

Issue 1 – May 9, 2025

Manitoba Potato Report



[Seasonal Reports](#)

[Weekly Weather Maps](#)

[Potato Production](#)

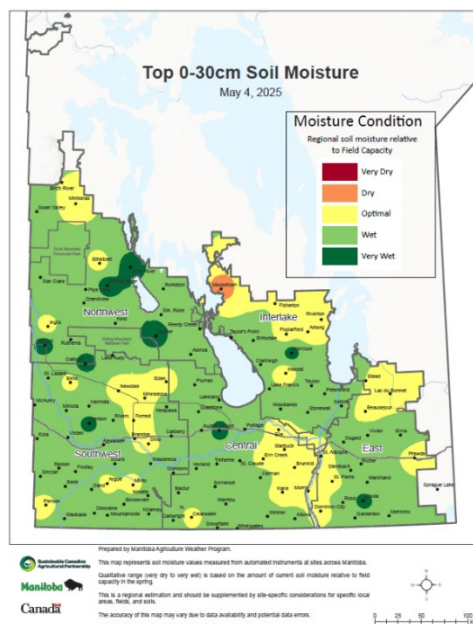
Provincial Summary

- Planting started on April 24, and is about 60% complete, ranging from 0 to 100% for various farms.
- Regular weekly reports and other features will be provided, including late blight risk forecasting, updates on disease and insect pests on potatoes, and control recommendations. All reports and information will also be available at <http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/index.cfm>.

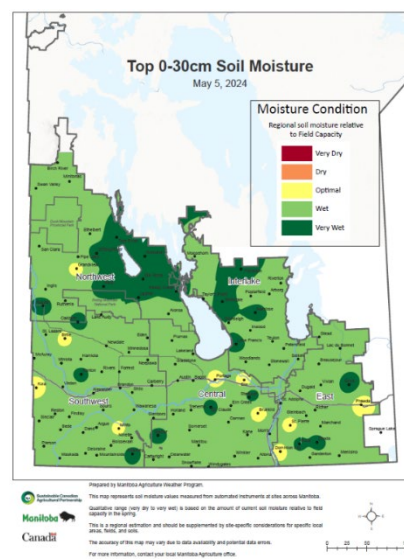
Ag Weather Data

Precipitation and Soil Moisture

- In 2025, the 30cm soil depth moisture is generally wet in potato growing areas, but there are some drier optimum moisture areas (Fig. 1a). In 2024 at the same time, the top 30cm was generally wet in the potato growing areas and across Manitoba (Fig. 1b). <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf>
- Precipitation (mm) in the first week of May 2025 was <50% of the normal (Fig. 2a, Table 1), While in 2024, it was above normal in the potato growing areas of the province for the same time (Fig. 2b), ranging from 203% (Carberry) to 474% (Altona) <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf>. There was substantial rainfall in some potato growing areas on April 22 and 23, but very little before or after that date (Fig. 3).



(1a)

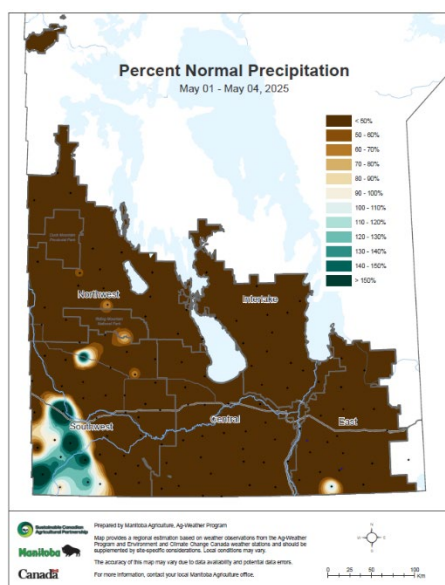


(1b)

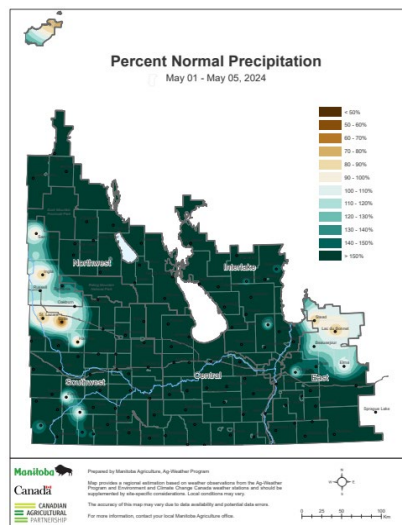
Fig.1 (a). Current soil moisture relative to field capacity at 0-30cm depth, indicates the fields have wet to optimal conditions.

