

Issue 22 – October 12, 2023

Manitoba Potato Report



Weekly Provincial Summary

- The week (Oct 2 - 9) was slightly cooler than last week with daytime highs ranging from 16.7 to 24.5°C, and the overnight lows ranged from -3.4°C to 0.6°C in various potato areas. There was frost recorded on Oct 6/7.
- Rainfall was medium to heavy on October 3 and 4 across Manitoba potato areas and ranged from 16.4 to 52.8 mm.

Overview

- In potato growing areas, daytime high temperatures ranged from 16.7 to 24.5°C, which was much cooler than last week.
- The overnight minimum temperatures ranged from -3.4°C to 0.6°C, and colder than last week; no reports yet of frost damage on potatoes.
- Some rainfall was recorded in the week ranging from 16.4 to 52.8 mm, but substantially more across Manitoba on October 3 and 4. Harvest was slowed due to rain.
- Over 95% of Manitoba potato acres are estimated to have been harvested. Harvest was slowed due to rains on Oct 3 & 4. Harvest status of individual farms ranges from 70% to 100% done.
- Yield estimates are generally higher than average according to many growers. Some acres have been left unharvested.
- Potato raw delivery to the processors is still ongoing for 9th week “direct-from-field”.
- No late blight has been reported. There are reports of minor tuber rotting in storage.
- 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 good amount of rainfall across Manitoba in the week, mostly on Oct 3 & 4 and ranged from 16.4 (Austin) to 52.8 mm (Portage) (Table 1).
- The cumulative precipitation for the growing season to-date is still much below normal, mostly ranging from 51 to 70%; with the exception of Rivers (85%) (Table 1).
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf>
- After rainfall in the week, the soil moisture status in the province improved to generally optimum in potato areas, with some on the dry and also wet side. (Fig. 1).
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf>

