

Issue 12 – July 23, 2026

Manitoba Potato Report



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Provincial Summary

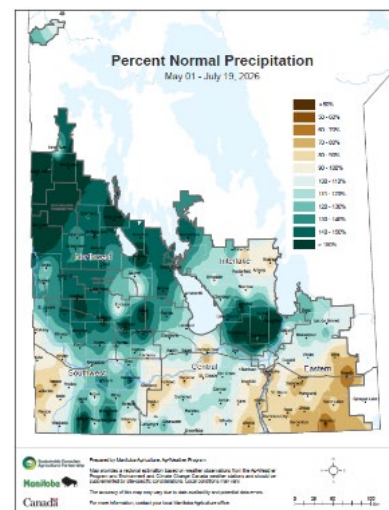
- The potato crops have generally closed-in between rows, with tuber size ranging from dime-size to over 4-inches. The crops are about a week behind the same time last year in tuber size.
- Ground operations including fungicide and insecticide sprays progressed well, for late blight, up to four-five fungicides spray applications have been made.
- Late blight spores were detected at only one site across Manitoba from July 13 to 20, compared to ten sites last week. No late blight disease has been reported in the province so far. Late blight risk is high.
- In the sixth week, the total aphid numbers were low, as in the last week. Seven Potato aphid but no Green peach aphids were trapped. Colorado potato beetle larvae are now present across Manitoba.

Ag Weather Data

Precipitation and Soil Moisture

- In the week, July 13-19, there were widespread showers across the province; heavy rainfall was seen on July 17 (Fig. 1, Fig. 2) leading to wet or flooded fields in some areas.
- Rainfall in the week varied from 0.4 mm (Shilo) to over 56 mm (Austin) at various potato growing areas (Table 1). Heavy rains occurred on July 15-17, which exasperated the wet field conditions in some areas. The cumulative precipitation (May 1 to July 19) as % of 30-year normal, ranged from ~70% (Altona, Portage and Treherne) up to 146% (Carberry, Wawanesa, St. Claude, Austin, Bagot, Carman, Winkler) (Fig. 1, Table 1). <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf>.
- By July 19, the soils at the 0-30 cm depth in potato growing areas changed to generally “wet”, with pockets of “very wet” to “optimal” moisture based on Regional Soil Moisture relative to Field Capacity (Fig. 3a). <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf>

Fig. 1. As a result of scattered rainfall from July 13 to 19, the cumulative precipitation has crossed 100% of normal at many potato growing areas across Manitoba, ranging from 70% to 146% of 30-year normal.



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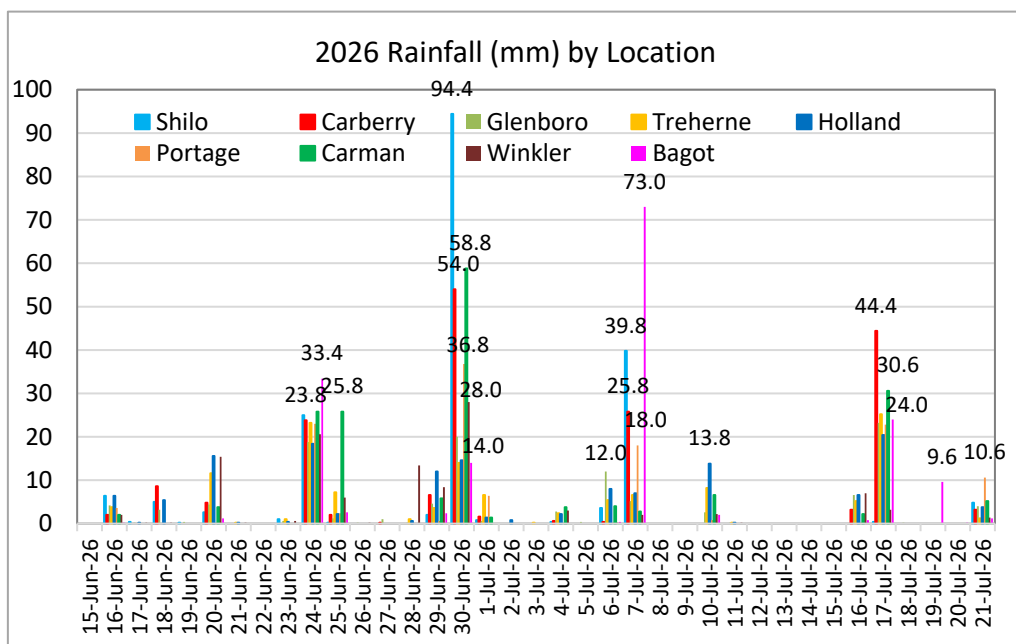
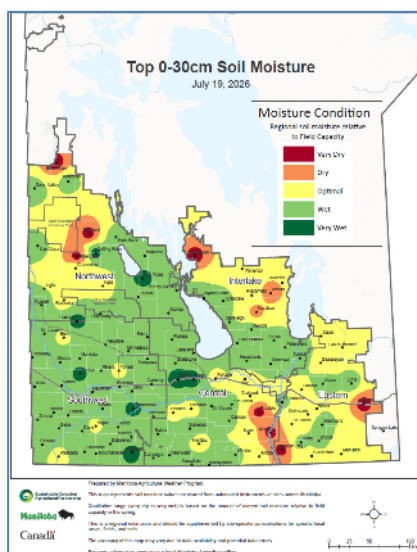
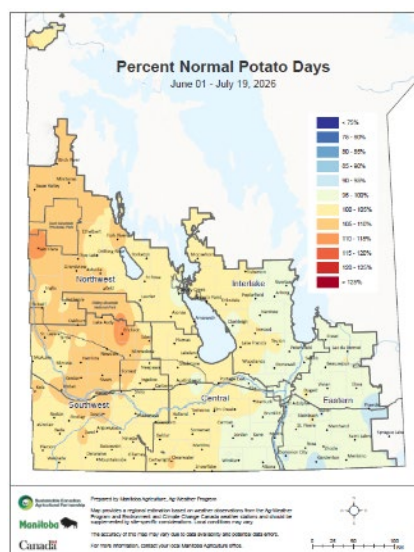


