

Issue 23 – October 19, 2023

Manitoba Potato Report



Weekly Provincial Summary

- The week (Oct. 9 - 15) was much cooler than last week with daytime highs ranging from 14.5 to 17.7°C, and the overnight lows ranged from -0.4°C to 5.5°C in various potato areas. Frost was recorded on October 9-11 and again on October 15-16.
- There was practically no rainfall recorded across Manitoba.

Overview

- In potato growing areas, daytime high temperatures ranged from 14.5 to 17.7°C, which was much cooler than last week.
- The overnight minimum temperatures ranged from -0.4°C to -5.5°C, and colder than last week. Frost damage to potatoes was reported in a couple of fields. This week in 2022 had severe freezing temperatures ranging from -3 to -8.7°C.
- There was practically no rainfall recorded in the week across Manitoba, making harvesting easier.
- Almost all of Manitoba potato acres have been harvested, with possibility of last few acres to be harvested by October 19/20. A few farms have decided to not harvest all their planted acres, due to better than expected yields.
- Regular weekly reports and other features will also be available at: <http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/index.cfm>.

Ag Weather Data

Precipitation and Soil Moisture

- There was practically no precipitation across Manitoba in the week (Table 1). The widespread rains last week had mellowed the soil for good harvest conditions.
- The cumulative precipitation for the growing season to-date is still much below normal, mostly ranging from 49 to 69%; with the exception of Rivers (84%) (Table 1). <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf>
- The soil moisture status in the province is now optimum in potato areas, with some on the wet side. (Fig. 1). <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf>. This moisture could be useful for next year's crop.

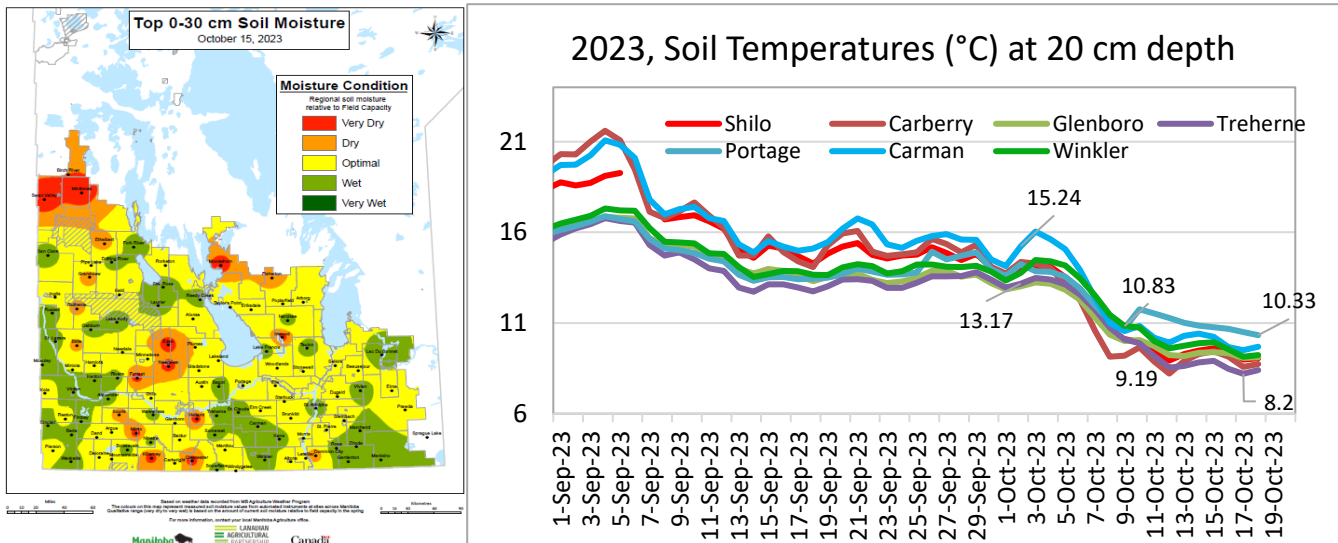


Fig. 1. (Left). Soil moisture condition relative to field capacity (0-30 cm depth) by October 15 improved to generally optimum to wet in many potato areas.