(b) Soil moisture in 2024 at the same time was mostly wet.

Report compiled by Dr. Vikram Bisht
Potato and Horticulture Crop Pathologist, Manitoba Agriculture
[Subscribe](#) to the weekly Potato Report



(2a)



(2b)

Fig. 2. (a). Precipitation (mm) in the first week of May <50% of normal, (b) while in 2024 it was 203 to 474 % above normal.

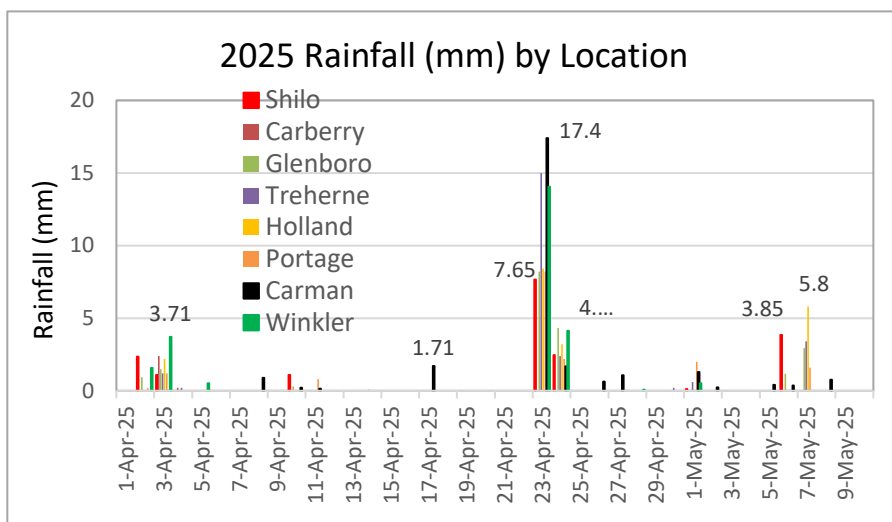


Fig. 3. Significant rainfall was recorded on April 22-23, 2025, with minimal precipitation before and after.

Temperatures – Air and Soil

- Daytime high temperatures ranged from high 20 °C to 30°C (Table 1, Fig. 4). Overnight lows from -1.4°C (Shilo, Wawanesa) to 1.4 °C (Holland).
- Cumulative heat as Growing Degree Days (GDD, base 5°C) for May 1-4 indicates the week has been much warmer than normal, ranging over 200% of normal GDD (Table 1). In 2024 at this time the GDD was only <75% to nearly normal at different weather stations in potato areas. 2025 had an abnormally warm start of the season.
- Soil temperatures at 5cm depths were up to 10-18°C by first week in May (Fig. 5) and were cooler in the 20cm depths, around 5-13°C in the selected potato sites (Fig. 6).
- The 2025 soil temperatures at 5cm and 20cm were warmer than at the same time in 2024, so a quicker emergence of potatoes could be expected.

