

Issue 20 – September 28, 2023

Manitoba Potato Report



Weekly Provincial Summary

- The week (Sept 18-24) was generally warmer than last week with daytime highs ranging from 27.3 to 31.7°C, and the overnight lows ranged from 3.1 to 11.0°C in potato areas.
- The rainfall recorded in most of Manitoba potato areas ranged from 1.6 to 26.7 mm.
- Crop water demand for potatoes in the week ranged from 16.5 to 22.1 mm.

Overview

- In potato growing areas, daytime high temperatures ranged from 27.3 to 31.7°C, which is much warmer than last week. The highs of the week were on Sept 18 and 19 after which the highs dropped to around 20°C. The overnight temperatures ranged from 3.1 to 11.0°C, slightly warmer than last week.
- Some rainfall was recorded in the week ranging from 1.6 to 26.7 mm across Manitoba.
- Harvest for storages is in full swing, but was slowed due to rainfall in some areas and warm daytime highs.
- Harvesting status of farms ranges from 45% to 100% harvested. The Manitoba overall estimate would be just over 75% of acres harvested. Yield estimates appear to be 15-20% higher than last year according to some growers.
- Potato raw delivery to the processors is still ongoing for 7th week “direct-from-field” resulting from better than projected yields.
- Late blight risk for the week was moderate to high, but no late blight has been reported.
- Early dying complex (Verticillium wilt and black dot diseases) have increased in severity and incidence and desiccated large portions of many potato fields.
- Regular weekly reports and other features will also be available at: <http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/index.cfm>.

Ag Weather Data

Precipitation and Soil Moisture

- There was some rainfall in the week in most of the province (Table 1), but more in south & eastern potato areas. Cumulative rainfall for the week ranged from 1.6 mm in Rivers to 26.7 mm in Altona area.
- The cumulative precipitation for the growing season to-date is still much below normal, mostly ranging from 44 to 68%; with the exception of Rivers (81%). (Table 1).
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf>
- After some rainfall in the week, the soil moisture status in the province improved to generally optimum in potato areas compared to last week (Fig. 1). <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf>

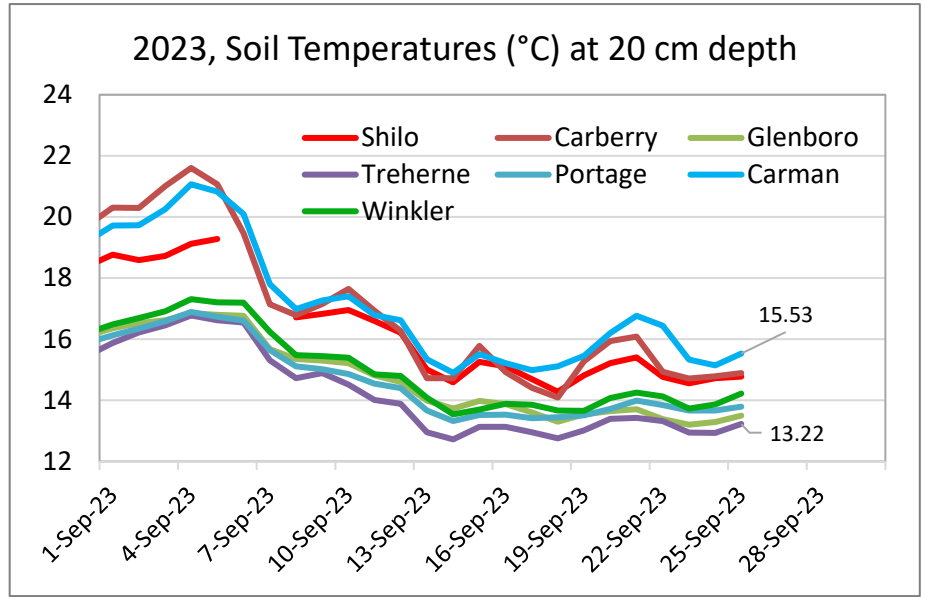
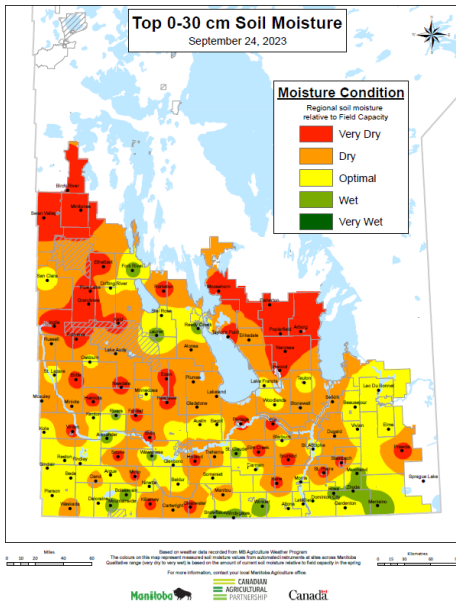


Fig. 1. (Left). Soil moisture (0-30 cm depth) by Sept 24 condition improved to generally optimum in many potato areas.

