

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE BRANDON MAP SHEET AREA, 62G

The area covered by the Brandon map sheet comprises about 6220 square miles in the south-central part of Manitoba, southwest of Winnipeg. Less than 5 percent of the area consists of water bodies, which are mainly meandering creeks and rivers and many sloughs, potholes, and small lakes. Several shallow elongated lakes occur along the length of the Pembina River valley.

The 1000-foot contour marks the location of the Manitoba Escarpment, which crosses the area from the southeast corner to the north-central part of the area. The Manitoba Lowland lies below the escarpment and to the east. The Lower Assiniboine Delta cuts through the lowland in a wide band adjacent to the escarpment. A small part of the fairly level Red River Plain is in the northeast part of this region.

The Western Upland above the escarpment to the west consists of several physiographic divisions. The Upper Assiniboine Delta in the north is characterized by dunes and level topography. The Tiger Hills and Pembina Mountain, which have rough relief, are located north of the Pembina River valley.

Parts of the Newdale Till Plain, which is incised by many streams, and the fairly level Brandon Lakes Plain are in the northwest. The Boissevain Till Plain in the south, characterized by many sloughs, extends beyond the boundary between Canada and the United States. A small part of Turtle Mountain is in the extreme southwest.

The underlying bedrock consists of sedimentary rocks of the Mesozoic and Cenozoic eras. Sandstone is the most common rock, followed by the lacustrine and Cretaceous periods underlie the northeast. The Manitoba Escarpment marks the contact with upper cretaceous shales of the Riding Mountain Formation, which underlie the rest of the area. An outlier of sandstone is capped with residual mottled shales and lignite beds in the extreme southwest.

The area lies within the Nelson River principal drainage division of Manitoba. The historically significant Assiniboine River drains the northern half of the area from west to east and eventually joins the Red River, which empties into Lake Winnipeg. The Little Souris and Souris Rivers, Oak Creek, Cypress River, Epinette Creek, and many streams and tributaries of the Assiniboine River, the Long River, Whitemud, Badger, Crystal, and Snowflake creeks, and many small streams are tributaries of the Pembina River, which drains from west to southeast. Deadhorse, Shannon, and Tobacco creeks, and the Boyne River drain the eastern lowlands toward the Red River. In the north, Pine, Squirrel, and Willow Bend creeks, and many streams drain toward the Whitemud River, which is north of the area.

The estimated population of the area is more than 100,000. About 35,000 people reside in the city of Brandon in the northwest, and more than 13,000 in Portage La Prairie in the northeast. Carberry and MacGregor in the north, Wawanesa, Glenboro, Treherne, and Carmar in the central part of the area, and Killarney, Pilot Mound, and Morden in the south have a combined population of about 7000, and are local service centers. The remaining 50,000 are mainly rural residents and operate about 8000 farm units averaging 500 acres in size.

A network of provincial trunk highways running east-west and north-south provide good access to the agricultural region for transportation of goods and servicing. An extensive system of gravel roads also provides local access. The Canadian National Railways and Canadian Pacific Rail have several lines serving the area.

In 1813, the first settlers arrived at Fort La Reine, now called Portage La Prairie, and homesteaded along the Assiniboine River for the next sixty years. Settlement moved westward and southward in 1870. The use of the forest resource in the area has been fairly extensive since early settlement. Logs were used mainly to build homes and for fuel and fences. Between 1880 and 1900, the main rail lines were built connecting eastern Canada with Manitoba and more timber was used for rail ties and locomotive fuel. Thousands of cords of fuel wood were cut for consumption in Winnipeg after 1900. Several sawmills were located in the area to serve local construction needs.

CLIMATE

The climate of the area is boreal-temperate, dry subhumid, characterized by short warm summers, long cold winters, and a wide seasonal and daily temperature range. The July mean temperature varies from about 67°F in the west to about 68°F in the east. The January mean temperature varies from 4°F in the south to 1°F in the north. The mean annual minimum temperature ranges from -35°F to -40°F. The mean frost-free period varies from less than 90 days on Turtle Mountain in the southwest to more than 120 days in the southeast. The growing season is about 160 to 180 days. Average annual precipitation is about 18 to 20 inches, with local variations of less than 16 inches at Brandon and more than 20 inches at Morden. Class 7 occurs as a treeless fringe along lakes and potholes and as vegetated sloughs, rated Class 7W.

Capability classification and general description by D. B. Forrester, Forestry Sector, Canada Land Inventory Project for Manitoba, Department of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management, 1970.

