

Issue 22 – October 3, 2024

Manitoba Potato Report



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Provincial Summary

- There was minimal to no rainfall in the province from Sept. 23 to 30. This helped dry and improve the soil moisture conditions for a good harvest in most areas, except for some fields south of Winkler.
- The cumulative precipitation from May 1 to Sept. 30 is above the 30-year normal, ranging from 102 to 194% of normal in the potato growing areas. In the top 0-30 cm zone, soil moisture relative to field capacity became optimal with a few wet or dry areas.
- Harvest in the province is estimated to be about 65% complete, and ranges from 40% to 95% at various farms. Weather forecast indicates light frost (-3 °C) on Oct. 3 and 6, and cooler day time air temperatures. Light rainfall is forecasted for Oct. 5 in many potato growing areas.
- There is no report of late blight in Manitoba.
- “Potato early dying”, caused by Verticillium wilt and black dot, is now seen in most fields.
- Regular weekly reports are also available at <http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/index.cfm>. The site has SPRAYcast® that provides a 3-day spray advisory weather forecast for selected sites.

Ag Weather Data

Precipitation and Soil Moisture

- The week of Sept. 23-30 had very little rainfall throughout the potato growing areas of the province (Table 1) which allowed fields to dry out.
- Some fields in Winkler were still too wet for harvest due to the Sept. 16-18 rain events.
- The week’s cumulative rainfall was minimal throughout the potato growing areas of the province, ranging from 0 mm to 0.5 mm. (Table 1). [Province of Manitoba | agriculture - Weather Conditions and Reports \(gov.mb.ca\)](#)
- The cumulative rains from May 1 to Sept. 30 are near normal at 102 % in Glenboro or much above the 30-year normal, at 194 % in Winkler; other selected sites ranged from 119 to 138 % of the normal (Table 1). <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf>
- Soil moisture relative to field capacity has lowered and is now mostly optimal with a few wet and dry spots in the potato growing areas (Fig. 1 a,b). [Soil-moisture-30cm.pdf \(gov.mb.ca\)](#). The 0 to 120 cm zone still ranges from optimal to wet in potato growing areas, as displayed on the [Soil-moisture-120cm.pdf \(gov.mb.ca\) map](#).

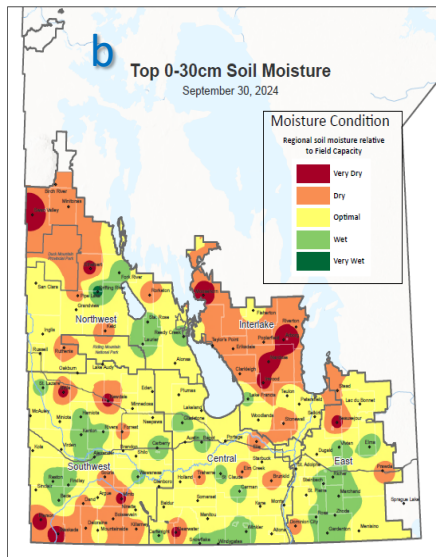
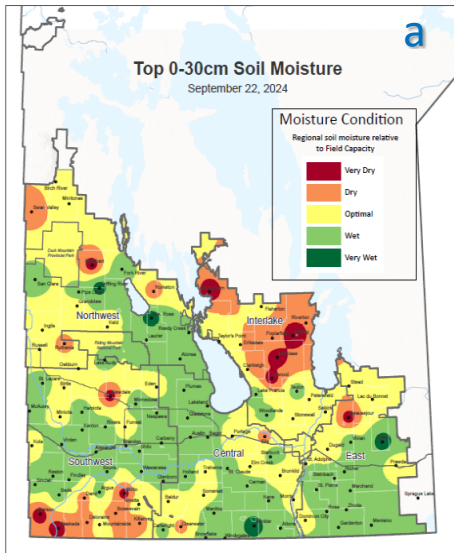


Fig. 1a: By Sept. 22, Heavy rains on Sept. 16 / 17 changed soil moisture (relative to field capacity) to optimum to wet in 0-30 cm zone in the potato growing areas.

1 b: Lack of rains in the week of Sept. 23 - 30, the soil moisture in 0-30 cm zone had become generally optimum, with a few areas wet or dry.

Temperatures – Air and Soil

- Daytime high temperatures from Sept. 23 to 30 were 3 to 4 °C warmer than the previous week, ranging from 28.8 °C (Portage) to near 31.5 °C (Austin, Bagot, Carberry, Carman, Shilo and Treherne) (Table 1).
- Overnight lows were similar to last week, ranging from 2.4 °C (Rivers) to just above 7.0 °C at Austin, St. Claude, Treherne and Winkler) (Table 1). The low overnight temperatures helped lower the tuber pulp temperatures being brought into storage.
- Soils temperatures were still warm at around 16 -17.4 °C around mid-week, but dropped on Oct. 2 to 12 °C (Carberry and Portage) to 15 °C (Treherne). Winkler and Carman dropped to around 13.2 °C (Fig. 2).

