Issue 2 – May 25, 2023

Manitoba Potato Report

Weekly Provincial Summary

- Above normal temperatures (10^{O}C warmer than last year at the same time) and lack of rain this spring are the highlights weatherwise so far.
- Planting for the province is around 80% complete. Almost 95% of the processing acres have been planted. Seed acres and areas with wet soils are 50-75% done.
- There has been greater interest in “direct” planting this year.

Overview

- Potato planting started on April 27, which was a delay of about 7 days over the normal start time. Despite the delay, potato planting in Manitoba is expected to finish in the first week of June. In 2022, the last field was planted on June 18..
- Planting in the western side of the province is nearly 100% completed. Central potato growing areas around Portage are at 50-75% complete. The southern part of the province is just over 50% planted.
- Overall, potato planting is around 80-85% complete in the province. With good weather in the forecast, planting should be over within a week to ten days.
- Regular weekly reports and other features will also be available at *http://www.mbpotatoes.ca/index.cfm*.

Ag Weather Data

Precipitation and Soil Moisture

- Precipitation (mm) in the first three weeks of May has been below normal in the potato growing areas of the province. (Fig 1). *http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/percent-normal-precipitation.pdf*
- Soil moisture in the top 30 cm was optimal but starting to get dry in the potato growing areas by May 23 (Fig 2). *https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather/pubs/soil-moisture-30cm.pdf*
- Rain is needed across all potato growing regions of the province.
- Some rains are forecast in the coming few days, between May 25-30 for various regions in Manitoba.

Report Compiled by Vikram Bisht, Manitoba Agriculture
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Manitoba

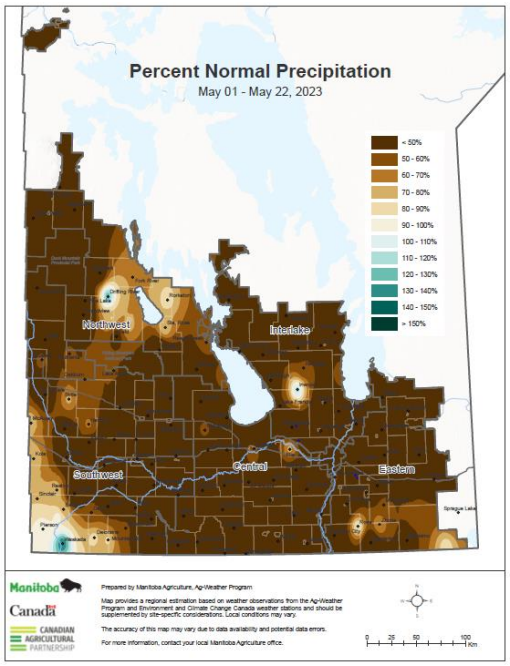

Fig. 1 Rainfall (mm) in the first three weeks of May continues to be below normal.

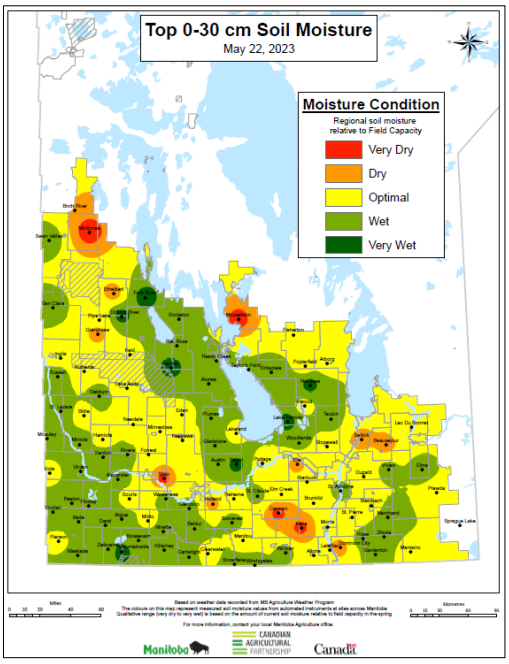

Fig. 2 Soil moisture (0-30 cm depth) by mid-May is optimal to dry in most potato growing areas of Manitoba.

Temperatures – Air & Soil

- In the potato growing areas, daytime high (max) temperatures for the week (May 15-22) ranged around 28-29^{O}C, while the minimum temperatures ranged from 1.0 to 4.4^{O}C (Table 1). The daytime highs were around 10^{O}C warmer than the same week in 2022.
- The GDD (Growing degree days with base 5^{O}C) is >125% above normal (Fig 3), indicating we have a warmer start to the season.
- As in last week, Winkler and Treherne had cooler (12^{O}C) soil temperatures at 5 cm depth than other selected sites, like Shilo, Carberry, Portage & Carman (15-16^{O}C). Cooler soils may lead to slower emergence. At 20 cm depths Winkler, Treherne and Glenboro were cooler (8-10^{O}C) than other selected sites (13-14^{O}C) .
- Soil temperatures remain cool, but are getting warmer with nearly 30^{O}C maximum daily air temperatures.

