

Issue 17 – August 27, 2026

Manitoba Potato Report



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Provincial Summary

- The potato crops are in rapid bulking phases to tuber maturation stages, with P-days around 650 in most potato growing areas. The tuber size has reached up to over 5-6 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 eight to ten 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 17 to 23 monitoring period. No late blight disease has been reported in the province so far. Late blight risk was low to moderate in the week across the province.
- In the 11th week of monitoring, total aphid numbers are the second highest recorded in this season. No Green peach aphids were detected and six Potato aphids were trapped from seven sites. Aster leafhoppers continue to be high in some areas, leading to higher purple-top disease. Colorado potato beetle continues to be a challenge.

Ag Weather Data

Precipitation and Soil Moisture

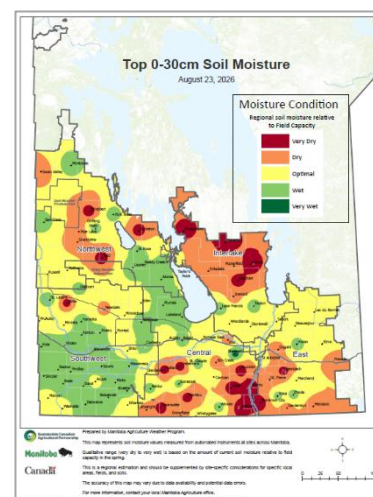
- During the week of Aug 17 to 23, there was practically no precipitation across the potato-growing regions of Manitoba, ranging from 0 to 4.4 mm (Table 1, Fig. 2). Cumulative precipitation from May 1 to August 16 expressed as a % of the 30-year normal, ranged from 61% at Altona to more than 135% at Rivers and Wawanesa. A few selected areas, like Austin, Bagot, Rivers, Shilo and Wawanesa were still above normal for total rainfall. (Table 1, Fig. 2).

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf>.

- By Aug 23, 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 23, soil moisture relative to field capacity at the 0-30 cm depth was generally optimal in the province, 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).



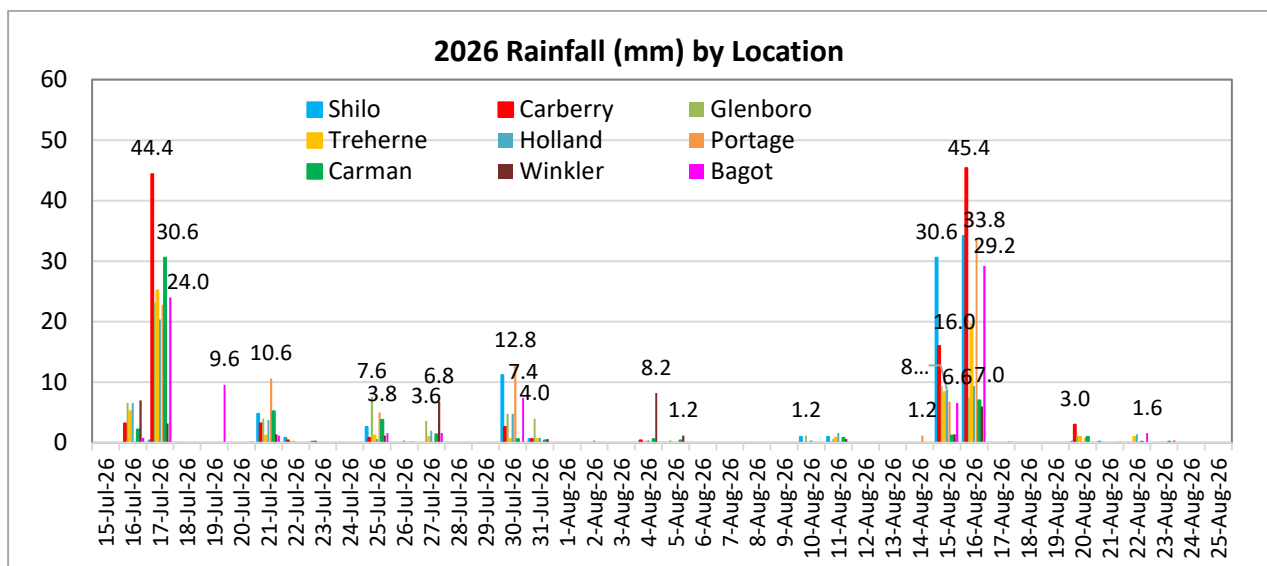


Fig. 2. Rainfall after mid-July was scant across the potato growing areas of the province. There were scattered rains on Aug 13-15. (time-stamped 24 hrs later). Practically no rainfall since Aug 15.