Fig.2. (Right) Soil temperatures by Oct 15 at 30 cm depth at selected potato areas weather stations have cooled down after a couple of overnight freezing temperatures on October 9-11 and 14-15..

Temperatures – Air & Soil

- In potato growing areas, the daytime high temperatures ranged from 14.5 to 17.7°C, which was much cooler than last week (Table 1). The overnight lows ranged from -0.4 to -5.5°C areas, and created risk for unharvested fields.
- Soil temperatures at 30 cm depth have now gone down to 8 to 10°C (Fig. 2), after a few nights of freezing air temperatures in many potato areas by October 8-11 & 15th.

Weather Data Summary for Selected Potato Site Stations

For more Manitoba weather information, visit: www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather

Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – Oct 9 - 15 for selected potato growing areas.

Region	Max Temp (°C)	Min Temp (°C)	Rain (mm) for the week	Rain (Since May 1) (mm)	2023 Rainfall (% of normal) from May 1 to Oct 15
Altona	15.1	-3.2	0	175	49
Austin	15.4	-2.9	0	212	61
Bagot	15.5	-4.2	0	181	52
Carberry EC	15.4	-4.5	0	192	59
Carman	15.3	-1.3	0	239	69
Cypress River	15.1	-4.1	0	185	51
Glenboro	15.0	-5.2	0	212	62
Holland	15.0	-4.2	0	199	54
Morden	15.2	-0.4	0	152	42
Portage EC	15.4	-2.0	0	187	54
Rivers	14.7	-1.7	0	246	84
Shilo	14.5	-2.9	0	Missing data	-
St. Claude	14.6	-1.5	0	214	63

Treherne	14.5	-3.8	0	147	43
Wawanesa	15.2	-5.5	0	225	69
Winkler	17.7	-2.5	0	204	57

* Shilo weather station was down from Aug 10 to 24. Crop Water Demand: cwd (www.mbpotatoes.ca)

Crop Progress

- Harvest for storage is coming to an end, with over 98% of Manitoba potato acres estimated to have been harvested. All farms are expected to finish their harvest by this weekend, October 20. This harvest season has been generally very good weather wise, unlike some of the previous years.
- Though freezing overnight temperatures on Oct 8-11 and 14-15 were not severe enough for well buried tubers, some exposed and near surface tubers did suffer frost damage in a couple of fields and are clearly seen after 2-3 days in storage (Fig. 3). It will be important to monitor such storage(s) and/or process them soon.
- Over 800 acres of potatoes may be left unharvested partly out of growers choice resulting from better than projected yields.



Fig.3. Overnight freezing temperatures had affected a few fields which had not been harvested by Oct. 9-11 and then Oct. 14-15.

Weather Forecast

- Rains: There is forecast ([Weather \(mbpotatoes.ca\)](http://Weather(mbpotatoes.ca)) and <https://weather.gc.ca/>) for light rain/drizzle around October 20-21.
- Temperature: Currently, there is overnight freezing temperatures (-6 to -7°C) forecast around October 23-24.

This is the last report for the 2023 season.

I take this opportunity to thank the industry agronomists: Scott Graham, Leon Jarvis, Tavis Mangin & Jack Large (Simplot), Mitch Wright (McCain Foods), Steve Saunderson, Janelle Lavich (Choice-Agri), Orla Sheridan (Shilo farms), Trevor Thornton & Greg Dyck (Crop Care), Doug Pryor, Daylen Moir, Darren White (Delta Ag), Kurtis McKee (JP Wiebe Farms), Kurt Ginter & Harrison Loewn (KR Crop Check), Kelvin Jarvis & Tyler Workman, (Jarvis Consulting), Devon Wilson (UTH farms), George Moir (Marginet Farms), Amy Unger (MHPEC), KPPA (Susan

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Finally a big thanks to WIN (Weather Innovation Consulting LP) for maintaining the website www.mbpotatoes.ca and support for late blight forecasting.
