

Issue 3 – May 23, 2025

Manitoba Potato Report



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Provincial Summary

- Limited potato planting progress due to rain last week. Potato planting is at 95% complete and could finish in the next few days.
- Early planted fields are about to show emergence, but none yet.
- The past week has been generally hot and dry. Rain from May 15-17 was followed by a big drop in daytime temperatures.
- 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> and archived at [Manitoba Potato Reports](#).

Ag Weather Data

Precipitation and Soil Moisture

- There was extensive rainfall in the potato growing areas of the province, ranging from 24.3 mm (Bagot) to 88.5 mm (Morden) (Fig. 1, 3, Table 1). Cumulative rainfall May 1 to 19 is now generally over 100% across potato growing areas, ranging from 72% (Bagot) to 261% (Carberry) of the normal (Table 1). <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf>.
- By May 19, the 30cm soil depth moisture (relative to field capacity) became generally wet from generally optimal last week (Fig. 2). <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf>

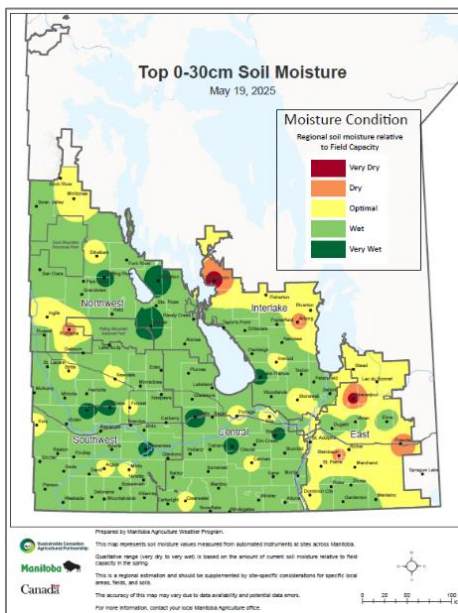
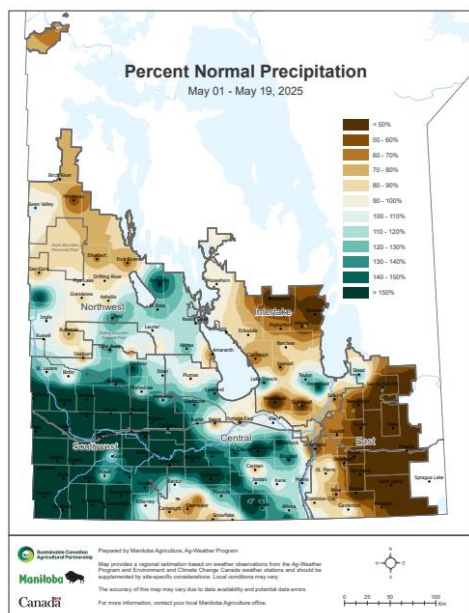


Fig.1 (left). There was extensive rainfall in south and central regions of the province, taking the cumulative rainfall over 100% of the normal in most potato growing areas.

Fig.2 (right). Current soil moisture (relative to field capacity) at 0-30cm depth indicates many potato growing areas are generally wet as compared to generally optimal last week.

Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – May 12 – 19, 2025

Region	Max Temp (°C)	Min Temp (°C)	Rainfall (mm) for the week	Rainfall (mm) (Since May 1)	2025 Rainfall (% of normal) May 1 - 19	GDD (% of normal)
Altona	35.2	1.6	48.8	49	118	174
Austin	33.8	0.1	39.6	45	126	152
Bagot	34.6	0.1	24.3	27	72	148
Carberry EC	33.3	0.1	77.0	88	261	157
Carman	36.4	0.9	29.8	31	77	170
Glenboro	34.0	0.2	52.1	57	168	161
Holland	33.9	0.1	53.0	61	152	160
Morden	35.0	1.2	88.5	89	217	147
Portage EC	34.6	-0.6	38.0	41	112	164
Rivers	32.3	0.4	54.6	55	178	164
Shilo	33.7	-0.2	64.9	55	178	148
St. Claude	34.7	0.7	53.1	59	144	160
Treherne	35.3	-0.5	52.9	57	148	157
Wawanesa	34.4	0.1	54.9	61	171	153
Winkler	36.5	1.6	59.7	60	138	178