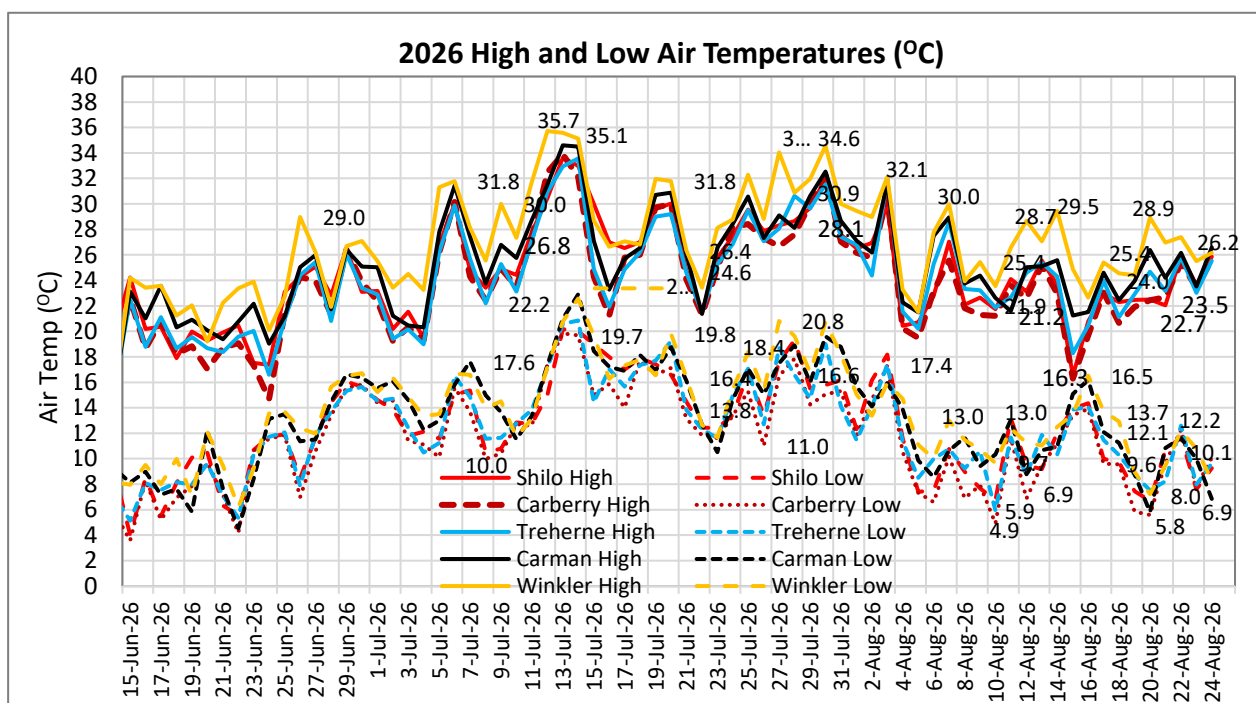


Fig. 3: In the week Aug 17-23, the daytime temperatures peaked on Aug 20, reaching the mid-20s °C at most sites, and 28.9°C at Winkler. Nighttime temperatures in potato-growing areas have ranged from 5.8 to 12.2°C. These day-night temperature differences favour rapid bulking of tubers.

