

Issue 4 – May 28, 2026

Manitoba Potato Report



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Provincial Summary

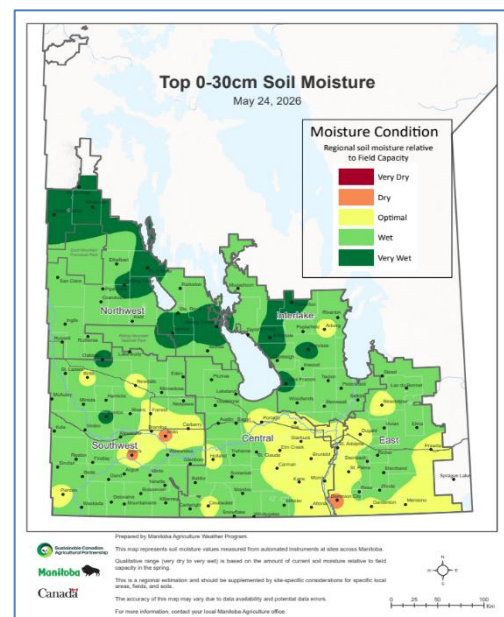
- Potato planting is over 90% finished in the province, ranging from 70 to 100% in various farms.
- Hilling has started; many fields affected by wind-erosion had to be re-hilled.
- The 2026 season had a colder and drier start compared to 2025; No emergence has been reported yet.
- Regular weekly reports 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

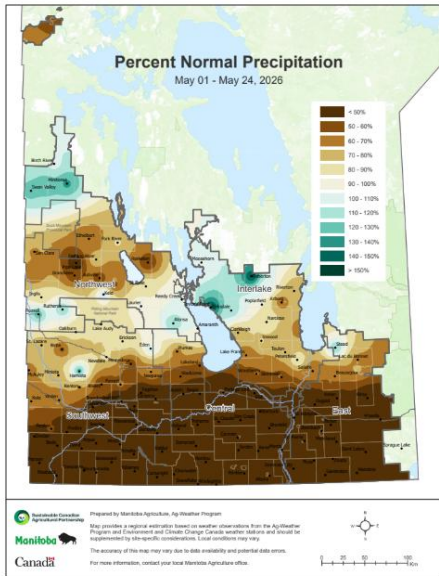
- In the potato growing areas, the soils are generally categorized as optimal to wet (based on Regional Soil Moisture Relative to Field Capacity) at 0-30 cm and 0-120 cm depths: with variations depending upon local field topography and soil characteristics (Fig 1, 2a). The moisture levels were similar to last week. <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf>
- Precipitation (mm) on May 22 and 24, in the week was low, ranging from around 5.5 mm (Glenboro, Shilo, Wawanesa) to around 14.0 mm (Austin, Morden, Winkler) (Table 1). The precipitation continues to be significantly below normal, ranging from 22% of normal (Glenboro) to around 50% of normal (Rivers and Winkler) (Table 1, 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 depths, indicate the fields have optimal to wet conditions in potato growing areas similar to last week. Moisture at 120 cm depths were wetter.

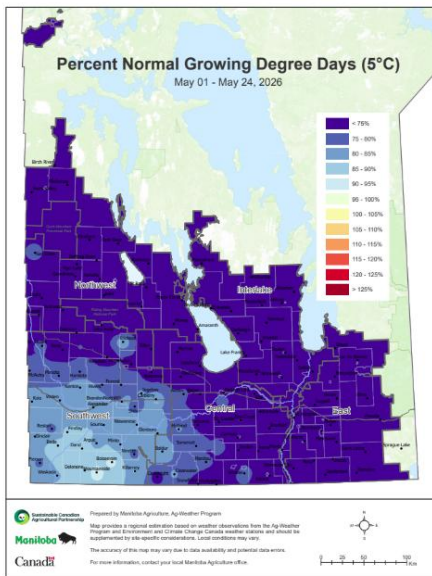


Report compiled by Dr. Vikram Bisht
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2a



2b

Fig 2a (left): Total precipitation (mm) from May 18 to 24 has been very low and ranged from 22% to 50% of normal in potato growing areas.