REFERENCES

- Chapman, L. J., and D. M. Brown. 1966. The climates of Canada for agriculture. *Canada Land Inventory Rep. No. 3.* Canada Dep. Forestry and Rural Development.
 Ehrlich, W. A., et al. 1957. Report of reconnaissance soil survey of Carberry map sheet area. Soils Rep. No. 7 and map. Manitoba Soil Surv.
 Ellis, J. H., C. B. Gill, and F. W. Brodrick. 1945. Farm forestry and tree culture projects for the non-forested region of Manitoba.
 Ellis, J. H., and W. H. Shafer. Report of the reconnaissance soil survey of south-central Manitoba. Soils Rep. No. 4 and map. Manitoba Soil Surv.
 Weir, T. R. (ed.) 1960. Economic atlas of Manitoba. Manitoba Dep. Industry and Commerce.
 Zoltai, S. C., P. Gimbarzhevsky, A. Kabzems, and J. P. Senyk. 1967. Canada Land Inventory Rep. No. 4 (2nd ed. 1970) Canada Dep. Regional Economic Expansion, Ottawa.

ECOLOGICALLY-SIGNIFICANT REGIONS

For a description of Ecologically-Significant Regions refer to the Manitoba Regional Class Description in *Land Capability Classification for Forestry, prepared for the Canada Land Inventory by R. J. McCormack, Department of Regional Economic Expansion, Report No. 4, 2nd Edition, 1970.*

METRIC CONVERSION

	1 cubic foot/acre 0.06997245 cubic metre/hectare	cubic feet/acre/year	cubic metres/hectare/year
Class 1d	191 to 210	13.4 to 14.7	
Class 1c	171 to 190	12.0 to 13.3	
Class 1b	151 to 170	10.6 to 11.9	
Class 1a	131 to 150	9.2 to 10.5	
Class 1	111 to 130	7.8 to 9.1	
Class 2	91 to 110	6.4 to 7.7	
Class 3	71 to 90	5.0 to 6.3	
Class 4	51 to 70	3.6 to 4.9	
Class 5	31 to 50	2.2 to 3.5	
Class 6	11 to 30	0.8 to 2.1	
Class 7	11	0.8	

LANDFORMS
 The entire area was glaciated during the Wisconsin glacial period. The final ice advance came from the north and northwest where granite, limestone, sandstone, and shale bedrock were scoured and transported southward.

As the glacier stopped, oscillated, and finally receded to the northeast, it deposited a thick layer of glacial till in the form of end moraine, ground moraine, and recessional moraine over previous glacial deposits.

The surface of the southern half of the area west of the escarpment is generally rough and hilly along the northern boundary of the Tiger Hills and Pembina Mountains. Slopes in excess of 30 degrees occur and water erosion is severe. Many small lakes of varying depths occur throughout these recessional and end morainic deposits of medium textured and moderately calcareous till. The topography subsides toward the Pembina River valley, which is a broad U-shaped periglacial drainage channel bordered by deeply incised ravines that occasionally expose shale bedrock. Coarse sandy and gravelly outwash deposit parallel this drainage channel west and north of Rock Lake.

The topography of the extensive ground moraine south of the Pembina River is undulating to rolling with local, fairly smooth regions, which have been modified by postglacial water action. The till is predominantly medium textured and moderately calcareous. Wind and water erosion have removed the topsoil and exposed the parent material on the knolls, which reduce the agricultural value. Small intermittent ponds are abundant.

A part of the Turtle Mountain end moraine occurs in the extreme southwest. Moderately calcareous, medium textured till interspersed by many permanent lakes and small potholes cover the moderate to steeply rolling upland.

A moderately calcareous, medium to fine textured till plain extends over a fairly level region north of Brandon. A wide band of organic deposit borders most of the length of Epinette Creek.

Glacial Lake Agassiz, which was formed by the meltwater of the final receding glacier, has left geomorphic evidence of its stages of deposition from 12,500 to 7500 years ago. Several ancient beaches are found along the Manitoba Escarpment, marking the various stages of Lake Agassiz.

The Assiniboine River deposited a large amount of deltaic sediment into glacial Lake Agassiz over an extensive region. Surficial material grades from coarse, gravelly sand near Brandon to coarse, medium and fine textured sands eastward, and finally to loamy, fine sands below the Manitoba Escarpment. A deeply eroded network of ravines filled with shallow organic deposits in the north-central part of the area marks the contact between the Upper and Lower Assiniboine deltas. Sand dunes with varying local relief of 25 to 75 feet occur on most of the Upper Assiniboine delta. Smaller dunes are present south of Portage La Prairie on the Lower Assiniboine delta. Level lacustrine clay deposits are locally found on the deltaic sands. River terraces and floodplains of fine textured deposits extend along the valley floor of the Assiniboine River.

Fine and medium textured deltaic and shallow fine lacustrine materials were deposited in the delta below the Manitoba Escarpment in the southeast. Fine to medium textured, level lacustrine deposits and moderately calcareous alluvium occur southeast of Portage La Prairie.

