

Issue 5 – October 9, 2024

Vegetable Crop Report



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Provincial Overview

The first “killing” frost was reported in several of the vegetable crop production areas of Manitoba on the morning of Oct. 4, 2024 when air temperature was below -2°C for at least four consecutive hours. Below is a map of the minimum air temperatures recorded between 10:00 pm Oct. 3, 2024, and 11:00 am Oct. 4, 2024 (Figure 1).

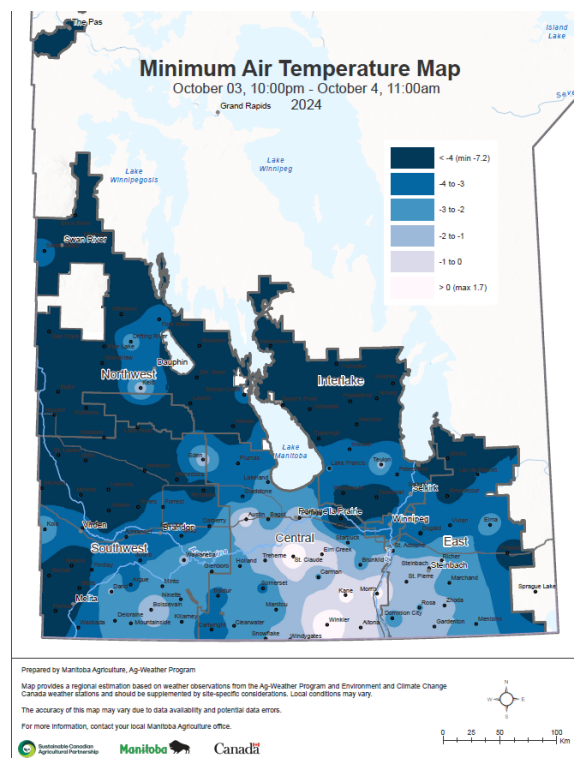


Figure 1. Minimum Air Temperature (10:00 pm Oct. 3, 2024 to 11:00 am Oct. 4, 2024)

Sweet corn harvest is complete, and yields were reported to be average to above average.
Producers anticipate that the commercial cabbage harvest will be completed by mid-October.
Most of the pumpkin and squash acres have been harvested.

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The commercial carrot harvest is on-going and is over one third complete (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Commercial carrot harvest (Oct. 3, 2024)

To date, most of the vegetable production areas in Manitoba have had a normal to above normal percent of precipitation and a normal to above normal percent of accumulated Growing Degree Days since May 1st. (Figures 3 & 4).

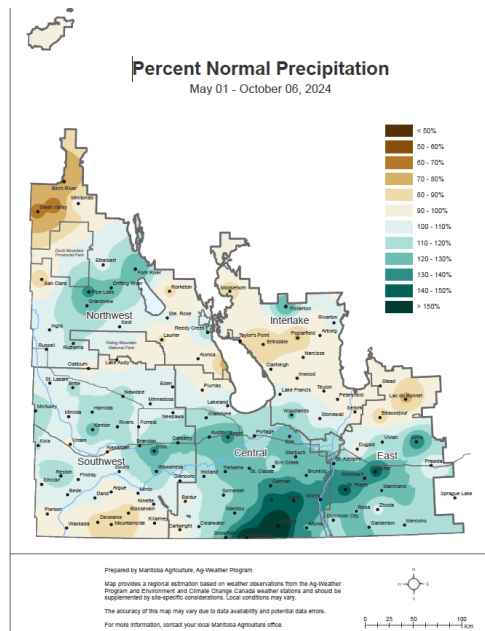


Figure 3. Percent Normal Precipitation (May 1 to Oct. 6, 2024)

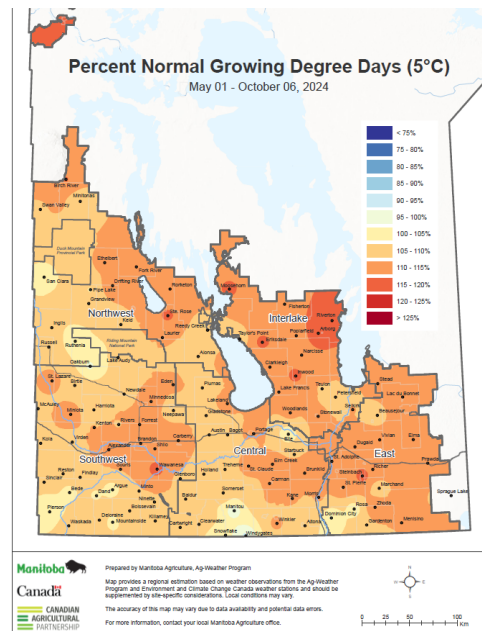


Figure 4. Percent Normal Growing Degree Days (May 1 to Oct 6, 2024)

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>

Manitoba Agriculture – Vegetable Research Trial / Demonstration Plot Update

High Tunnel Research Trial / Demonstration Plot Update

The first below zero temperature recorded outside of the high tunnel was -1.7°C on the morning of Oct. 4, 2024, while at the same time the minimum temperature recorded in the high tunnel was $+0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$. There was no frost damage observed on any of the plants in the high tunnel. Historically the high tunnel has provided plants protection from a frost of between -2°C and -3.0°C depending on the duration of the freezing temperature. 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).

Presently, the high tunnel plots are being irrigated twice a day for 13 minutes per irrigation event for a total of 26 minutes per day. The pepper and cucumber plots are presently irrigated with one line of drip tape, while the tomato plots are irrigated with two drip lines. All plots have been fertilized weekly with soluble 10-52-10 fertilizer up to and including September 18, 2024.

Tying, pruning, and harvesting of the high tunnel plots has been ongoing. Weekly yields peaked in late-August to mid-September for all crops (cucumbers, tomatoes, and peppers). However, all crops have continued to produce saleable marketable yields through September and into October. Development of the vegetable trial/demonstration plots in the high tunnel over the past 42 days (August 26 to October 7) are illustrated below in figures 5 to 8.



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



Figures 7 & 8. 2024 high tunnel vegetable plots in Portage la Prairie (Oct. 7, 2024)

Field Trial / Demonstration Plot Update

The effects of the first fall frost on Oct. 4, 2024 can be seen below (Figures 9 & 10).



Figure 9. Butternut Squash plot 3 hours after a frost of -1.7°C (Oct. 4, 2024)



Figure 10. Tomato plant 3 hours after a frost of -1.7°C (Oct. 4, 2024)

Prior to the Oct. 4, 2024, frost, Manitoba Agriculture's late blight sentinel tomato and potato plot in Portage la Prairie had not shown any symptoms of late blight infection. However, the top growth of the plants in this plot were injured during the Oct. 4, 2024, frost.

The watermelon demonstration plots were adversely affected by excess moisture after transplanting and plant growth was stunted. The variety planted was New Queen (a yellow fleshed watermelon). The seedlings survived to produce marketable watermelons, though fruit maturity was delayed. The watermelon harvest began on Sept. 10, 2024 (Figures 11 & 12).



Figure 11. Watermelon harvest (September 25, 2024)



Photo: Manitoba Agriculture

Figure 12. Watermelon harvest (September 25, 2024)

2024 Vegetable Crop Report

This is the final issue of the 2024 Vegetable Crop Report. Join us again next growing season. Please send any feedback on this year's report to crops@gov.mb.ca.