

Issue 2 – June 5, 2024

Vegetable Crop Report



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Provincial Overview

Commercial asparagus harvest is underway, and reports are that yield and quality (particularly spear thickness), are average to above average. The majority of producers surveyed estimate they have completed between 50% to 60% of their asparagus harvest.

Seeding and transplanting of commercial vegetable crop fields is well underway. All vegetable producers surveyed report that planting has been a challenge this year given the amount of rainfall. However, approximately 80% of Manitoba's vegetable acres have been seeded to date. Most producers are where they had originally planned to be for planting at this point of the season. The majority of the remaining acres to plant are due to producers having staggered/sequential planting dates for some vegetable crops.

In most vegetable production areas of Manitoba, the percent of precipitation is above normal, and the percent of accumulated Growing Degree Days are near normal or below for the season so far (Figure 1 and 2).

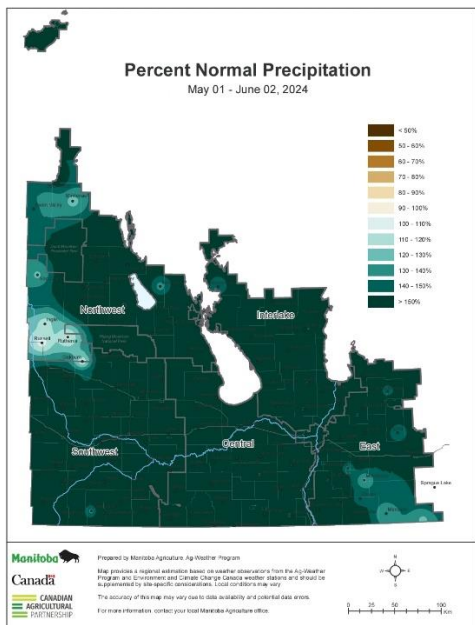


Figure 1. Percent Normal Precipitation (May 1 to June 2, 2024)

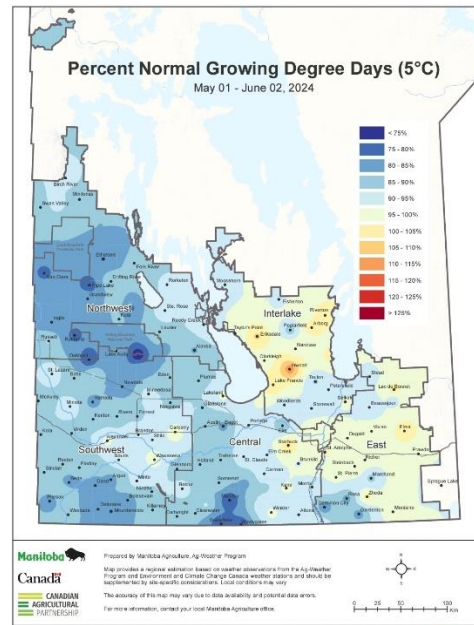


Figure 2. Percent Normal Growing Degree Days (May 1 to June 2, 2024)

For more detailed information on the weather conditions within the province, please go to the Crop Weather Conditions and Report webpage : <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/weather-conditions-and-reports.html>

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Manitoba Agriculture – Vegetable Research Trial / Demonstration Plot Update

High Tunnel Research Trial / Demonstration Plot Update

A pre-plant blend of fertilizer based on 60% of the recommendation from the soil test results was broadcast and worked into the soil with a tractor mounted rotovator (Figure 3). The remaining fertilizer will be applied using soluble fertilizer with irrigation water as required during the growing season.



Figure 3. Broadcast fertilizer application was worked-in, and soil prepared with a rotovator (April 24, 2024).

Plastic mulch for weed control and irrigation drip tape was laid out in Manitoba Agriculture high tunnel in Portage la Prairie prior to transplanting. (Figure 4)



Figure 4. Plastic mulch and irrigation drip tape installed prior to transplanting (May 5, 2024)

Transplanting of the trial/demonstration plots (peppers, tomatoes, and cucumbers) was completed on May 9, 2024, and the plants have been continually staked and pruned since then. Development of the plants over 17 days is pictured below in figure 5 and 6.