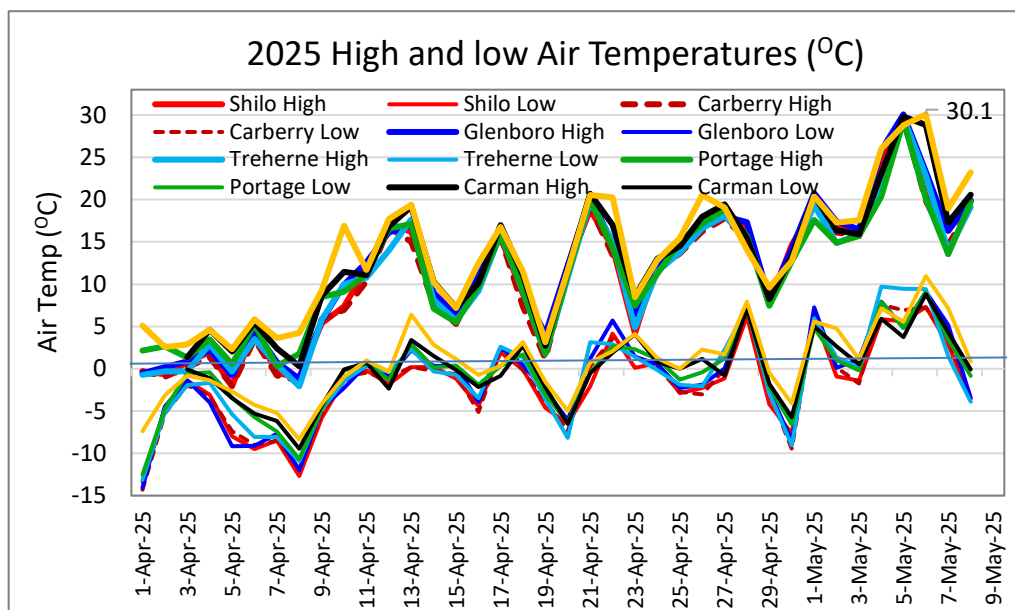


Fig 4. The air temperatures were around 10°C when planting started on April 24, 2025

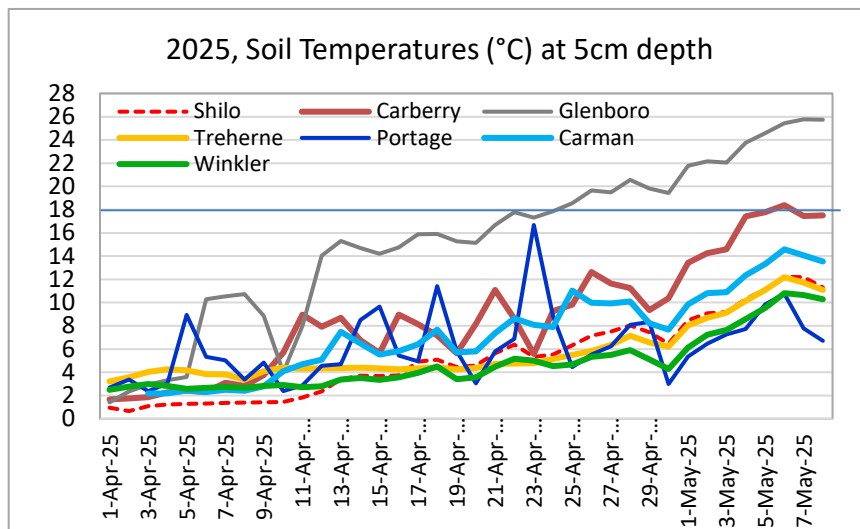


Fig 5. Soil temperatures at 5cm depth at selected sites were reaching around 14°C, and some over 18°C by the first week in May. In comparison, 2024 had much lower temperatures around the same time.

