

# Issue 16 – August 20, 2026

## Manitoba Potato Report



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### Provincial Summary

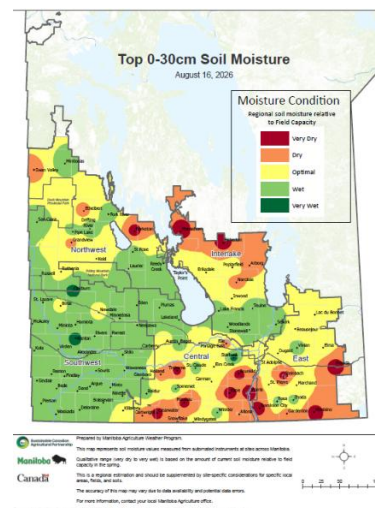
- The potato crops are in rapid bulking phases, with P-days over 600 in most potato growing areas. The tuber size has reached up to over 5-inches (10-14 oz) in many more fields.
- Crop protection operations including fungicide and insecticide sprays have progressed well; and for late blight and early blight control seven to nine fungicide spray applications have been made by ground or air.
- No late blight spores were detected at any monitoring site across Manitoba during the August 11 to 17 monitoring period. No late blight disease has been reported in the province so far. Late blight risk was low to high in the week across the province.
- In the 10<sup>th</sup> week, there was record major surge in total aphid numbers trapped. Also, two Green peach and 25 Potato aphids were trapped from 8 sites. Aster leafhoppers have also increased in some areas.

### Ag Weather Data

#### Precipitation and Soil Moisture

- During the week of Aug 10 to 16, precipitation was higher in the western potato-growing regions of Manitoba, ranging from 20 mm at Holland to 73 mm at Rivers. In contrast, eastern potato-growing areas received lower amounts, ranging from 1.9 mm at Altona to 8.8 mm at Carman (Table 1, Fig. 2). Cumulative precipitation from May 1 to August 16 expressed as a % of the 30-year normal, ranged from 65% at Altona to more than 140% at Rivers and Wawanesa (Table 1, Fig. 2).  
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf>.
- By Aug 16 the soils at the 0-30 cm depths in potato growing areas had become generally wet on the western side of the province, while on the eastern side the soils had “optimal” with large pockets of “dry to very dry” moisture, based on Soil Moisture Relative to Field Capacity (Fig. 1).  
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf>.

*Fig. 1. By Aug 16, soil moisture relative to field capacity at the 0-30 cm depth was generally wet on the western side of the province, while the eastern side was drier, ranging from “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).*



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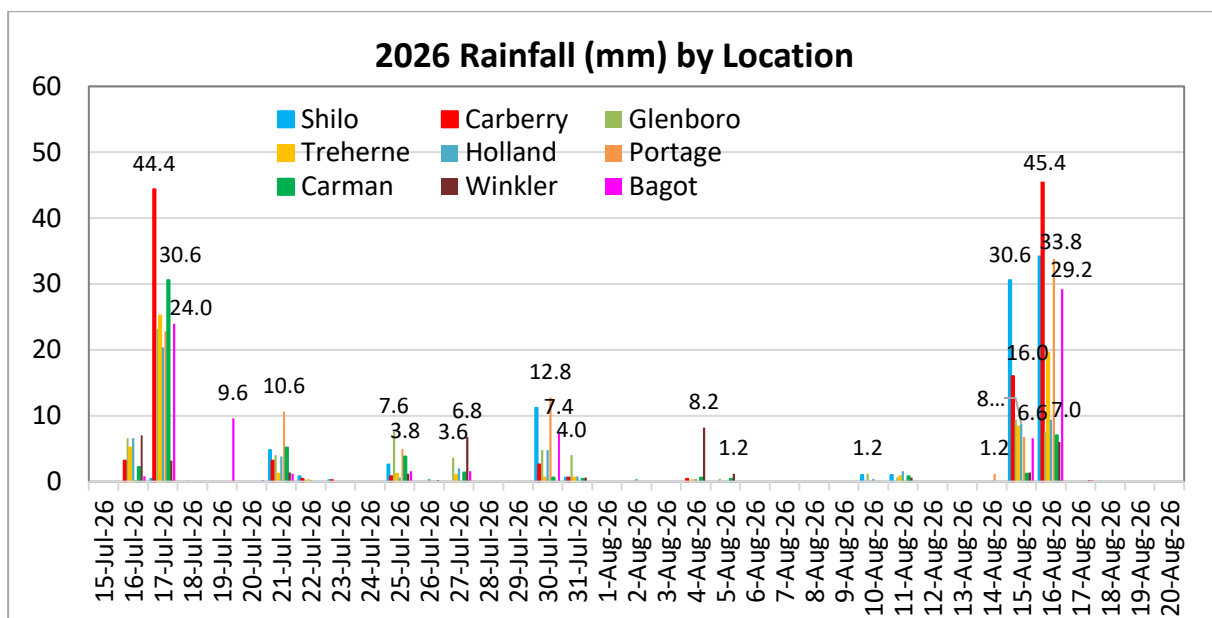


