig. 5. Heat stress sprouts on a new tuber before harvest. Kurtis McKee (JPW 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 July 27 to Aug 4 show accumulations from 5 to 9, indicating moderate to high risk of late blight (Fig. 6), if inoculum were present in the areas. At such high-risk

situations, fungicide applications are strongly recommended. Based on local risk assessment, protective fungicide application should be applied.

- 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 8th round of monitoring from July 27 to Aug 4 showed that *Phytophthora infestans* spores were trapped at 7 out of 13 monitoring sites, in Rivers, Carberry North, Glenboro, Cypress River, Melbourne, Bagot, and Carman areas. This marks the 5th consecutive week of positive spore detection in the province.
- As yet, no late blight has been reported in the province.
- 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).

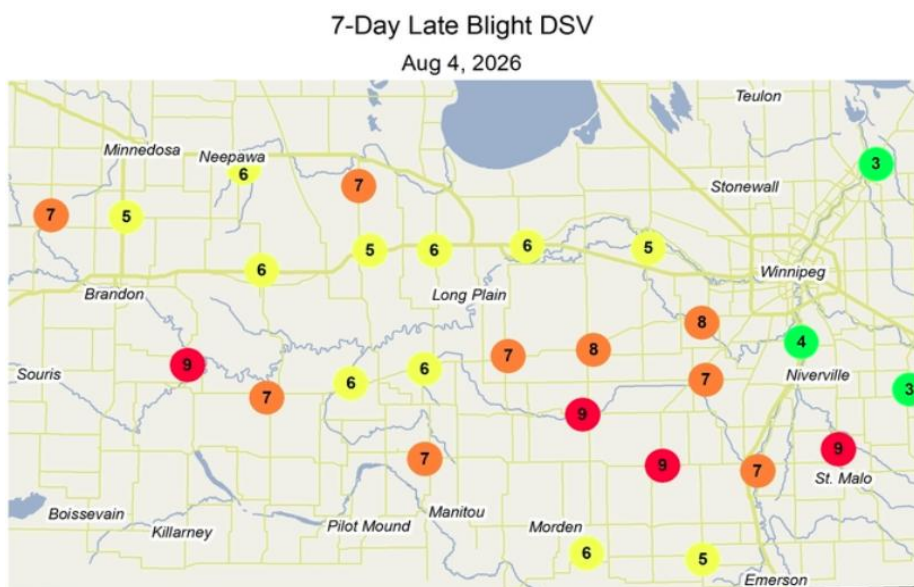


Fig. 6. 7-Day Cumulative Late Blight Disease Risk Values (DSVs) ranging from 5 to 9, in the potato growing areas, suggest moderate to high risk of late blight across the province, if the late blight inoculum was present.

- The P-Day values are now ranging from 500 to 522 by Aug 4, which is above the critical level for early blight risk, requiring targeted fungicide applications. At these P-Days levels the plants are in rapid bulking phase.
- Due to high levels of aster leafhoppers (ALH) purple-top affected plants are being reported. 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, early blight and white mold (early blight look-alike) on leaves within crop canopy can be seen in many fields. Early signs of verticillium wilt are being seen in fields (Fig. 7).
- Early signs of powdery scab root galls can be seen in many fields. Minor incidence of common scab has been noted in a few fields.
- Due to wet fields there are a few fields showing Iron Deficiency Chlorosis (IDC) symptoms.
- Late blight risk maps, P-Days, and SprayCast maps are available <http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/index.cfm>.



Fig. 7. *Verticillium wilt is starting to show up in some fields. Photo: Kurtis McKee (JPW Farms);*

Insect Pest Monitoring

Aphid monitoring using suction and pan traps have been set up in eight seed potato fields. The **Eighth** week's collection was done from July 27-Aug 4

Following are the details of sampling and counts:

- Eighth week (July 27- Aug 4)
 - Sudden surge in the total aphid numbers.
 - No jump in Potato aphid (PA) numbers. PAs are close to green peach aphids in virus transmission.
- The total number of aphids trapped were higher than last week.
 - Colonizing Aphids:
 - No Green peach aphid
 - Ten Potato aphids (PA) were trapped from four of eight locations.
 - The Non-colonizing Aphids "Others":
 - The "Other" aphids were very high. The high numbers make up for the difference in transmission efficiency. Use of mineral oil is going to be helpful in reducing transmission.
- Thrips population has surged at some locations.
- Aster Leafhoppers have surged in the province (Fig. 8) and hopper burn symptoms can be seen as tip burn. Potato Leafhoppers (PLH) were found at only one location.
- ALH transmits aster yellows, while PLH causes leaf-tip burns especially in plants under stress.



Fig. 8 a-c. 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 phytosplasma infection. c: Potato leafhoppers on the other hand cause leaf-tip burn. Photos: Greg Dyck (Crop Care).

Table. 2. Weekly Aphid Report – Week 8 (July 27 – Aug 4) 2026

Field #	Town	RM	Green Peach Aphid	Potato Aphid	Other Aphids	Total	ALH	PLH	Comments
Southern Region									
Field 1-H	Winker	Stanley	0	0	22	22	0	0	
Field 2-K	Stephenfield	Dufferin	0	0	27	27	16	7	
Field 3-S	Winkler	Rhineland	0	3	22	23	0	0	
Central Region									
Field 4-S	Holland	Victoria	0	5	73	78	0	0	Too many thrips to count
Field 5-S	Glenora	Argyle	0	0	115	115	0	0	Too many thrips to count
Field 6-S	Westbourne	Portage La Prairie	0	1	22	23	1	0	
Western Region									
Field 7-A	Wellwood	North Cypress-Langford	0	0	2	2	0	0	
Field 8-S	Carberry		0	1	13	14	0	0	Too many thrips to count
			0	10	296	304	17	7	

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. 2. Weekly Aphid Report – **Week 7 (June 20 - 27) 2026**

Table 3. Summary of All Sites - Weekly Aphid Counts

Monitoring Period	Week #	Green Peach Aphid	Potato Aphid	Other Aphids	Total	ALH	PLH	Comments
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](#).