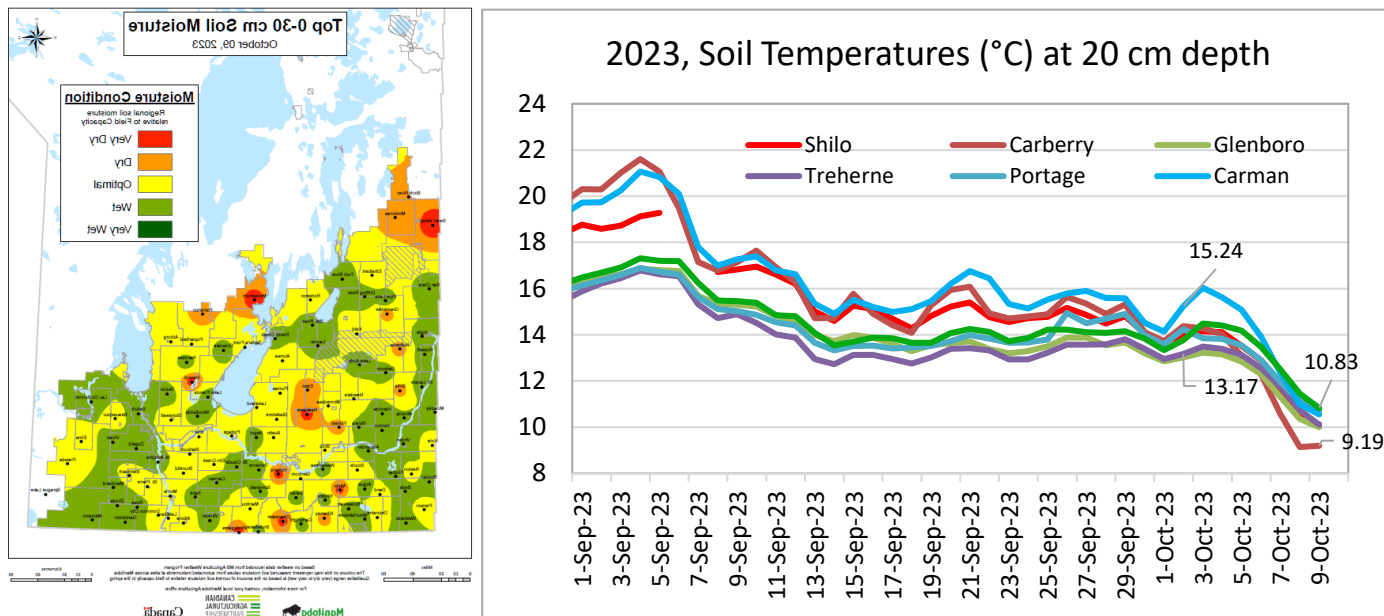


Fig. 1. (Left). Soil moisture condition relative to field capacity (0-30 cm depth) by Oct 9 improved to generally optimum to wet in many potato areas.

Fig.2. (Right) Soil temperatures by Oct 9 at 30 cm depth at selected potato areas weather stations have cooled down after a couple of overnight freezing temperatures on Oct 6/7.

Temperatures – Air & Soil

- In potato growing areas, the daytime high temperatures ranged from 16.7 to 24.5°C, which was much cooler than last week (Table 1). The western potato areas were cooler (high teens) while eastern areas were warmer (mid 20°Cs), reaching up to 24.5°C in Winkler and Altona. The overnight temperatures went below 0 in most potato areas; ranged from -3.4°C (in Rivers) to 0.6 (in St. Claude) on Oct 6/7.
- Soil temperatures at 30 cm depth have now gone down to around 10 or lower in most potato areas by October 9 (Fig. 2). Carman, Shilo and Carberry were warmer at around 11°C; Treherne was the coolest at 9.2°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 – Oct 2 - Oct 9 for selected potato growing areas.

Region	Max Temp (°C)	Min Temp (°C)	Rain (mm) for the week	Rain (Since May 1) (mm)	2023 Rainfall (% of normal) from May 1 to Oct 9
Altona	24.3	-0.3	30.6	175	51
Austin	17.6	-0.2	16.4	212	63
Bagot	17.5	-1.5	26.4	181	54
Carberry EC	16.9	-1.9	15.6	191	59
Carman	23.0	-0.3	34.7	239	71
Cypress River	17.1	-1.7	13.4	185	52
Glenboro	17.2	-1.8	16.9	212	64
Holland	18.1	-1.5	13.7	199	55

Morden	23.6	0.7	31.4	152	44
Portage EC	17.7	-0.4	52.8	187	55
Rivers	16.7	-3.4	22.6	246	85
Shilo	16.9	-2.1	17.2	Missing data	
St. Claude	18.3	0.6	40.0	214	65
Treherne	17.0	-1.6	25.0	147	44
Wawanesa	17.7	-2.1	17.8	225	70
Winkler	24.5	-0.1	27.5	204	59

* Shilo weather station was down from Aug 10 to 24. Crop Water Demand: [cwd \(www.mbpotatoes.ca\)](http://www.mbpotatoes.ca)

Crop Progress

- Delivery of raw material for processing “direct-from-field” is still continuing for the 9th week in a row, resulting from higher than expected early yields.
- Harvest for storage is coming to an end and over 95% of Manitoba potato acres is estimated to have been harvested. Most farms will have finished their harvest by this weekend (in 3-4 days). This harvest season has been generally very good weather wise, unlike some of the previous years.
- Rain on Oct 3 and 4 slowed harvest in some fields, with good harvest conditions now.
- Freezing overnight temperatures on Oct 6/7 may have injured some tubers but there has been none reported so far.
- Over 800 acres of potatoes may be left unharvested partly out of growers choice resulting from better than projected yields.

Disease & Insect Pests Monitoring

- Due to endemic nature of early dying complex in many fields, a few more growers are considering fumigation in fall. Bio-fumigation has also been used in the province.
- Low incidence of tubers with visible rot are coming into the storage.

Weather Forecast

- Rains: The 10-day forecast ([Weather \(mbpotatoes.ca\)](http://Weather.mbpotatoes.ca) and <https://weather.gc.ca/>) in short: there could be rain/drizzle around Oct 17/18.
- Temperature: Currently, there is overnight freezing temperatures forecast for Oct 13, 14 & 15. More severe frost is projected for the western Manitoba areas, reaching down to -4°C.

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