Fig. 2. Rainfall after mid-July was scant across the potato growing areas of the province. Practically no rainfall since Aug 1. There were scattered rains on Aug 13-15. (time-stamped 24 hrs later).

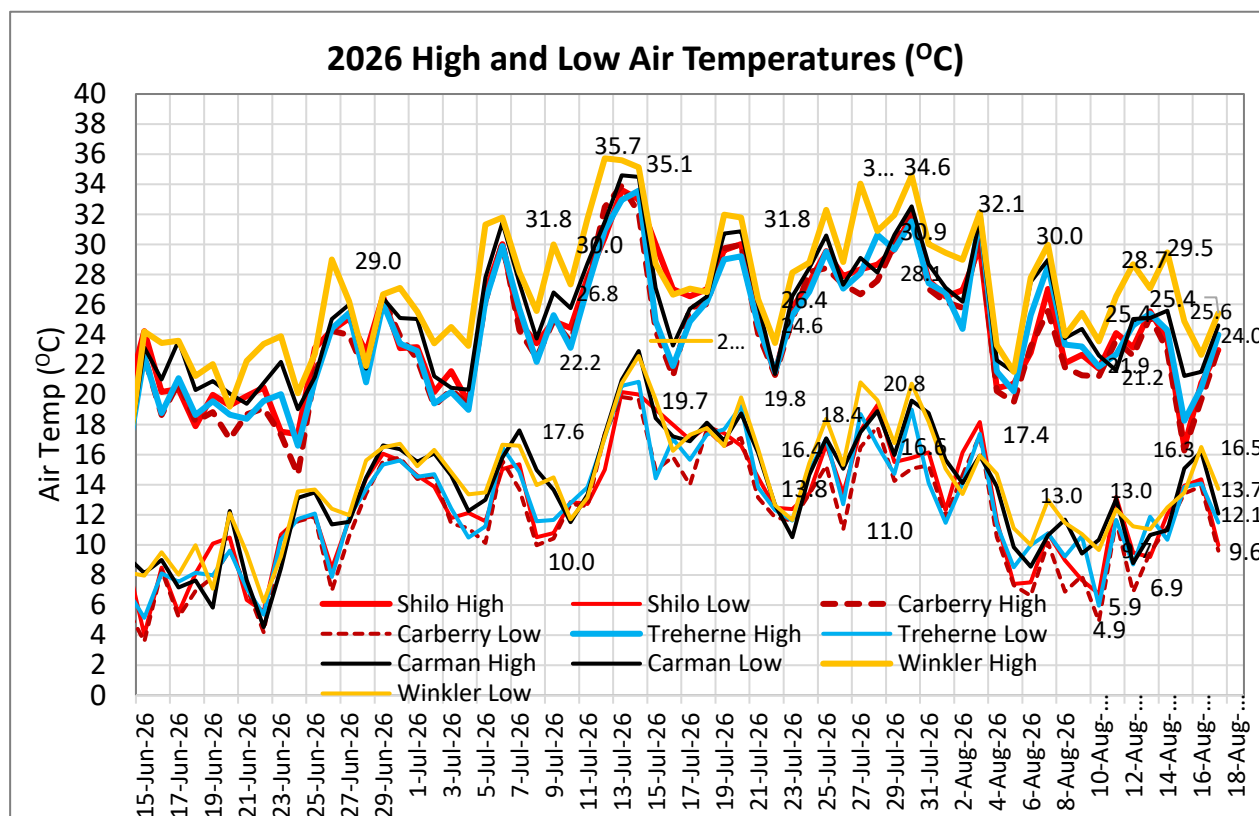


Fig. 3: Daytime temperatures peaked on Aug 14, reaching the mid-20s°C at most sites, and 29.5°C at Winkler. Since then, the temperatures have decreased to the low 20s°C. Nighttime temperatures in potato-growing areas have ranged from 10 to 16°C. These day-night temperature differences favour rapid bulking of tubers.