Fig. 2. Rainfall in June, towards end of the month and scattered thunderstorms on July 6-7, 10 and 17 has led to soggy wet or flooded fields in many potato growing areas of the province.



3a



3b

Fig. 3a. By July 19, soil moisture relative to field capacity at the 0-30 cm depth indicated generally “wet” but with few “very wet” or “optimal” areas in potato-growing regions. At the 120 cm depth, soils were wetter (map not shown).

Fig. 3b. The week daytime temperatures bringing the cumulative Potato Days (P-Days) to around 95 to 110% of normal across most potato-growing areas; it similar to last week.

Temperatures – Air and Soil

- The week’s daytime temperatures were similar to last week, but overnight temperatures were warmer.
- In the week, July 13 to 19, the daytime temperature highs were hot, reaching ~36°C, in many of the potato growing areas (Table 1, Fig. 4). Overnight lows were warmer than last week, ranging from around ~14.4°C in Treherne, Rivers, Carberry and Austin to ~16.5°C in Carman, Holland, Portage, St. Claude and Winkler (Table 1, Fig. 4). Daytime temperatures were over 30 °C (on July 13 and 14, and again on the 19th) are not favourable for plant growth, tuberization and bulking.
- The Cumulative heat (Growing Degree Days, GDD base 5°C) was closer to 107-115% of 30-year normal (Table 1). The cumulative Potato Heat Units (P-Days) ranged from 336 (Carberry) to >350 (Winkler, St. Claude) and were 100 to 110% of 30-year normal (Fig. 3 b) in the potato growing areas.