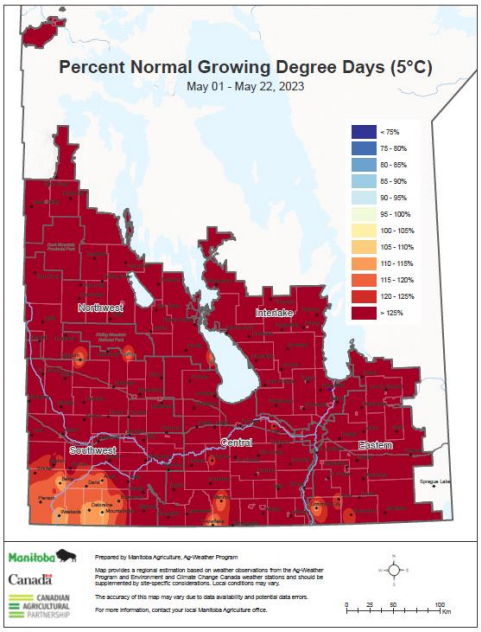

Fig 3. Accumulated heat units, GDD (May 1-21) across Manitoba continues to be above normal.

Weather Data Summary

- The daytime highs in potato producing areas were nearly 30^{O}C, which is about 10^{O}C warmer than 2022 in the same time frame. The low temperatures were from 1-4.5^{O}C (Table 1).
- The weather highlight for 2023 so far has been the lack of rain. This has led to all potato growing areas being significantly below normal for precipitation (20 to 56% of normal).
- For more Manitoba weather information, visit*: www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/weather*

Table 1. Manitoba Ag Weather Data – May 15 to 23 for selected potato growing areas.

Region	Max Temp (ºC)	MinTemp (ºC)	Rain (mm) for the week	Rain (Since May 1) (mm)	2023 Rainfall (% of normal) from May 1
Altona	28.0	3.7	6.5	9	23
Austin	28.8	2.9	6.1	10	29
Bagot	28.6	3.3	4.9	16	47
Carberry EC	29.0	1.0	3.3	9	21
Carman	Data	Not	available		
Cypress River	28.9	1.7	6.6	11	24
Glenboro	28.2	1.2	6.5	12	29
Holland	28.7	0.9	6.3	11	23
Morden	28.8	4.5	3.1	18	41
Portage EC	28.7	3.6	7.6	19	56
Rivers	28.2	0.3	6.3	12	38
Shilo	28.8	0.4	7.1	12	29
St. Claude	28.0	3.5	6.1	16	35
Treherne	29.1	1.6	4.9	12	28
Wawanesa	29.2	0.7	7.9	13	31
Winkler	29.0	4.4	2.8	12	28

Agronomics

- Planting operations are nearly done.
- Soil conditions are ideal in most regions for rapid planting.
- It is interesting that some new fields of “direct” planting have gone in this year.
  This follows our on-farm field trials where “direct” planting was done in spring into previous year’s stubble, with the aim of reducing soil erosion from bare cultivated ground. Direct planting saved both time and money for field operations without any yield penalty (Fig. 4a, b).

Fig. 4a.Direct planting on canola stubble (Jason Kehler Farm)

Fig. 4b. Direct planting on oat stubble (Chad, UTH Farms)

Crop Progress

- The first crop emergence was reported on May 22 (Fig 5). More fields are ready to emerge (Fig. 6), and by the first week of June, 50% of the fields are expected to have emerged. Some early fields are showing ground cracking.
- Later planted fields often catch up in emergence due to warmer soils at the time of planting.

Fig. 5 Good sprouting and emergence May 22. Photo courtesy: Mark Keller.

Fig. 6 Sprouts just about to emerge in a few days. Photo courtesy: Alan Waldner, Cascade Colony

Disease & Insect Pests Monitoring

- No issues reported yet.
- Verticillium early dying survey will be conducted in selected fields across Manitoba.
- Plants will be monitored for disease pressure throughout the season.

Late Blight Monitoring

Information

- Late blight risk forecasting will be provided on a regional basis. Please refer to the risk maps on www.mbpotatoes.ca.
- Late Blight Monitoring will occur again this year with weekly updates when plant stage and conditions are optimum for disease transmission.
- As in earlier years, there will be a network of passive traps for late blight spores, across Manitoba. Anyone interested in joining the spore trap network is quite welcome, especially those who make recommendations for late blight management on the farms.
- If you suspect late blight in your area, please contact vikram.bisht@gov.mb.ca