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

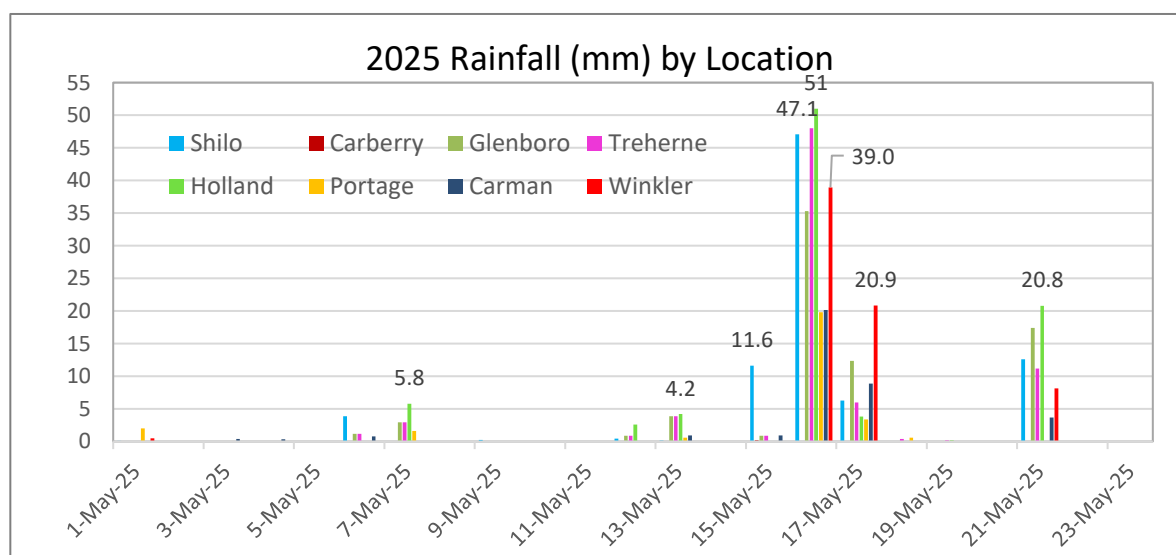


Fig. 3. There was extensive rainfall from May 15-17 across potato growing areas of Manitoba, creating conditions too wet to plant the remaining acres in the province.

Temperatures – Air and Soil

- The warm temperatures continued in the province. From May 14-15 the daytime highs ranged from 32.3 (Rivers) to 36.5°C (Winkler) (Table 1, Fig. 4). These are unusually warm temperatures so early in the season. The overnight lows continued to be like last week and ranged from -0.6°C (Wawanesa) to 1.6°C (Altona, Winkler).
- Cumulative heat as Growing Degree Days (GDD, base 5°C) from May 1 to May 19 continues to be much warmer than normal temperatures, ranging from 147 to 178% of normal GDD (Table 1).
- Soil temperatures at 5cm depths on May 14-15 were high ranging from 9 to 17 °C but cooled down and ranged from 6.6 to 9.9°C at selected weather stations.

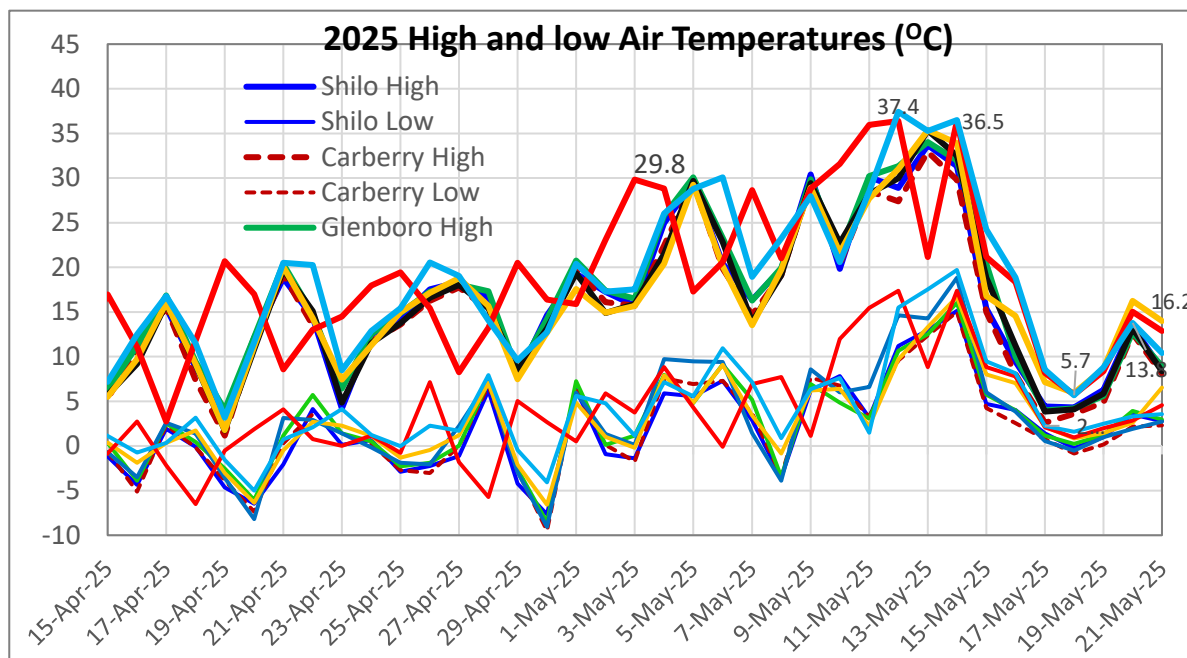


Fig. 4 The air temperatures were very high during some of the planting days. Daytime highs of 35-37°C on May 15 and dropped rapidly to 2.3 to 5.7°C on May 19.

Crop Progress

- Due to rains from May 15 to 17, the potato planting was interrupted and not much progress was made in the week.
- The potato planting remains around 95% of the intended acres. With a pause in rainfall, the planting should finish in a few more days.
- 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. Quite a few fields are near emergence.
- Very strong winds in the last week eroded potato hills in sandy areas of some fields. Flattening of the hills exposed the seed pieces (Fig, 5).
- In the coming few days, there is a forecast for sunny days with low to high-20s temperatures and overnight lows ranging from 1 to 10°C.

Disease Monitoring

- It is important to take care of the cull piles in or near the potato fields. Often cull piles can be a source of diseases like late blight and blackleg.
- 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.
- P-Days, and SprayCast maps will be available at <http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/index.cfm>.



Fig. 5. Due to strong winds there was significant wind erosion in sandy fields; some hills were flattened and seed pieces exposed. Photo: Doug Pryor (Delta Ag).

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. In some areas beetles appear as soon as the potato plants emerge.

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