Temperatures – Air and Soil

- The week Aug 17 to 23, the daytime temperatures were similar to last week. The daytime temperature highs in the selected potato growing areas ranged from 24.7°C to 28.9°C (Table 1, Fig. 3). Overnight lows were cooler than last week and ranged from 5.8°C (Carman) to 9.6°C (St. Claude) (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) was just about normal, and ranged from 101 to 113% of 30-year normal (Table 1). By Aug 24, the cumulative Potato Heat Units (P-Days) was nearly 650 or above in the potato growing areas and were 100 to 110% of 30-year normal. The P-Day values indicate that most potato crops are now in tuber maturation stage.

Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – Aug 17 - 23

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 24	P-Days (June 1 to Aug 23)
Altona	27.6	6.4	0.3	176	61	106	267.9	660
Austin	25.9	8.4	4.4	261	107	107	272.2	670
Bagot	25.5	7.1	2.0	289	111	106	273.4	663
Carberry EC	26.6	6.2	2.1	260	98	107	210.6	640
Carman	26.6	5.8	0.9	274	96	108	205.0	667
Glenboro	27.4	6.5	1.1	215	85	109	240.6	648
Holland	26.6	6.1	1.7	225	81	107	274.4	653
Morden	26.9	9.2	0.0	197	70	108	-	-
Portage EC	25.8	8.1	1.2	211	79	109	266.0	678
Rivers	24.7	6.9	1.4	366	134	106	233.2	651
Shilo	25.9	6.7	0.4	304	126	100	249.7	642
St. Claude	25.6	9.6	1.9	264	92	107	272.0	681
Treherne	25.8	7.5	1.6	200	71	103	237.8	653
Wawanesa	26.5	6.3	0.0	341	135	107	233.8	643
Winkler	28.9	7.2	0.0	275	94	113	271.7	659

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

- In most fields, potatoes are transitioning into tuber maturation phase. The current day-night temperature differentials are favourable for rapid bulking for later planted crops.
- With lack of rainfall in the week, the within canopy relative humidity has dropped, drying up stem rot and white mold infections.
- The cumulative Crop Water Demand (CWD) (<http://mbpotatoes.ca/cwd>) at many of the potato weather station sites (Table 1) have increased but still covered by the cumulative of the rainfall during the same period at many sites. Irrigation and fertigation have been stopped in all fields.
- Many more fields have up to 5 to 6-inch tubers, some measuring up to 10-12 oz. Rangers, Dakota Russet, Ivory Russet tubers appear with better shape profile than some Russet Burbank fields – which appear affected by heat and high moisture stress in June and early July (Fig. 4.)
- **As in 2025, we will have competition for the largest tuber harvested. Last year, the top tuber sizes were 4 lbs and over** (Fig. 5).
- Harvesting has started at some farms for “direct-from-field” to processors.
- 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 8 to 15°C. These day-night temperature differences are very favorable for rapid bulking of tubers. Partially sunny days are forecast from Aug 27 to Sep 1 with daytime highs up to 27°C in various potato growing areas of Manitoba.

Scattered rainfall is forecast at many places on Aug 28, 30 and 31 in many areas of the province.
[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, though Russet Burbank has variable size profile. Photos: a, b: Michele Blyth (Crop Care), c: Riley Francis (UTH Farms),



Fig. 5. Largest tuber reported in 2025 was 64.8 oz (4.05 lbs or 1.837 kg)

Disease Monitoring

- Late blight risk forecasting is 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 17 to 24 show accumulations from 3 to 6, **indicating low to moderate risk of late blight** (Fig. 6), 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 11th round of monitoring from Aug 17 to 24 showed that *Phytophthora infestans* spores were trapped at three of the seven monitoring sites included in the final round of monitoring.**
 - This was the last week of late blight spore monitoring.
 - **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 North Dakota or Minnesota.
 - 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. 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.