Fig 2b (right): The air temperatures have warmed up in the last few days; leading to very cumulative GDD from May 18 to 24, ranging from 68 to 85% of normal in most of potato growing areas.

Temperatures – Air and Soil

- From May 18 to 24 the daytime high temperatures ranged around 26 to 28°C in the potato growing areas (Table 1, Fig 3). Overnight lows were around 0.8°C at Portage and St. Claude. to -3.6 °C at Carman. The days were around 2°C warmer, and lows were similar to last week.
- A few warm days in the May 18-24 week, helped improve the Cumulative heat as Growing Degree Days (GDD, base 5°C). The week has warmed up from <50% to ranges from 68 to 85% of normal GDD (Table 1, Fig 2b).
- Soil temperature averages at 5 cm depths ranged from highs of 3.7 to 16.8°C in the week. Bagot had the coolest soils, while Carman and Winkler were the warmest (Fig 4). The 20 cm depths had similar trend but were cooler. The soils have rapidly warmed up in the week.

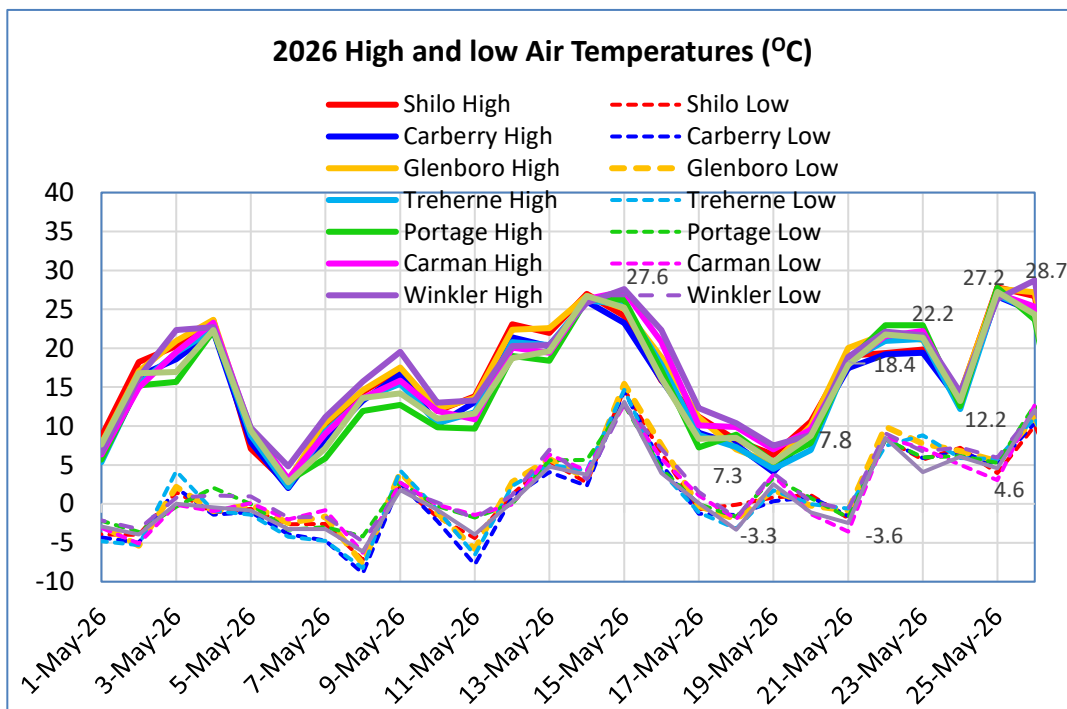


Fig 3. Air temperatures in the potato-growing areas ranged from a low of -3.6°C on May 21 to a high of 28.3°C on May 24.