Figure 5. 2024 high tunnel vegetable plots in Portage la Prairie (May 17, 2024)



Figure 6. 2024 high tunnel vegetable plots in Portage la Prairie (June 3, 2024)

Pruning and the “tying” of tomato plants using plastic twine and plastic “tomato clips” (Figure 7) has begun. Staking of cucumbers using wooden stakes, plastic twine and a vine tying tool (Figure 8) is underway to support the vines.

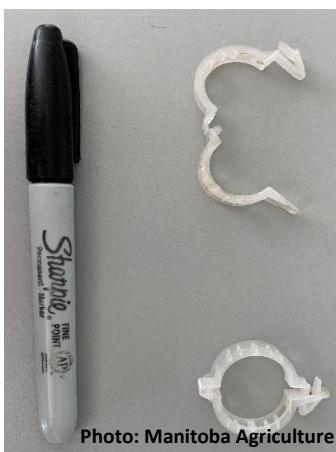


Figure 7. Plastic Tomato Clips



Figure 8. Vine Tying Tool

The first harvest of “mini cucumber” varieties in the High Tunnel Cucumber Variety Evaluation Trial was conducted on May 30 and has been continuing since then based on size and quality of the cucumber varieties. The minimum length for a marketable “mini cucumber” is 4.5 inches and the cucumber must be straight and blemish free. In the picture below, the cucumber at the top of the picture was graded as marketable while the cucumber at the bottom of the picture graded as not being marketable due to its off shape (Figure 9).



Photo: Manitoba Agriculture

Figure 9. Cucumber yield from one plant in the high tunnel cucumber variety evaluation trials at the May 30th harvest.

Data from temperature and relative humidity sensors inside and outside of the high tunnel are updated online every hour. This “real time” hourly data and a summary can be accessed online: [Real Time High Tunnel Sensor Data \(mbagweather.ca\)](https://mbagweather.ca) (Figure 10).

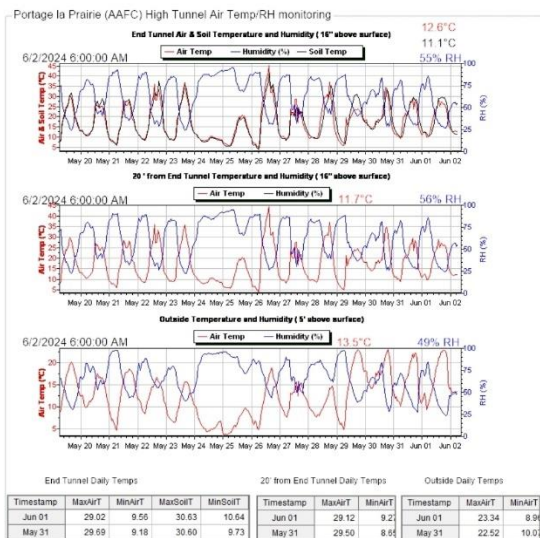


Figure 10. Screenshot of high tunnel sensor data webpage (June 2, 2024)

Field Trial / Demonstration Plot Update

Soil tests were conducted on the plots and a pre-plant blend of fertilizer based on 60% of the recommendation from these soil test results was broadcast and worked into the soil. The remaining fertilizer will be applied using

soluble fertilizer with irrigation water over the course of the growing season. Plots were rotovated to work in the fertilizer and prepare the soil for transplanting.

Plastic mulch for weed control was laid for the field vegetable trial/demonstration plots and irrigation drip tape was installed (Figure 11).



Figure 11. Laying bio-degradable plastic mulch in the Manitoba Agriculture vegetable research/demonstration plots (May 22, 2024)

Transplanting and seeding of Manitoba Agriculture's vegetable research and demonstration plots was completed on May 29 (Figure 12).



Figure 12. Transplanting of Manitoba Agriculture vegetable research/demonstration plots (May 29, 2024)

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