## Temperatures – Air and Soil

- The week Aug 10 to 16, the daytime temperatures were 2-4 °C cooler than last week. The daytime temperature highs in the selected potato growing areas ranged from 24.3 °C to 26.8 °C (Table 1, Fig. 3). Overnight lows were similar to last week and ranged from 7.7 °C to 12.9 °C (Table 1, Fig. 3). The week's day-night temperature differential was very favourable for rapid bulking on tubers (Fig. 4).
- The Cumulative heat (Growing Degree Days, GDD base 5 °C) ranged from 101 to 114% of 30-year normal (Table 1). By Aug 16, the cumulative Potato Heat Units (P-Days) was nearly 600 or above at many potato growing areas and were 100 to 110% of 30-year normal. By the 18<sup>th</sup> the P-Day values are closer to 625. In most potato areas. The P-Day values indicate that crops are in rapid bulking stage.

**Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – Aug 10 - 16**

| 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) | Crop Water Demand (mm) Jun 1 to Aug 16 | P-Days (June 1 to Aug 16) |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Altona      | 26.2          | 10.2          | <b>1.9</b>                 | 176                         | 65                                      | 107               | <b>237.5</b>                           | 606                       |
| Austin      | 25.3          | 9.4           | 32.8                       | 257                         | 109                                     | 107               | 240.7                                  | 613                       |
| Bagot       | 26.8          | 9.2           | 35.6                       | 287                         | 114                                     | 107               | 244.7                                  | 609                       |
| Carberry EC | 25.9          | <b>7.7</b>    | 64.2                       | 258                         | 102                                     | 108               | 184.7                                  | 590                       |
| Carman      | 25.6          | 8.8           | 8.8                        | 273                         | 101                                     | 109               | 182.2                                  | 612                       |
| Glenboro    | 25.3          | 8.5           | 18.0                       | 214                         | 88                                      | 110               | 213.5                                  | 598                       |
| Holland     | 25.0          | 8.7           | 20.2                       | 223                         | 83                                      | 109               | <b>244.1</b>                           | 604                       |
| Morden      | 25.9          | <b>12.9</b>   | 6.3                        | 197                         | 75                                      | 109               | -                                      | -                         |
| Portage EC  | 25.0          | 12.1          | 39.2                       | 209                         | 83                                      | 110               | <b>236.2</b>                           | 620                       |
| Rivers      | 24.7          | <b>7.7</b>    | <b>73.1</b>                | 365                         | 140                                     | 108               | 207.6                                  | 602                       |
| Shilo       | 25.6          | 9.2           | 63.0                       | 304                         | 131                                     | <b>101</b>        | 221.7                                  | 591                       |
| St. Claude  | 24.3          | 10.9          | 34.5                       | 262                         | 96                                      | 108               | 243.5                                  | <b>623</b>                |
| Treherne    | 25.4          | 8.7           | 28.2                       | 198                         | 74                                      | 105               | <b>208.7</b>                           | 600                       |
| Wawanesa    | 25.5          | 7.9           | 36.9                       | 341                         | 141                                     | 108               | 209.0                                  | 592                       |
| Winkler     | <b>29.5</b>   | 11.1          | 7.6                        | 275                         | 100                                     | <b>114</b>        | 240.6                                  | 604                       |

For more Manitoba weather information, visit: [www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather](http://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](http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/cwd.cfm)

P-Days: [www.mbpotatoes.ca/pday.cfm](http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/pday.cfm)