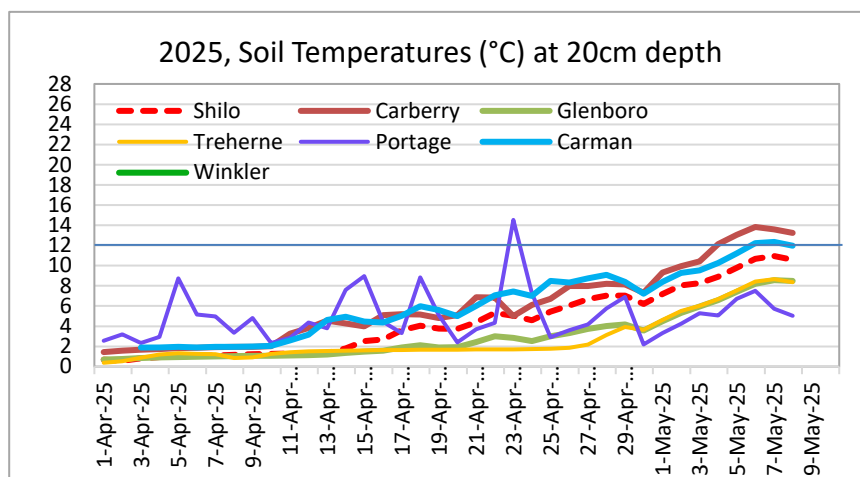


Fig 6. Soil temperatures at 20cm depth at selected sites, were around 12°C and lower than 5cm depths, but much higher than in 2024 around the same time (<10°C).

Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – May 1-4, 2025

Region	Max Temp (°C)	Min Temp (°C)	Rainfall (mm) for the week	Rainfall (mm) (Since May 1)	2024 Rainfall (% of normal) May 1-4	GDD (% of normal)
Altona	29.0	0.1	0.3	0.3	6	187
Austin	29.6	-1.2	0	0	0	208
Bagot	29.9	-0.4	0	0	0	220
Carberry EC	30.7	-1.0	0	0	0	238
Carman	29.8	0.5	0.6	0.6	9	238
Glenboro	30.1	0.1	0	0	0	226
Holland	29.4	1.4	0	0	0	224
Morden	29.1	1.2	0	0	0	209
Portage EC	30.0	0.3	0	0	0	218
Rivers	30.4	-1.1	0	0	0	218
Shilo	29.5	-1.4	0	0	0	200
St. Claude	28.6	0.7	0	0	0	211
Treherne	29.7	0.1	0	0	0	214
Wawanesa	30.9	-1.4	0	0	0	240
Winkler	28.8	1.1	0	0	0	216

Crop Progress

- Potato planting started in western Manitoba on April 24, as opposed to April 22 in 2024, April 27 in 2023, May 11 in 2022, and April 23 in 2021.
- Without weather related interruptions, the planting is progressing very rapidly, unlike in 2024 when cold soil and rain during the last few days of April into early May disrupted planting for 3 to 5 days.
- Planting in the western side of the province is currently 40 - 100% complete. Central potato growing areas around Portage, McGregor are around 0 - 60% planted. The southern part of the province (around Carman and Winkler) is 30 to 50% planted.
- Overall, potato planting is estimated to be around 60% complete in the province. Many farms are expected to finish potato planting by the beginning of next week. With good weather, and no rain in the forecast, planting could be over 80% within the week, and near complete by mid-May. In comparison, 2021 had over 75% of planting completed by mid-May, but only about 15% in 2022.
- Late blight risk maps, P-Days, and SprayCast maps will be available at <http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/index.cfm>.

Disease Monitoring

- Late blight risk forecasting will be provided on a regional basis at www.mbpotatoes.ca. Late blight disease risk is projected to start accumulating around June 1, when normally 50% of the fields show emergence. In the last five years, no late blight has been observed in Manitoba.
 - Late blight can start from infected seed potatoes, from cull piles with late blight infection or sometimes from infected tomato plants. In 2010 infected tomato plants were responsible for spreading the inoculum across Manitoba.
- Diseases like blackleg, early blight, and powdery scab will be monitored during the season.
- Herbicide injury on seed and non-target drift injury will be identified, if needed.

Insect Pest Monitoring

- Aphid monitoring using suction traps will start in early June in 8 or 9 seed fields. Green peach aphid and Potato aphids could be a concern for seed potatoes. In 2023 and 2024 the aphid catches were high.
- European Corn Borer (ECB) monitoring will be started in early July. The ECB catches in traps have been reducing over the past few years. If ECB catches are low in 2025, the trapping program may be ended.
- Colorado potato beetle incidences will be monitored and if possible tested for insecticide resistance.
- Wireworm damage has been sporadic in the province.

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

Wishing Manitoba growers and industry colleagues a very good season ahead.