

Issue 4 – August 28, 2024

Vegetable Crop Report



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Provincial Overview

Sweet corn harvest began in most of Manitoba's vegetable production areas in middle to late August. Growers have reported early cob size is average to above average and sales have been strong to date.

The commercial carrot harvest began in the last week of July for direct delivery to buyers. The storage harvest is likely to begin after the September long weekend, depending on outside temperatures. Reports are that carrot seed emergence was average to above average and has been attributed to the above normal rainfall early in the growing season that reduced crusting in carrot fields. Hence, the carrot populations per acre are average to above average and this has contributed to yields being average to above average.

To date, most of the vegetable production areas in Manitoba have had an above normal percent of precipitation and a lower or slightly above normal percent of accumulated Growing Degree Days since May 1st (Figures 1 & 2). Recently, warmer than average temperatures have been recorded in most vegetable production areas of the province.

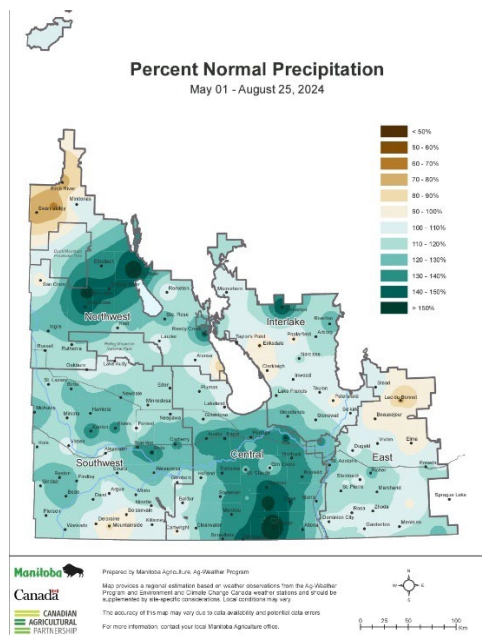


Figure 1. Percent Normal Precipitation (May 1 to August 25, 2024)

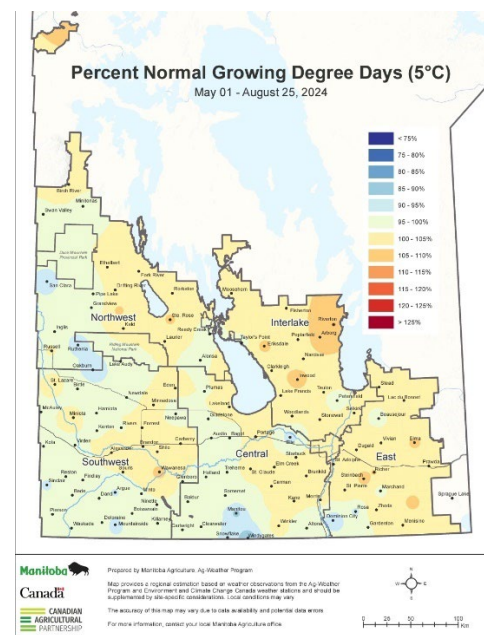


Figure 2. Percent Normal Growing Degree Days (May 1 to August 25, 2024)

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

Tying, pruning, and harvesting of the tomato and cucumber variety plots has been ongoing since mid July. Harvesting of pepper trials in the high tunnel began on August 16, 2024. Development of the vegetable trial/demonstration plots in the high tunnel over the past 42 days (June 22 to August 26) since the last Vegetable Crop Report are documented below in figures 3 to 6.



Figures 3 & 4. 2024 high tunnel vegetable plots in Portage la Prairie (July 22, 2024)



Photo: Manitoba Agriculture



Photo: Manitoba Agriculture

Figures 5 & 6. 2024 high tunnel vegetable plots in Portage la Prairie (August 26, 2024)

The harvesting of high tunnel peppers from the variety trial began August 16, 2024 (Figures 7 & 8).



Photo Courtesy: Manitoba Agriculture



Photo: Manitoba Agriculture

Figures 7 & 8. Harvest from the high tunnel pepper variety trials on August 19.

Presently, the high tunnel plots are being irrigated twice a day for 18 minutes per irrigation event for a total of 36 minutes per day. The pepper plots utilize one line of drip tape, while both the tomato and cucumber plots utilize two drip lines per plot. All plots are fertilized weekly with soluble 10-52-10 fertilizer.

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 \(mbagweather.ca\)](http://mbagweather.ca).

Field Trial / Demonstration Plot Update

To date, Manitoba Agriculture’s late blight sentinel tomato and potato plot planted in Portage la Prairie has not shown any symptoms of late blight infection. The field vegetable plots were last irrigated on Monday August 26, 2024. The first harvest of field tomato and pepper variety trials began on August 19, 2024 (Figures 9, 10 & 11)



Figures 9 & 10 Harvest from the field tomato variety trials on August 19 and 22.



Figure 11. Harvest from the field pepper variety trials on August 19.

The first harvest from the melon demonstration plots began on August 19, 2024 (Figures 12, 13 & 14).



Photo: Manitoba Agriculture

Figure 12. Harvest from the field muskmelon variety demonstration plots on August 19.



Photo: Manitoba Agriculture

Figure 13. Harvest from the field cantaloupe variety demonstration plots on August 19.



Figure 14. Harvest from the field honeydew melon variety demonstration plots on August 19.

2024 Horticulture School Update

The 2024 Horticulture School was held on Thursday, August 1, at the Agriculture and Agri Food Canada (AAFC) Research Station in Portage la Prairie (Figure 15). Stay tuned for updates on upcoming horticulture extension events.



Figure 15. 2024 Horticulture School at AAFC Portage on August 1, 2024.

Next Issue: October 9, 2024