

Issue 3 – May 21, 2026

# Manitoba Potato Report



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## Provincial Summary

- Potato planting is around 80% finished in the province, ranging from 40 to 100% in various farms.
- The 2026 season had a colder start of the season compared to 2025; soil moisture is adequate for planting.
- 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 [Province of Manitoba | agriculture - Potato Report](#) and <http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/index.cfm>.

## Ag Weather Data

### Precipitation and Soil Moisture

- In the potato growing areas, the soils are generally categorized as optimal to wet (based on Regional Soil Moisture Relative to Field Capacity) at 0-30 cm and 0-120 cm depths: with variations depending upon local field topography and soil characteristics. (Fig. 1 & 2a). The moisture levels were similar to last week. <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf>
- Precipitation (mm) in the week of May 11-18 was low, ranging from 3.4 mm (Glenboro) to 15.8 (Winkler), but the ground has sufficient moisture for field work (Table 1). The precipitation continues to be significantly below normal, ranging from 13% of normal (Glenboro) to around 40% of normal (Altona, Winkler and Rivers) (Fig. 2a). <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf>.

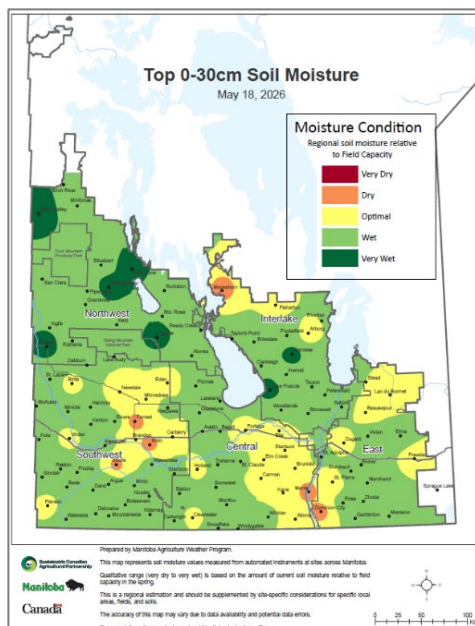


Fig. 1. Current soil moistures relative to field capacity at 0-30 cm and 120 cm depths, indicate the fields have optimal to wet conditions in potato growing areas.

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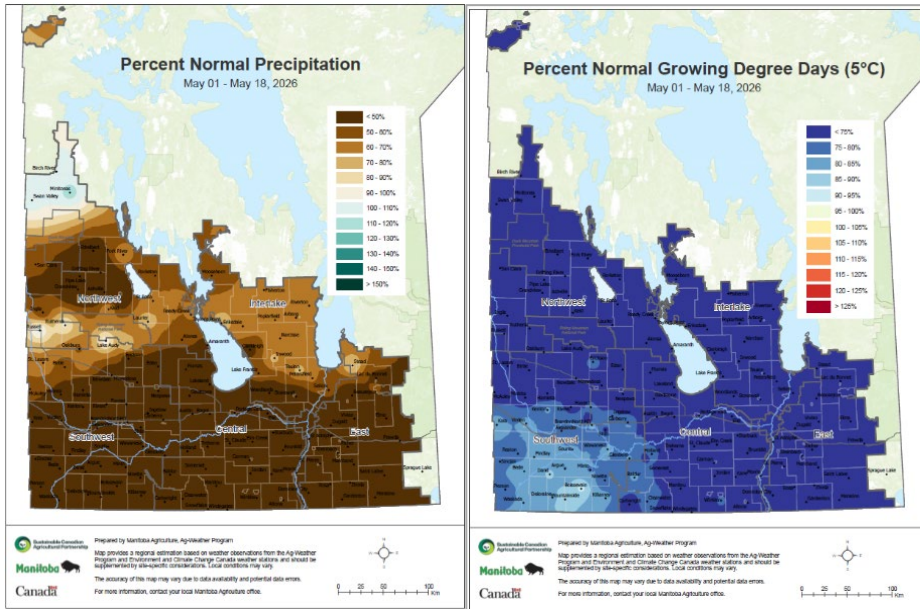


Fig. 2a (left): Total precipitation (mm) from May 11 to 18 has been very low and less than 10mm cumulative, which ranged from <50% to 50-60% of normal in potato growing areas.