Fig.2. (Right) Soil temperatures by Sept 25 at 30 cm depth at selected potato areas weather stations, are now 13-15.5°C.

Temperatures – Air & Soil

- The daytime high temperatures during the week were higher 4-6 °C compared to last week, reaching up to 31.7°C in Winkler. The daytime highs ranged from 27.3 to 31.7°C. The overnight minimums were a bit warmer than last week’s, ranging from 3.1 to 11.0°C (Table 1).
- Soil temperatures at 30 cm depth have stayed below 16°C in most potato areas by September 24 (Fig. 2). Carman, Shilo and Carberry were warmer at around 15.5°C; Treherne was the coolest at 13°C.

Weather Data Summary for Selected Potato Site Stations

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

Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – Sept 18-24 for selected potato growing areas.

Region	Max Temp (°C)	Min Temp (°C)	Rain (mm) for the week	Crop Water Demand this Week	Rain (Since May 1) (mm)	Crop Water Demand Jun 1-Sep17	2023 Rainfall (% of normal) May 1 to Sep17
Altona	30.1	11.0	26.7	-	144	-	44
Austin	28.0	4.7	4.8	19.3	196	386.7	62
Bagot	28.8	4.0	7.3	20.0	147	386.4	47
Carberry EC	28.0	3.6	8.1	17.3	173	325.5	57
Carman	29.6	8.3	22.2	16.5	204	347.5	64
Cypress River	28.3	6.1	4.9	-	166	-	49
Glenboro	28.2	3.8	5.4	17.1	195	346.7	62
Holland	28.4	6.8	15.6	22.1	178	426.7	52
Morden	30.0	10.5	24.5	-	120	-	37
Portage EC	28.5	9.5	5.4	21.3	134	436.2	43

Rivers	27.3	5.9	1.6	20.9	219	379.2	81
Shilo	28.4	4.2	7.6	No Data			
St. Claude	27.9	9.3	13.9	19.4	167	394.3	53
Treherne	28.5	8.3	16.4	19.5	120	409.4	38
Wawanesa	29.3	3.1	5.5	18.7	206	358.8	68
Winkler	31.7	10.9	25.1	18.6	177	378.1	55

* Shilo weather station was down from Aug 10 to 24.

† Crop Water Demand: cwd (www.mbpotatoes.ca)

Agronomics

- Crop water demand (CWD) for the week was 16.5 to 22.5 mm in different potato areas (Table 1); and the rainfall was not enough to meet the CWD in many sites.
- P-Days are 100 to 115% of normal, and by September 24 were around 835 to 900 in the potato growing areas ([P-Days \(mbpotatoes.ca\)](http://P-Days (mbpotatoes.ca))).

Crop Progress

- Delivery of raw material for processing “direct-from-field” is still continuing for the 7th week in a row, resulting from higher than expected early yields.
- Harvest for storage is in full swing and over 75% of Manitoba potato acres is estimated to have been harvested; with farm harvests ranging from two-thirds to all finished.
- Due to better than budgeted yields, some farms have decided not to harvest all their crop. In 2023, Manitoba may have unharvested acres partly out of growers’ choice, unlike some of the previous years, where weather played a key role.
- Warm temperatures early in the week had slowed harvest, due to tuber temperatures approaching 17°C (≥ 62°F).

Disease & Insect Pests Monitoring

- Verticillium wilt, which is an endemic problem, is taking down many fields. A survey for early dying (Verticillium wilt & Black dot) status in various fields is being conducted using drone imaging.
- With soil temperatures cooling down in many potato areas, the conditions will be less favourable for pink rot and leak at this stage. However, some instances of tuber rot are being reported – mostly soft rots.
- Minor incidences of diseases of black scurf, lenticel enlargement and soft rot in high moisture spots in a field. Powdery scab (PS) infected root galls were observed in a couple of fields. Early symptoms of PS on tubers were also noted.
- Many fields are showing high incidences of early blight and brown spot; but this late in the season should have practically no impact on yields.

Late Blight Monitoring

- The 7-Day Disease Risk values are pointing to moderate to high risk of late blight disease ([Late Blight \(mbpotatoes.ca\)](http://Late Blight (mbpotatoes.ca))) due to some rains starting Sept 23.
- No late blight or spores in traps have been reported in Manitoba this season.

Weather Forecast

- Rains: The 10-day forecast ([Weather \(mbpotatoes.ca\)](http://Weather.mbpotatoes.ca)) and (<https://weather.gc.ca/>) in short: there could be widespread rain/drizzle around Sept 29 - Oct 4.
- Temperature: There is no severe frost forecast for the next 10 days; in some places overnight lows may go down to 0°C mostly in the western areas of Manitoba.

If you suspect late blight in your area, please contact vikram.bisht@gov.mb.ca