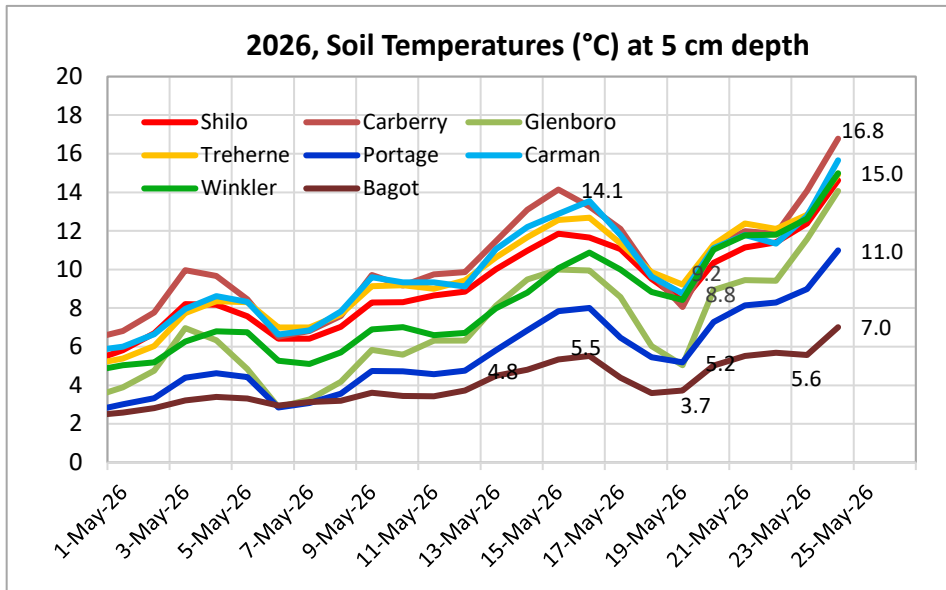


Fig 4. Soil temperatures at 5 cm depth at selected sites ranged from about 3.7°C at Bagot to 16.8°C at Carberry on May 24. The soils have warmed up rapidly in the last week.

Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – May 18-24

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	25.5	-1.6	6.7	23	42	71
Austin	27.0	-0.8	14.3	21	45	76
Bagot	27.2	-2.5	10.4	17	35	68
Carberry EC	27.6	-1.1	6.4	13	29	83
Carman	27.0	-3.6	11.4	17	30	72
Glenboro	27.6	-0.9	5.8	10	22	85
Holland	27.4	-0.2	13.0	20	37	81
Morden	27.1	-1.0	14.0	22	39	74
Portage EC	27.0	0.8	10.9	18	39	79
Rivers	27.9	-0.2	8.3	21	51	80
Shilo	27.8	-1.8	5.5	14	34	78
St. Claude	26.6	0.9	8.9	14	26	72
Treherne	26.8	-0.6	8.3	15	29	74
Wawanesa	28.3	-2.8	5.9	14	31	84
Winkler	26.3	-0.7	14.6	29	50	79

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

More information on:

Crop Water Demand (CWD) mm: www.mbpotatoes.ca/cwd.cfm

P-Days: 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 especially in western parts of the province. Potato rows in many sandy fields were badly eroded, filling the furrows or uncovering a lot of seed potatoes (Fig 5 a-e). The rows had to be re-hilled in many fields.

- Potato planting progress has been rapid, with minor weather-related interruptions. Scattered showers on May 22 and 24 did not much disturb planting.
- Planting in the western side of the province is currently nearly 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 75 to 100% planted.
- Some fields with heavy soil types and slow drainage are still wet and a challenge to plant.
- Overall, potato planting is estimated to be over 90% complete in the province. The remaining farms are expected to finish potato planting in 7-10 days, depending on how rapidly the fields dry out.
- Hilling has just begun in many fields and had to be repeated in a few fields after the hills were flattened due to strong winds (Fig 5 a-e) mostly in the western part of the province.
- As yet, no emergence of potatoes has been reported from any field in Manitoba. It is expected that there could be emergence early in the coming week.