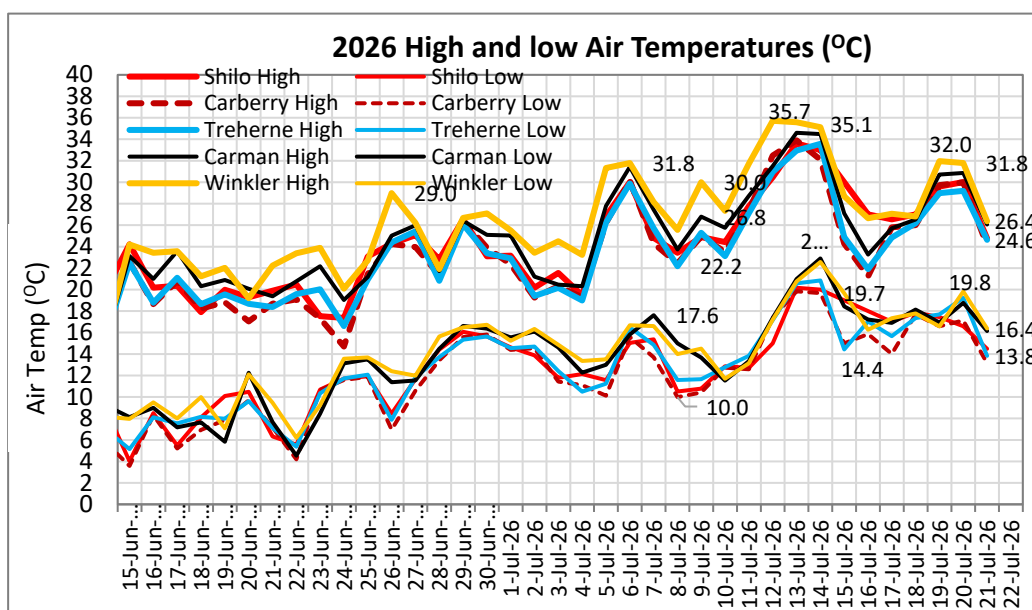


Fig. 4: Day and nighttime air temperatures in the potato-growing areas peaked on July 13-14, reaching >35°C during daytime and 22.6°C during nighttime. Temperatures had cooled down just a little by July 19-20, but still >30°C and to around 20s°C, days and night, respectively, in selected weather stations.

Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – July 13-19

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)	P-Days (June 1 to July 12)
Altona	35.3	15.5	10.3	152	69	107	348
Austin	33.2	14.8	56.3	219	115	110	348
Bagot	34.2	15.4	34.4	241	122	110	346
Carberry EC	33.3	14.6	47.8	188	92	111	336
Carman	34.5	16.9	33.9	252	116	111	349
Glenboro	34.2	15.6	30.8	171	89	113	342
Holland	33.9	16.5	29.3	191	87	112	346
Morden	34.6	15.9	7.4	181	85	109	-
Portage EC	34.0	16.5	17.9	146	72	112	351
Rivers	32.9	14.9	23.4	290	136	112	349
Shilo	-	-	-	-	-	-	340
St. Claude	33.6	16.3	48.9	216	97	109	356
Treherne	33.6	14.4	30.0	166	77	107	339
Wawanesa	34.6	15.7	29.2	287	146	112	339
Winkler	35.1	16.3	10.0	248	110	115	353

For more Manitoba weather information, visit: www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather ; “ - ” Data not available in the week.

More information on:

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

P-Days: www.mbpotatoes.ca/pday.cfm

Crop Progress

- Ground operations including – fungicides sprays are continuing. In some fields, up to five fungicide applications have been made by ground or air. In seed potato fields, up to three-four mineral oil sprays with or without insecticides for aphid control.
- Early planted crops are over 3 feet, while later planted are around 18 inches. By July 20, the potato canopy ground cover was over 90% to 100% across the province (Fig. 5 a-b). Russet Burbank plants are now settling down on ground.

- Scattered heavy rains were reported in some areas in the week on July 16-17. Fields in these areas remained wet for several days creating conditions favourable for development of tuber and root rots.
- The crop growth and tuberization had slowed due to high daytime and nighttime temperatures. Many of the early planted, especially Ranger Russet fields have up to 4–5-inch tubers (Fig 5 a, b). Crops are about 7-10 days behind last year's growth at the same time. Hot daytime temperatures and moisture stress have led to heat scalded stems in sandy areas, stress runners and misshapen tubers (Fig 6 a, c).
- There is a forecast for cooler than last week's daytime temperatures highs, in the coming few days, going up to low 30s°C from July 24-27. Some places could reach up to 37°C (Altona, Morden, Winkler). Overnight temperatures are expected to reach up to 16 -20°C. These temperatures are similar to last week. There is a chance of scattered showers from July 23 to 26 across potato growing areas. It is expected to be generally sunny to partly sunny from July 23 to 28. [Manitoba - Weather Conditions and Forecast by Locations - Environment Canada](#)