Fig. 2b (right): The air temperatures have cooled in the last few days; leading to very low cumulative GDD from May 11 to 18, which is ≤75% of normal in most of potato growing areas.

### Temperatures – Air and Soil

- From May 11 to 18 the daytime high temperatures ranged from 27+ °C at Winkler and Carman to around 7°C at Glenboro and Carberry (Table 1, Fig. 3). Overnight lows were around -0.6°C at Shilo and Carberry. to -3.2°C at Treherne. The days were 8-10 °C warmer, and lows were 4-5 °C warmer than last week.
- A few warm days in the May 11-18 week, helped improve the Cumulative heat as Growing Degree Days (GDD, base 5°C). For May 11-18 the week has warmed up from <50% to ranges from 67 to 80% of normal GDD (Table 1, Fig. 2b) but still colder than 2025, when GDD was around 150-160% of the normal around the same time.
- Soil temperature averages at 5 cm depths ranged from highs of 5.5 to 14°C on May 15, and low of 9.2 to 3.7°C on May 19 (Fig 4). The 20 cm depths had similar trend but were cooler.

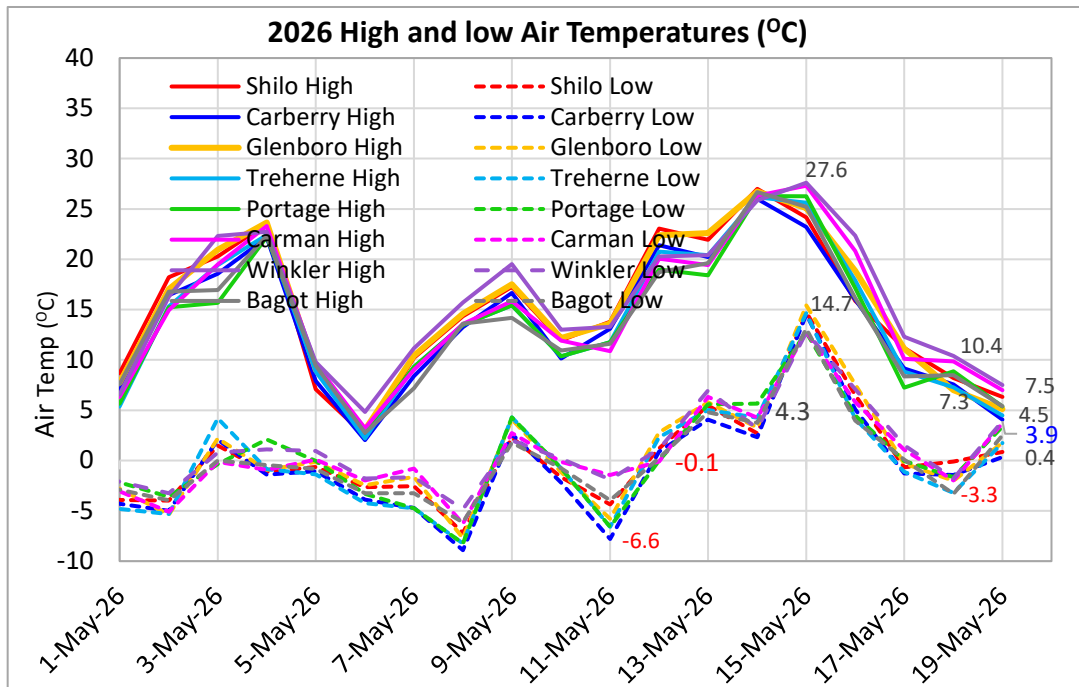


Fig. 3. Air temperatures in the potato-growing areas ranged from a low of -6.6°C on May 11 to a high of 27.6°C on May 15, then declined again by May 19.