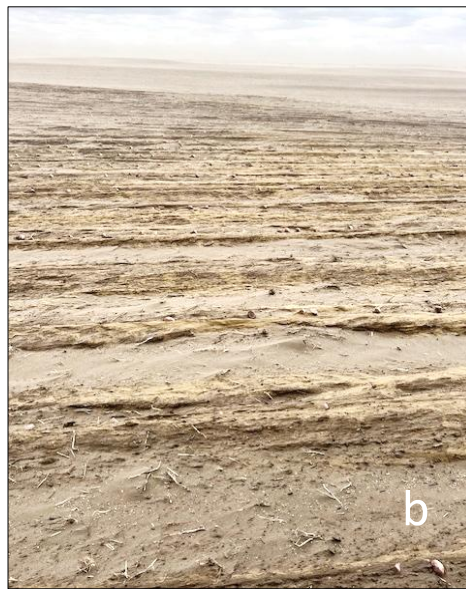
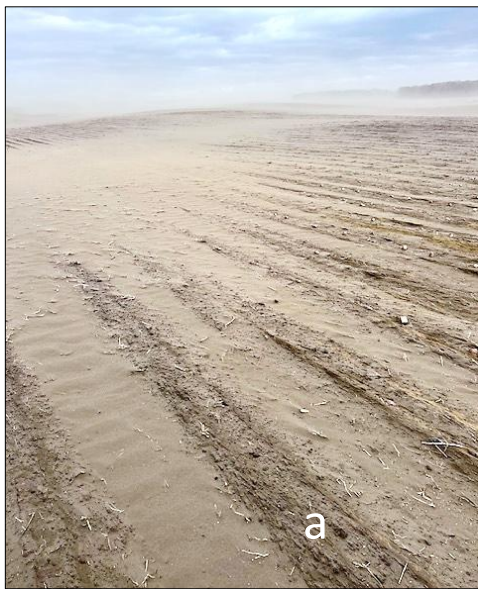


Fig 5 a, b: Strong winds the previous week flattened many potato hills, filled furrows with eroded soil, and exposed seed potatoes. Photos: a, b: Dave Adriaansen (Adriaansen Farms).

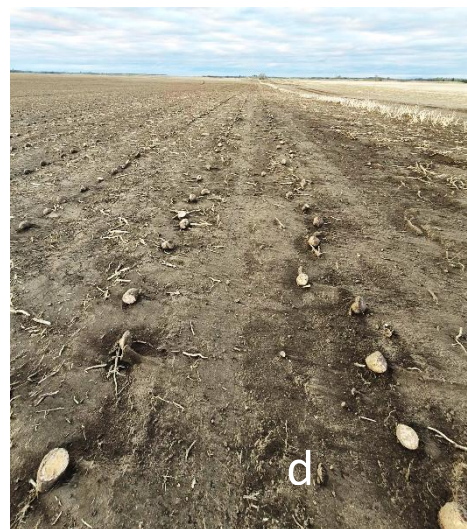




Fig. 5 c-e. Furrows filled with eroded soil and seed potatoes exposed by strong winds. Photos: c, Alan Waldner (Cascade Farms); d, Doug Pryor (Delta Ag); e, Vikram Bisht (Manitoba Agriculture).



Fig 6. Sprouts on early-planted potatoes (seeded April 24). Plants had not yet emerged at the time of the photo (May 23) but were expected to emerge within 3-4 days. Photo: Orla Sheridan (Shilo Farms).

- There is a forecast for very warm days, with daytime highs reaching up to 35°C in the coming week and little chance of showers. The warm weather is expected to continue until June 2nd. Overnight temperature lows are expected to be in mid-teens [Manitoba - Weather Conditions and Forecast by Locations - Environment Canada](#)
- Late blight risk maps, P-Days, and SprayCast maps are available <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.
 - Late blight spore monitoring will be done using passive spore traps beginning in mid-June.
- Diseases like blackleg, early blight, verticillium wilt and powdery scab will be monitored during the season.

Insect Pest Monitoring

- Aphid monitoring using suction traps have been set up in a few seed potato fields. Monitoring 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

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