

Issue 1 – April 23, 2025

Vegetable Crop Report



[Seasonal Reports](#)

[Weekly Weather Maps](#)

[Vegetable Crop Production](#)

[Fruit Crop Report](#)

Provincial Overview

Field work has begun in at least one vegetable field in Manitoba. However, no tillage has taken place in the vast majority of fields.

There have been no reports of seeding of commercial vegetable acres in Manitoba to date.

Seeding of vegetables in greenhouses for transplanting is well under way. The date to begin seeding transplants in the greenhouse depends on the specific vegetable crop that will be transplanted and the intended transplanting dates.

In most vegetable production areas of Manitoba, the percent normal precipitation from November 1 to April 21 has been below normal and for details see [percent-normal-precipitation map](#). The mean temperature difference from November 1 to April 21 has been normal to above normal and for details see [mean-temperature-difference map](#).

For more detailed information on the weather conditions within the province, please go to [crop weather conditions and reports](#)

Manitoba Agriculture – Vegetable Research Trial / Demonstration Plot Update

High Tunnel Research Trial / Demonstration Plot Update

Manitoba Agriculture operates a trial / demonstration high tunnel at the Agriculture Agri-Food Canada site in Portage la Prairie along with field trial / demonstration plots (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Manitoba Agriculture high tunnel

Report compiled by Tom Gonsalves
Vegetable Specialist, Manitoba Agriculture
[Subscribe](#) to the Vegetable Crop Report



A high tunnel is defined as a semi-permanent structure that appears similar to a greenhouse with the frame covered in plastic. However, a high tunnel has no permanent heat and no powered ventilation system. The vegetable and /or fruit crops can be grown directly in the ground or in containers within the high tunnel. A high tunnel is normally high and wide enough to allow the entry of small to mid-sized tractors.

The Manitoba Agriculture high tunnel was built in 2014 from component parts sourced in Manitoba and built on site. There are high tunnels available commercially as kits that include all the required components. For our purposes, we wanted to test the viability of designing and building a “made in Manitoba high tunnel” from scratch and evaluate the structure’s longevity and the cost effectiveness of the design.

For detailed information on building this high tunnel see [High Tunnel Design and Set up](#) or watch the video at [High Tunnels Their Design and Construction](#)

For details on using a high tunnel watch [High Tunnel Preparation, Operation & Crop Production](#)

Temperature and relative humidity sensors are installed in the tunnel and updated online every hour. The “real time” data and a daily summary can be accessed at: [Real Time High Tunnel Sensor Data \(mbagweather.ca\)](#) (Figure 2)

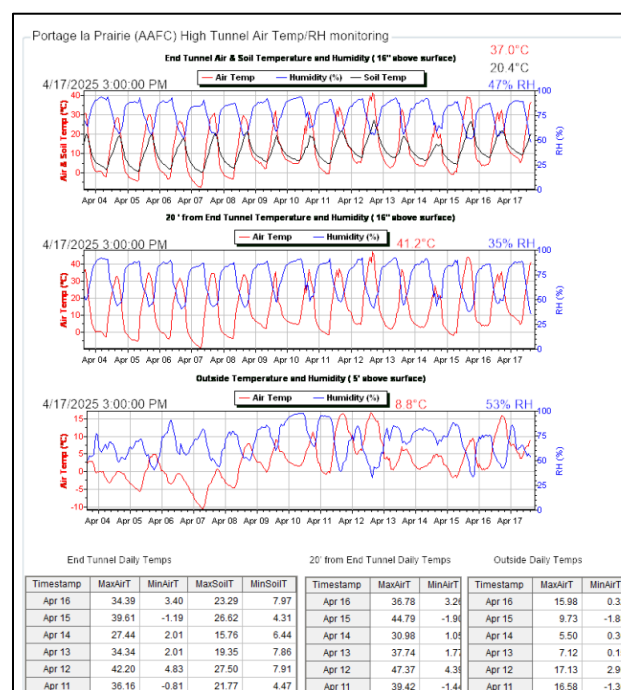


Figure 2. Screenshot of high tunnel sensor data webpage (April 17, 2025)

Vegetable variety trials / demonstrations will be conducted in the high tunnel this coming season. Pepper, tomato, and cucumber seeds have been sown in the greenhouse and will be transplanted into the high tunnel for evaluation this season (Figure 3). Direct seeding of kale and Swiss chard varieties will be carried out in the high tunnel as well.



Figure 3. Seedlings in the greenhouse for transplanting into the high tunnel (April 17, 2025)

Soil sampling will be conducted at 0 – 6", 6" to 12" and 12" to 24". The results will be used to create a fertility plan for the 2025 high tunnel research trials / demonstration plots. Direct seeding and transplanting dates in the high tunnel variety trial / demonstration plots are projected to be between April 28 and May 9, but will depend on the forecasted overnight low temperatures during that time.

Field Trial / Demonstration Plot Update

Pepper, tomato, cucumber, melons, squash, pumpkin, and zucchini seeds will be sown in the greenhouse based on projected planting time in late May. Soil samples will be taken in the field research trials / demonstration plots when soil conditions are drier, and the results will be used to create a fertility plan for the 2025 field research trials / demonstration plots.

Next Issue of the Vegetable Crop Report: June 4, 2025