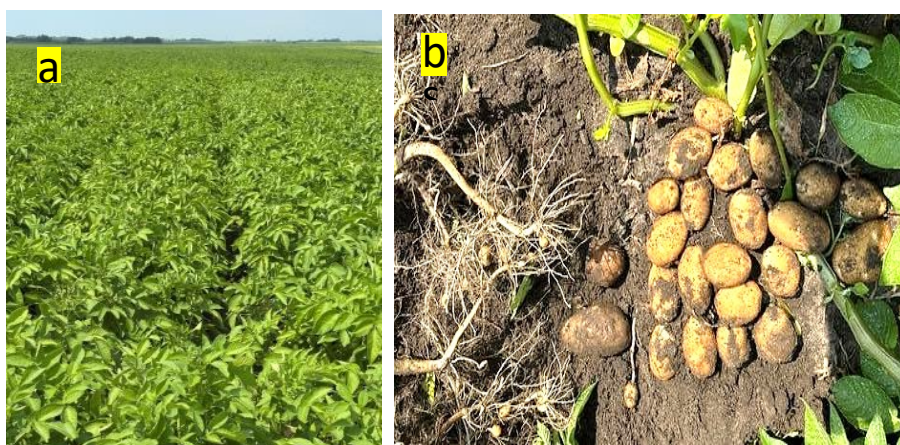


Fig. 5. Ground cover generally ranging from 90% to 100%.; and tuber formation is good. Photos. a: Vikram Bisht (Manitoba Agriculture) b: Orla Sheridan (Shilo Farms),



Fig. 6. a: Heat scalding of stems touching hot sand; b, c: tuber deformation and formation of new stolons or heat/stress runners. Photos: a: Vikram Bisht (Manitoba Agriculture), b: Tavis Mangin (Simplot); c: Vikram Bisht (Manitoba Agriculture),

Disease Monitoring

- Late blight risk forecasting will be provided on a regional basis at www.mbpotatoes.ca. Late blight disease risk values (DSVs) started accumulating from June 1.
 - The 7-Day cumulative DSVs from July 13 to 20 show accumulations from 6 to 13, **indicating high risk of late blight** (Fig. 7), if inoculum were present in the areas. At such high-risk situations, fungicide applications are strongly recommended. Based on local risk assessment, protective fungicide application should be applied.

- The forecasting is complemented with late blight spore monitoring using Spornado passive spore traps. Spore traps have been set up in many fields and monitoring began on June 8.
- **Results from the 6th round of monitoring from July 13-21 showed that *Phytophthora infestans* spores were trapped at only one of the 14 Spornado monitoring sites, in the Cypress River area.** This marks the 2nd consecutive week of positive spore detection at this site.
- It is important to scout the fields in higher risk areas which could stay wet longer, like wind-protected tree shelter-line, low lying areas/valleys in a field. It is also important to remove risk from cull-piles in the yards or near potato fields.

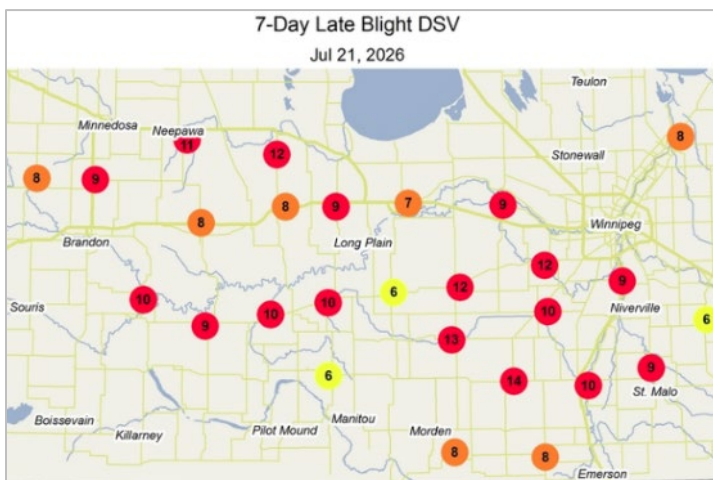


Fig. 7. 7-Day Cumulative Late Blight Disease Risk Values (DSVs) ranging from 6 to 13, suggest mostly high-risk of late blight across the province.

- The P-Day values are now ranging from 340 to 356, which is above the critical level for early blight risk, requiring targeted fungicide applications.
- Minor levels of Rhizoctonia root infection (Fig 9a), early blight and white mold (early blight look-alike) on leaves within crop canopy can be seen in some fields. Due to very high relative humidity with the crop canopy, white mold fungus has started appearing on old soybean plant residue (Fig.8 a, b). Bird's Nest fungus, can be confused with white mold apothecia (Fig 9b), but is actually a beneficial fungus, which helps decompose crop residue
- Early signs of powdery scab root galls can be seen in some fields (Fig 9 c,d). Minor incidence of common scab has been noted in a couple of fields (Fig 9 e).
- Late blight risk maps, P-Days, and SprayCast maps are available <http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/index.cfm>.