## Crop Progress

- In most fields, the potatoes are in rapid bulking phase, good rains and day-night temperature differentials are favourable for rapid bulking.
- Potato crops have started to settle down on the ground, increasing humidity within crop canopy. The compact canopy also reduces fungicide penetration deeper into the canopy.
- With the week's rain, especially Aug 13 to 15, the within canopy has become more humid in many fields increasing aerial stem rot and white mold in such fields.
- The cumulative Crop Water Demand (CWD) (<http://mbpotatoes.ca/cwd>) at many of the potato weather station sites (Table 1) shows that many sites had higher CWD than rainfall received. Irrigation and fertigation are continuing in many fields.
- Many more fields have up to 5 to 6-inch tubers, some measuring up to 14 oz (Fig. 4). One large tuber was measured at over 550 g (19.4 oz). Later planted fields are catching up. But most of the crops appear to be a week behind last year.
- There is a forecast for daytime high temperatures to remain around mid to high 20s °C at different potato areas. Overnight temperatures are expected to be cooler, ranging from 7 to 14°C. These day-night

temperature differences are very favorable for rapid bulking of tubers. Mixed sun and cloudy conditions are forecast until Aug 24. There is forecast for scattered but low amounts of rainfall by Aug 21 and on Aug 24 in some areas. [Manitoba - Weather Conditions and Forecast by Locations - Environment Canada](#).



Fig. 4. Tuber bulking is progressing well, and many are now 4-6 inches in size, and up to 14 oz. One tuber was measured at >550 g (19.4 oz). Photos: a: Greg Dyck (Crop Care); b, c; Orla Sheridan (Shilo Farms); d: Kyle Froese (Corduoy Farms)

## Disease Monitoring

- Late blight risk forecasting will be provided on a regional basis at [www.mbpotatoes.ca](http://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 3 to 10, **indicating low to high risk of late blight** (Fig. 5), if inoculum were present in the areas. Fungicide applications are recommended, based on local risk assessments.
  - 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 10<sup>th</sup> round of monitoring from Aug 11 to 17 showed that no *Phytophthora infestans* spores were trapped at any of the monitoring sites.**
  - **As yet, no late blight has been reported in the province.** There is no other report of late blight from Michigan after Aug 12. No late blight has been reported from ND or MN.
  - 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 highly variable, from low to high at various potato areas. Fungicides applications targeting late blight disease should be considered, even with protective-contact products. Local conditions which extend wet-leaf period should be considered if spray frequency is to be reduced.

### 7-Day Late Blight DSV

Aug 18, 2026

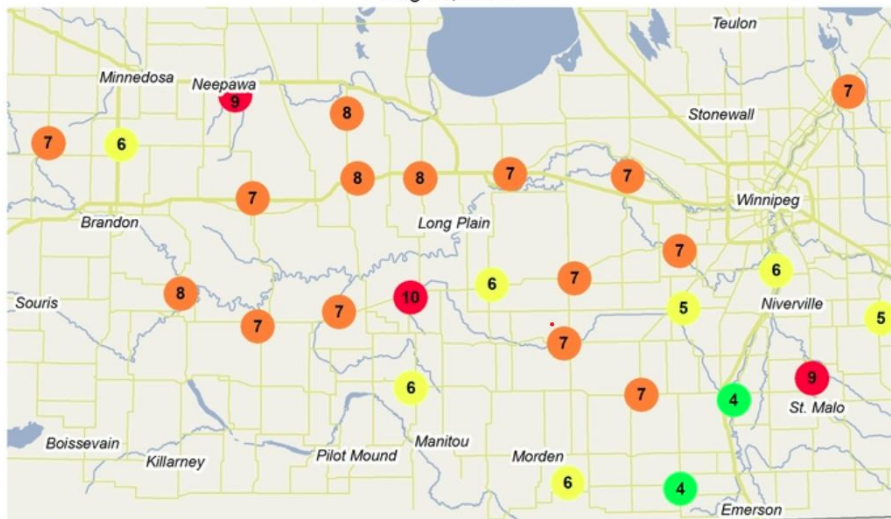


Fig. 5. 7-Day Cumulative Late Blight Disease Risk Values (DSVs) ranging from 4 to 10, in the potato growing areas, suggest low to high risk of late blight across the province, if the late blight inoculum was present. In the week 10 (Aug 11-17) of spore monitoring, no late blight spores were detected in the province.