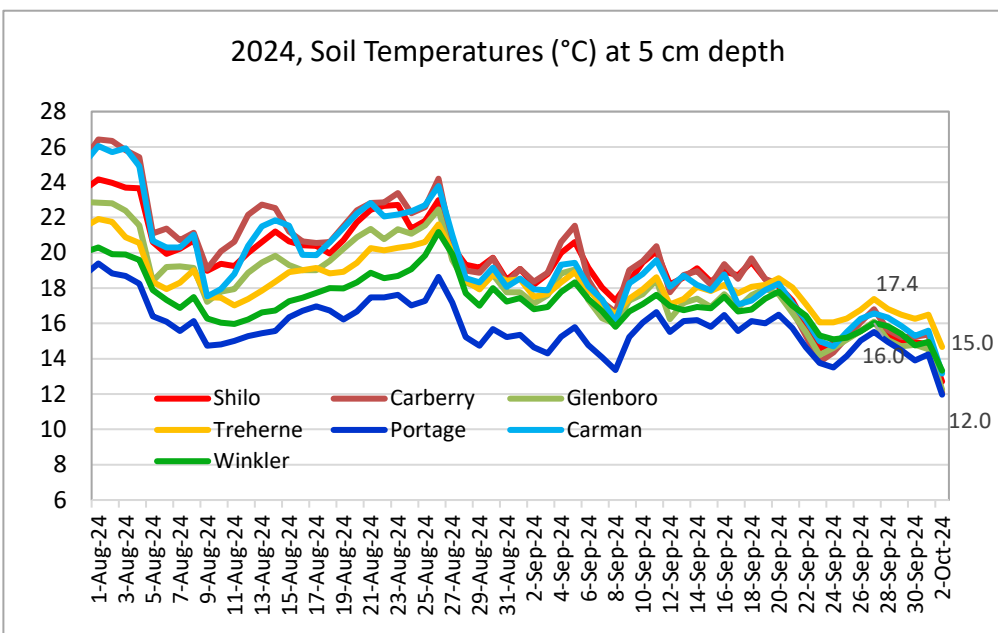


Fig. 2: Soil temperatures in the top 5 cm by Oct. 2 had dropped to 12 C at Carberry and Portage, and 15 C at Treherne.

Weather Data Summary for Selected Potato Site Stations

- The “potato crop water demand” (CWD) for the week was much higher than the negligible rainfall received. (Table 1). CWD for the week ranged from 35.5 to 50.9 mm in the selected potato sites. No supplementary irrigation was applied during the peak harvest time.
- According to the Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) current weather forecast:
 - There is forecast for chance of precipitation across the province on Oct 5. [Weather \(mbpotatoes.ca\)](#) ..
 - Forecast for air temperature highs are projected to be around mid teens to low 20s C. ranging from 14 to 22 °C up to Oct. 8; and overnight lows from 0-10 °C. [Manitoba - Weather Conditions and Forecast by Locations - Environment Canada.](#)
 - There could be **overnight frost on Oct 3, and 6** in some areas (Rivers, Shilo, Carberry, Wellwood, Wawanesa, Glenboro, Treherne, Holland, Austin, MacGregor, Portage). ([Weather \(mbpotatoes.ca\)](#)).

Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – September 22 - 30

Region	Max Temp (°C)	Min Temp (°C)	Rain (mm) for the week	Crop Water Demand (mm) for the week	Rain (mm) (Since May 1)	2024 Rainfall (% of normal) since May 1
Altona	29.3	6.8	0.1	NA	438	132
Austin	31.6	7.2	0	49.3	425	130
Bagot	31.5	6.0	0.1	42.8	448	137
Carberry EC	31.4	5.6	0	43.2	389	124
Carman	31.4	6.8	0.1	35.5	444	136
Cypress River*						
Glenboro	31.3	4.2	0	42.7	329	102
Holland	31.1	4.9	0.3	50.9	398	175
Morden*						
Portage EC	28.8	6.0	0	46.3	390	119
Rivers	31.1	2.4	0	44.8	332	119
Shilo	31.6	4.3	0.1	49.0	433	138
St. Claude	31.3	7.2	0.5	44.4	414	129
Treherne	31.4	7.2	0.3	48.6	412	129
Wawanesa	31.1	4.5	0	42.7	387	123
Winkler	30.3	7.1	0.0	40.7	644	194

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

* Data was unavailable.

NA – Crop water demand data not available. [c wd \(mbpotatoes.ca\)](#)

Crop Progress

- Harvest is in full swing and going smoothly. Rainfall last week across the province helped to mellow the soils for good harvest in most fields. A few Winkler fields showed excess moisture from the rain events last week.
- Harvest in the province is estimated to be about 65% complete, and ranges from 40 % to 95% at various farms. Many farms expect to finish harvest within a few more days.
- Yields are average to better than average in most process potato crops, which are irrigated.
- Tuber pulp temperatures at harvest were warm in the beginning of the week, but by Oct. 2, the tubers have cooled to 50 - 55 °F (10 to 13 °C) in irrigated fields.
- The warm temperatures of Sept. 29, did disrupt harvest in some farms. .

- Weather forecast indicates cooling overnight temperatures across the province; however some western potato areas may have frost issues with the forecasted -3 and 0 °C overnight air temperatures on Oct. 3 and 6.

Disease Monitoring

- Potato early dying (PED) caused by verticillium wilt and black dot diseases are now more severe with crop maturity.
- Powdery scab on roots continue to be reported from more fields.

Late Blight Monitoring

Monitoring and Forecasting

- No late blight has been reported in the province.
- Late blight risk maps, P-Days, and SprayCast maps are available at <http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/index.cfm>.

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, or 204-745-0260.