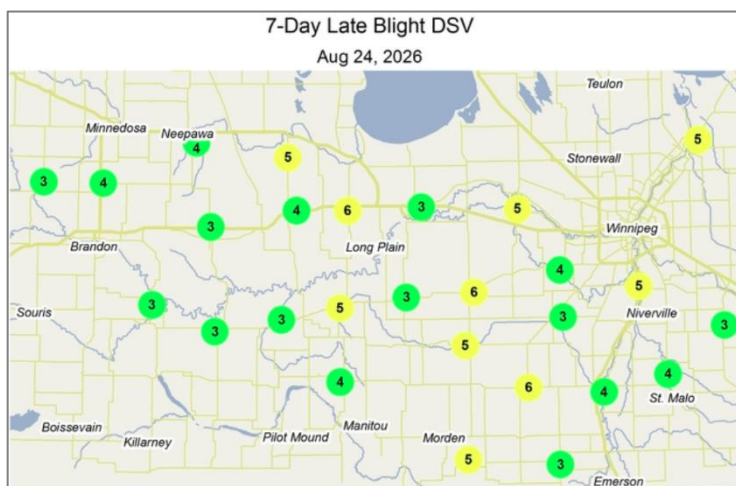


Fig. 6. 7-Day Cumulative Late Blight Disease Risk Values (DSVs) ranging from 3 to 6, in the potato growing areas, suggest low to moderate risk of late blight across the province, if the late blight inoculum was present. In the week 11 (Aug 17-24) of spore monitoring, late blight spores were detected at three sites in the province.

- The P-Day values are now around 650 and over by Aug 24, at these P-Day levels the plants are in tuber maturation 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. (Fig 7 a) 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 grey mold and white mold on wet stems (Fig. 7 b, c). Blackleg and aerial stem rot continuing to show up.
- Verticillium wilt is appearing in more fields but not very extensive (Fig. 7 e, f). Early rains and good soil moisture may have helped keep the early die complex low.
- Powdery scab root galls (Fig. 7 d) are now showing up in many fields.
- Late blight risk maps, P-Days, and SprayCast maps are available <http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/index.cfm>.





Fig. 7. Low incidence of aster yellows (a), grey mold (b), white mold producing sclerotia within stem (c), powdery scab root gall (d), verticillium wilt low incidence (e) and flagging of verticillium infected branch of the plant (f) are being reported in the last two-three weeks from many fields. Photos: a: Greg Dyck (Crop Care); b-f: Vikram Bisht (Manitoba Agriculture).

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:

- **Eleventh week (Aug 17-24)**
 - One seed field was already desiccated, and thus no aphid samples were received.
 - **There was again a very high trap count, totaling 2,293, which is the second highest weekly trap count for this season (Tables 2 and 3).**
 - **This is the second 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.
 - Use of mineral oil with insecticide is going to be helpful in reducing transmission
- The total number of aphids trapped was much higher than last week.
 - Colonizing Aphids:
 - **No Green peach aphids (GPA)** were trapped this week.
 - **Potato aphid (PA) numbers were much lower compared to last week.** PAs are efficient transmitters of potato viruses and are nearly as effective as GPAs.
 - **Only 6 Potato aphids (PA) were trapped** from four out of seven locations.
 - The Non-colonizing Aphids "Others":
 - The "Other" aphids were very high (=2,287).
 - 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.
- Aster Leafhoppers has continued to be high in some areas of the province and more purple-top is being reported from those areas.
- Colorado potato beetle feeding damage has continued to be a concern in newer areas of Manitoba, despite many foliar insecticide applications. Various CPB stages – from eggs to adults are still present in many fields. It appears that CPB insecticide resistance is spreading.

Table 2. Weekly Aphid Report – Week 11 (Aug 17 - 24) 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	0	286	286	0	0	
Field 2-K	Stephenfield	Dufferin	0	2	178	180	2	5	
Field 3-S	Winkler	Rhineland	0	0	461	461	1	0	

Central Region

Field 4-S	Holland	Victoria	0	1	1064	1065	4	8	
Field 5-S	Glenora	Argyle	0	0	245	245	1	0	
Field 6-S	Westbourne	Portage La Prairie	0	1	32	33	1	1	

Western Region

Field 7-A	Wellwood	North Cypress-Langford	0	-	-	0	-	-	
Field 8-S	Carberry		0	2	21	23	0	0	
			0	6	2287	2293	9	14	

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 17 - 24	Week 11	0	6	2287	2293	9	14	
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	

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](#).