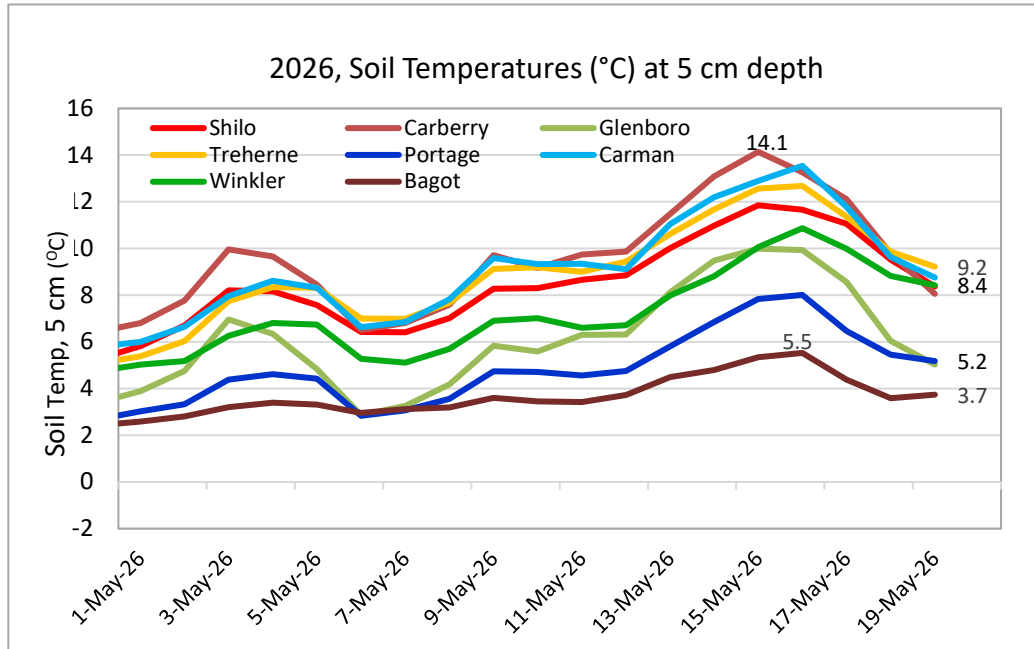


Fig. 4. Soil temperatures at 5 cm depth at selected sites ranged from about 5.5°C at Bagot to 14°C at Carberry on May 15, then declined by May 19 to between 3.7°C and 9.2°C.

Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – May 11-18

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)
Altona	26.4	-2.1	14.7	16	42	67
Austin	26.4	-2.0	8.0	8	24	72
Bagot	26.7	-3.3	8.1	8	23	62
Carberry EC	26.6	-0.6	5.7	7	22	86
Carman	27.3	-2.0	5.3	6	16	70
Glenboro	26.7	-2.0	3.4	4	13	80
Holland	26.6	-2.2	6.6	7	19	66
Morden	26.2	-1.2	9.5	10	27	71
Portage EC	26.8	-2.3	7.9	8	23	72
Rivers	26.4	-1.0	10.7	13	44	74
Shilo	27.0	-0.7	7.8	9	31	75
St. Claude	25.6	-2.8	6.4	6	17	67
Treherne	26.2	-3.2	8.2	8	23	70
Wawanesa	27.4	-1.6	8.0	9	26	81
Winkler	27.6	-1.8	15.8	16	41	77

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

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

- There were strong winds for two days on May 14-15, causing severe dust storms in many areas with dry topsoil. Many sandy fields had to be re-hilled, especially in western parts of the province.
- Potato planting progress has been rapid, with some weather-related interruptions, especially in the western parts of the province. Rain showers on May 18 interrupted planting in some areas.
- Planting in the western side of the province is currently 80-100% complete on various farms. Central potato growing areas around Treherne, Portage and McGregor are around 70-100% planted. The southern part of the province (around Carman and Winkler) is 40 to 100% planted.
- Some fields with heavy soil types and slow drainage are still wet and heavy to plant.
- Overall, potato planting is estimated to be around 80% complete in the province. Quite a few more farms are expected to finish potato planting by middle of this week (May 21-22).
- Hilling has just begun in many fields.
- There is a forecast for chance of showers on May 21 and 22 and gusty winds. There is forecast for warm weather in the coming few days, with daytime highs around mid-30s from May 24 to 26<sup>th</sup> (Sun-Tue). Overnight temperature lows are expected to be 9 to 16°C. [Manitoba - Weather Conditions and Forecast by Locations - Environment Canada](#)
- 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](http://www.mbpotatoes.ca). Late blight disease risk is projected to start accumulating around June 1.
- Diseases like blackleg, early blight, verticillium wilt 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 eight seed fields as done in 2025.
- European Corn Borer monitoring will be started in early July.
- Colorado potato beetle incidences will be monitored and if possible tested for insecticide resistance.

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](mailto:vikram.bisht@gov.mb.ca)

All reports and information will also be available at <http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/index.cfm> and archived at [Manitoba Potato Reports](#)