FOREST ECOLOGY

There are two ecologically significant site regions in the area. Region 5Sd (boreal-temperate, dry subhumid) extends over most of the area, except for a small part of region 5Sn (boreal-temperate, normal or median subhumid), which is in the extreme southwest.

Throughout region 5Sd, trembling aspen is the most common tree species and occurs on a wide range of soil textures and moisture regimes. Balsam poplar grows on wet sites, usually bordering sloughs and potholes, and may form a mixture with trembling aspen.

Mixed grassland was common throughout the area before settlement, with short grass prairie in the west and tall grass prairie in the east. Where tree growth has invaded extensive prairie regions, a wooded grassland is formed.

Bear oak grows on dry, coarse textured soils that are well to excessively drained. It is usually mixed with trembling aspen on well-drained upland sites and occurs in association with other hardwoods along rivers, creeks, and floodplains. It grows on exposed, south-facing slopes of large river valleys and in open scrubby stands on the tops and south sides of low dunes.

Manitoba maple, green ash, and white elm grow along stream channels and as mixed stands below the escarpment on poorly drained sandy loam and on imperfectly drained medium textured alluvial soils in the northwest. Basswood and cottonwood also occur occasionally on riparian sites and below the escarpment. White birch usually occurs on cool, moist north- and east-facing slopes along the escarpment.

Willows grow on poorly drained sites or in association with sedges on wet shallow organic deposits.

White spruce grows naturally only on the Upper Assiniboine deltaic coarse to medium textured sands. The northern and eastern sides of sand dunes provide a more favorable microclimate, where natural regeneration maintains the spruce stands. Occasionally, continuous mixed stands of white spruce and trembling aspen occur on level sites, where fine moisture-holding soils underlie the sands. Protection from fire has allowed this successional stage to develop. Farm shelterbelts of white spruce thrive on fresh sites throughout the area.

Tamarack and black spruce are found on poorly drained to wet organic sites in the Sewell Lake Epinette Creek bog.

Experimental coniferous plantations were established from 1904 to 1929 in the Spruce Woods Provincial Forest Reserve, which covers a part of the Upper Assiniboine Delta. The purpose of planting on the well-drained deltaic deposits was to determine the degree of survival, cause of mortality, and the rate of growth of several species on these site conditions. Scotch pine exhibits the best height and diameter growth, but stocking and volume per acre are less than for jack pine. Lodgepole pine has the poorest growth, and white spruce and Norway spruce had extremely high mortality.

The increased precipitation and cooler temperatures in region 5Sn are more suitable for tree growth. No natural coniferous species grow in this region, although white spruce plantations established in 1912 have exhibited excellent growth. The climate is favorable for mixed hardwood and softwood stands on fresh to moist sites in the upland. Trembling aspen is the most abundant species and thrifty stands of exceptional quality are common. All other broad-leaved species that occur in region 5Sn, except for basswood and cottonwood, can be found in region 5Sd.

LAND CAPABILITY FOR FORESTRY

The regional climate can be considered the major factor limiting natural tree growth. Variations in the quantity and quality of tree cover are influenced by differences in the length of the growing season, the amount of precipitation and evapotranspiration, soil and drainage conditions.

In site regions 5Sd and 5Sn, the main limiting factors are excessive (W) or deficient (M) soil moisture, or more often a pattern of excessive and deficient soil moisture conditions (X). Common limitations in site region 5Sd are excessive levels of calcium carbonate (L), exposure to sun (U), and excessive levels of soluble salts (N). Other limitations are low fertility (F), inundation (I), and heavy compacted clay soils (D).

Class 3 is found on imperfectly drained fertile loams and loamy clays along the Assiniboine River and bordering other river channels in units too small to be delineated.

Class 4 occurs on slightly imperfectly drained fine sands, on loamy sands of the upper and lower deltaic deposits, on clay loam and loamy clay along rivers and creeks, and on fine textured alluvial deposits.

Class 5 occurs on moderately well to imperfectly drained soils, varying in texture from clay loamy sands, rated Classes 5M and 5W; on imperfectly drained lacustrine clay where columnar Solonetz soils restrict root development, rated Class 5S₁; on imperfectly drained highly calcareous lacustrine sandy loam, rated Class 5S₂; on well-drained to imperfectly drained highly calcareous till, rated Classes 5M, 5S₁, and 5S₂; and in river valleys and along stream channel slopes, rated Class 5X.