Fig. 8. a: White mold (WM) mycelium on moist soil surface infecting crop residue; and b: WM symptoms showing up on lower leaves. Photos: a: Kurtis McKee (JPW Farms); b: Vikram Bisht (Manitoba Agriculture)

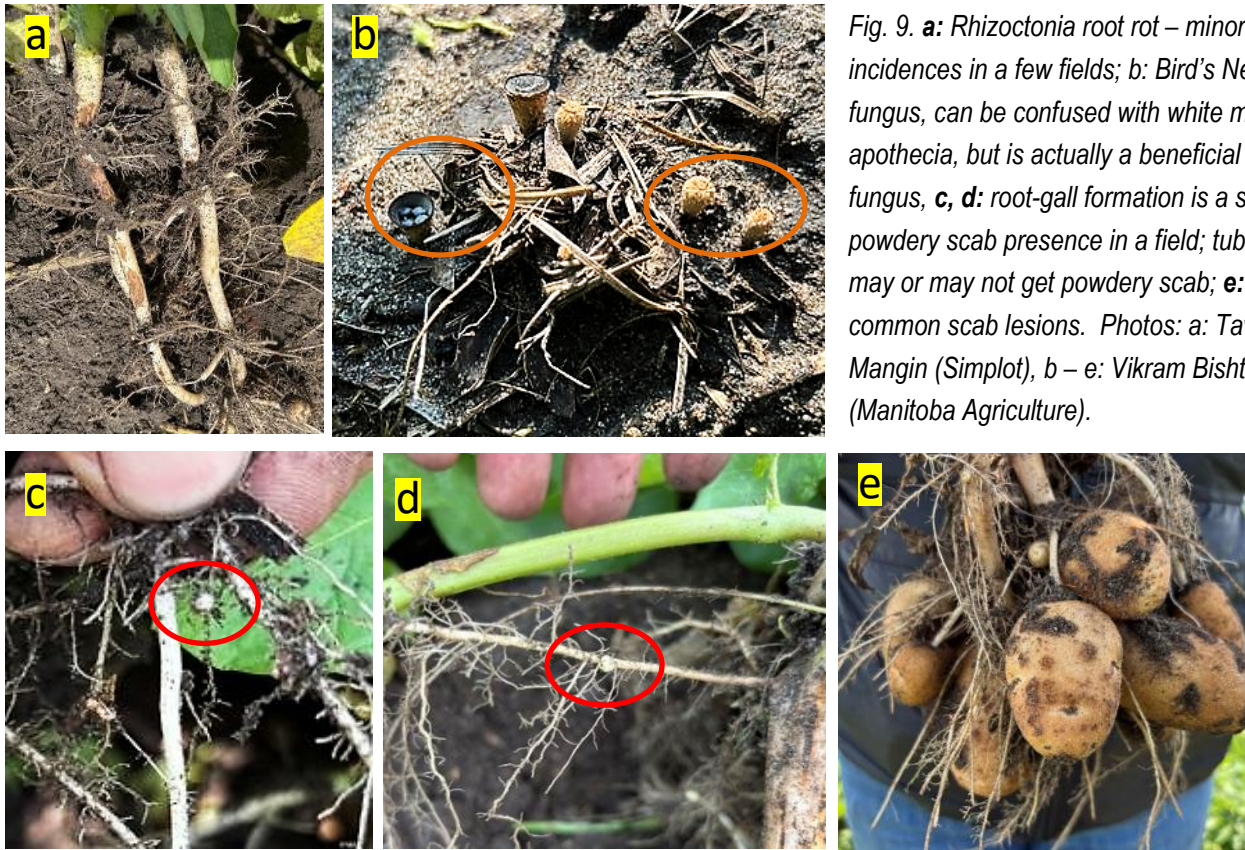


Fig. 9. **a:** *Rhizoctonia* root rot – minor incidences in a few fields; **b:** Bird's Nest fungus, can be confused with white mold apothecia, but is actually a beneficial fungus, **c, d:** root-gall formation is a sign of powdery scab presence in a field; tubers may or may not get powdery scab; **e:** common scab lesions. Photos: **a:** Tavis Mangin (Simplot), **b – e:** Vikram Bisht (Manitoba Agriculture).