- The P-Day values are now around 600 and over by Aug 16, 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, but generally low levels of early blight or brown spot have been reported so far.
- Due to high levels of aster leafhoppers (ALH) more purple-top affected plants are being reported. Purple-top disease is ALH transmitted phytoplasma disease.
- Crops settling on the ground, combined with rainfall from August 13 to 15, increased within-canopy moisture and prolonged wetness, leading to higher levels of white mold and aerial stem rot (Fig. 6).
- Verticillium wilt is appearing in more fields at higher levels. This is early for such levels.
- 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>.



Fig. 6. Low incidence of aster yellows (a), verticillium wilt (b), white mold(c) and black leg (d) are being reported in the last two-three weeks from many fields. Photos: a: Greg Dyck (Crop Care); b: and c: Kyle Froese (Corduroy Farms, d: Orla Sheridan (Shilo Farms);

## Insect Pest Monitoring

Aphid monitoring using suction and pan traps have been set up in eight seed potato fields. The **Tenth** week's collection was done from Aug 11-17. Following are the details of sampling and counts:

- **Tenth week (Aug 11 - 17)**
  - There was again another surge in the total aphid numbers, totalling 3,177. This is the highest ever single week aphid numbers trapped since last 12 years of my aphid monitoring in MB. The previous high number was in 2017 totalling nearly 1600 in a week, followed by 1565 in 2022.
- The total number of aphids trapped were higher than last week.
  - Colonizing Aphids:
    - Two Green peach aphid were trapped at one site.
    - Potato aphid (PA) numbers were much higher compared to last week. PAs are efficient transmitters of potato viruses and are nearly as effective as green peach aphids.
    - Twenty-five Potato aphids (PA) were trapped from seven out of eight locations.
  - The Non-colonizing Aphids "Others":
    - The "Other" aphids were very high (=3150) (Table 2, 3 and Fig. 7). 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 with insecticide is going to be helpful in reducing transmission.
- Thrips population has surged at some locations.
- Aster Leafhoppers (ALH) have continued to surge in some areas of the province. 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. It appears that CPB insecticide resistance is spreading.

*Table. 2. Weekly Aphid Report – Week 10 (Aug 11 - 17) 2026*

| Field #                | Town                | RM                     | Green Peach Aphid | Potato Aphid | Other Aphids | Total       | ALH      | PLH       | Comments                 |
|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|----------|-----------|--------------------------|
| <b>Southern Region</b> |                     |                        |                   |              |              |             |          |           |                          |
| Field 1-H              | <b>Winker</b>       | Stanley                | 0                 | 1            | 675          | 676         | 0        | 0         |                          |
| Field 2-K              | <b>Stephenfield</b> | Dufferin               | 0                 | 1            | 65           | 66          | 0        | 3         | Too many thrips to count |
| Field 3-S              | <b>Winkler</b>      | Rhineland              | 2                 | 1            | 385          | 388         | 0        | 1         | 60 thrips                |
| <b>Central Region</b>  |                     |                        |                   |              |              |             |          |           |                          |
| Field 4-S              | <b>Holland</b>      | Victoria               | 0                 | 14           | 643          | 657         | 0        | 0         | Too many thrips to count |
| Field 5-S              | <b>Glenora</b>      | Argyle                 | 0                 | 4            | 1155         | 1159        | 5        | 6         |                          |
| Field 6-S              | <b>Westbourne</b>   | Portage La Prairie     | 0                 | 3            | 14           | 17          | 0        | 0         |                          |
| <b>Western Region</b>  |                     |                        |                   |              |              |             |          |           |                          |
| Field 7-A              | <b>Wellwood</b>     | North Cypress-Langford | 0                 | 1            | 169          | 170         | 0        | 1         | Too many thrips          |
| Field 8-S              | <b>Carberry</b>     |                        | 0                 | 0            | 44           | 44          | 0        | 0         | Too many thrips          |
|                        |                     |                        | <b>2</b>          | <b>25</b>    | <b>3150</b>  | <b>3177</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>11</b> |                          |

*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 11 - 17       | Week 10 | 2                 | 25           | 3150         | 3177  | 5   | 11  |          |
| 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   |          |



*Fig. 7. Petri plate with over 500 aphids from one of the sites. Three sites had over 500 aphid counts in the traps. Photo: Ethan Friesen (Manitoba Agriculture),*

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](mailto: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](#).