Insect Pest Monitoring

- Aphid monitoring using suction and pan traps have been set up in eight seed potato fields.
 - The **Sixth** week's collection was done from July 13-21 - Heavy rainfall in Carberry area – pan traps overflowed and may have lost some aphids.
 - The number of aphids trapped were low at most traps (Table 2).
 - Colonizing Aphids:
 - No Green peach aphid
 - **Seven Potato aphids** (PA) were trapped from three locations. This is 2nd highest number after the peak trapping of week 2 (June 15-22).
 - The Non-colonizing Aphids "Others":
 - The "Other" aphids were fewer than in weeks 2 to 5.
 - After very high numbers of non-colonizing aphids "Other" in week 2, the total aphids trapped has reduced in weeks 3 to 6 (Table 3: Summary of All Sites Weekly Counts).
 - Due to scattered heavy rainfall on July 17, many aphid traps overflowed and may have caused loss of some aphids, in some areas like Carberry.
 - MN-ND Aphid Update - July 20, 2026: Trap catches in the week continue to be lower than last year at the same time.
- Aster Leafhoppers and Potato Leafhoppers were found at two locations.
- European Corn Borer (ECB) monitoring Delta traps were set up in 13 fields from July 13 to 20, only 3 out of 10 sites had trapped a total of 17 ECB adults, compared to 47 last week. Melbourne continued to be site with highest catch, followed by Douglas. Nothing was trapped west of Austin.
- Colorado potato beetle (CPB) adults were seen feeding on potato plants in many areas.

- In many areas – high populations of multiple instars of CPB larvae, causing severe defoliation at the edges of fields (Fig. 10 a, b). This is an insecticide-sensitive stage for the CPB larvae. Scouting could help decide the timing of insecticide applications, whether on the edges or the entire field.

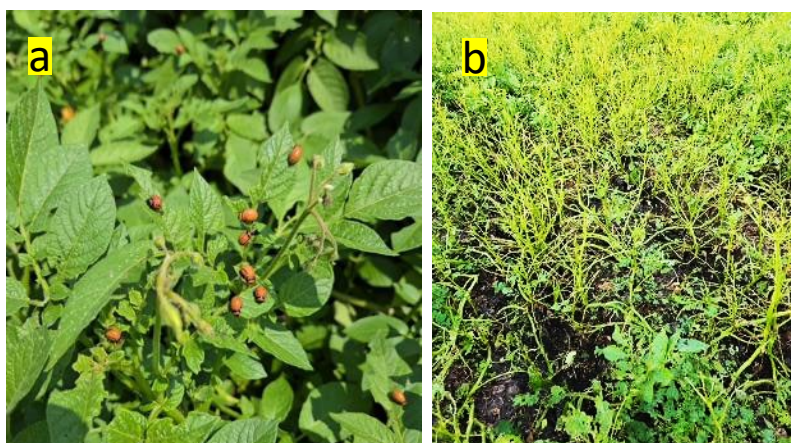


Fig. 10. **a**: A very large number of young Colorado potato beetle larval instars have emerged across the province, and **b**: severe defoliation has been noted in patches. Photos: Kurtis Mckee (JPW farms).

Table 2. Weekly Aphid Report – **Week 6** (June 13 - 20) 2026

Field #	Town	RM	Green Peach Aphid	Potato Aphid	Other Aphids	Total	ALH	PLH	Comments
Southern Region									
Field 1-H	Winker	Stanley	0	2	3	5	0	0	
Field 2-K	Stephenfield	Dufferin	0	0	2	2	1	1	
Field 3-S	Winkler	Stanley	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Central Region									
Field 4-S	Holland	Victoria	0	1	2	3	0	0	
Field 5-S	Glenora	Argyle	0	4	4	8	0	0	30 thrips
Field 6-S	Westbourne	Portage La Prairie	0	0	3	3	2	7	10 thrips
Western Region									
Field 7-A	Wellwood	North Cypress-Langford	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Field 8-S	Carberry		0	0	0	0	0	0	Pan overfilled from rain, 30 thrips
			0	7	14	21	3	8	

The aphid counts are a summation from a suction and traps.

- “ – ” indicates – samples not received till time of reporting.
- ALH = Aster leafhopper, PLH = Potato leafhopper

Table 3. Summary of All Sites - Weekly Aphid Counts:

Monitoring Period	Week #	Green Peach Aphid	Potato Aphid	Other Aphids	Total	ALH	PLH	Comments
July 13 - 21	Week 6	0	7	14	21	3	8	
July 6 - 13	Week 5	0	1	20	21	6	5	
June 29 – July 6	Week 4	0	1	19	20	1	0	

June 22 - 29	Week 3	0	4	42	46	0	1	
June 15 -22	Week 2	0	11	69	80	1	1	
June 8 – 15	Week 1	0	0	0	3	3	0	

Growers and industry stakeholders, please report or submit for diagnosis, any disease or insect observations of importance. If you suspect late blight disease 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 also archived at [Province of Manitoba | agriculture - Potato Report](#).