Class 6 is found on imperfectly to well-drained lacustrine material of varying texture, rated Classes 6W and 6M; on imperfectly to poorly drained clays, where a columnar structure restricts root development, rated Class 6S₁; on imperfectly to poorly drained highly calcareous lacustrine sandy loam, rated Class 6S₂; on well-drained to imperfectly drained highly calcareous till, rated Classes 6M and 6S₁; on well-drained to imperfectly drained exposed clay loam till, rated Classes 6S₂ and 6S₃; and on well-drained, exposed, south-facing, dune coarse to medium sands, rated Class 6S₄.

Class 7 is found in very poorly drained depressions, rated Class 7W; on poorly drained depressions that have high levels of soluble salts, rated Class 7S₁; and on poorly drained sites along river channels and floodplains subject to seasonal flooding, rated Class 7W₁.

Soils that are very dry as a result of rapid runoff on steep-sided knolls or very porous soils are rated Class 7M. On dry exposed south-facing slopes of river valleys and coarse textured open dunes, the limiting factor "U" is added. On sites where active wind or water erosion is a limitation, the site rating is Class 7W₂.

In site region 5Sn, Class 3 occurs on slightly imperfectly drained clay loam till. Class 4 occurs on similar soils that are slightly better drained and usually have a compacted alluvial soil horizon (D). This is indicated by the leaching of finer soil particles to a zone of accumulation restricts root development.

Class 5 occurs on well-drained clay loam till with a compacted layer of soil restricting root development, rated Class 5M₁, and on imperfectly drained clay loam tills, rated Class 5S₁. On well-to imperfectly drained clay loam tills, the site rating is Class 5S₂.

Class 6 occurs on dry compacted clay loam till, rated Class 6M₁ and on coarser till found on rougher terrain and on top of knolls and south-facing slopes, rated Class 6M₂.

Class 7 occurs as a treeless fringe along lakes and potholes and as vegetated sloughs, rated Class 7W₁.

Capability classification and general description by D. B. Forrester, Forestry Sector, Canada Land Inventory Project for Manitoba, Department of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management, 1970.

DESCRIPTION DU TERRITOIRE DE LA FEUILLE DE BRANDON - 62G

Le territoire représenté sur la feuille de Brandon occupe une superficie approximative de 6 220 milles carrés dans le centre-sud du Manitoba, au sud-ouest de Winnipeg. Moins de 5% du territoire se compose de nappes comprenant surtout des ruisseaux et des rivières à méandres ainsi qu'un grand nombre de fondrières, de dépressions de fusion et de petits lacs. Plusieurs lacs allongés et peu profonds longent la vallée de la rivière Pembina.

La courbe de niveau de 1 000 pi indique l'emplacement de l'escarpement du Manitoba qui traverse le territoire du coin sud-est au centre-nord. Au pied de l'escarpement, les basses terres du Manitoba s'étendent vers l'est. Le delta du bas-Assiniboine traverse les basses terres; il forme une large bande voisine de l'escarpement. Dans le nord-est de cette région apparaît une petite partie de la plaine de la rivière Rouge, au relief assez plat.

Le bas-plateau de l'ouest, qui domine l'escarpement dans l'ouest, comprend plusieurs subdivisions structurales. Dans le nord, des dunes et une topographie unie caractérisent le delta du haut-Assiniboine. Les collines Tiger et le mont Pembina, au relief accidenté, sont situées au nord de la vallée de la rivière Pembina.

Le nord-ouest renferme une partie de la plaine de la rivière Newdale, qui entoure l'escarpement. Dans le sud, la présence de nombreux fondrières et elle s'étend au-delà de la frontière qui sépare le Canada des États-Unis. Une petite partie de la plaine de la rivière Rouge, au relief assez plat.

L'assise rocheuse est faite de roches sédimentaires mésozoïques et cénozoïques. Le nord-est repose sur des schistes à grès et des calcaires du Jurassique ou du Crétacé inférieur. L'escarpement du Manitoba marque l'emplacement de la zone de contact avec les schistes du Crétacé supérieur de la formation du mont Riding sur lesquels repose le reste du territoire. Dans l'extrême sud-ouest, une avant-bute de grès porte une calotte résiduelle de lignite littée et de schistes bariolés.

Le territoire appartient à la principale division hydrographique du bassin du fleuve Nelson du Manitoba. La rivière Assiniboine, qui a joué un rôle historique important, draine la moitié septentrionale du territoire, de l'ouest vers l'est, et se jette dans la rivière Rouge qui déverse ses eaux dans le lac Winnipeg. La petite rivière Souris, la rivière Souris, le ruisseau Oak, la rivière Cypress, le ruisseau Epinette et un grand nombre d'autres cours d'eau se jettent dans la rivière Assiniboine. La rivière Long, le ruisseau Whitemud, Badger, Crystal et Snowflake ainsi que la rivière Boyne drainent les basses terres orientales en direction de la rivière Rouge. Dans le nord, le ruisseau Pine, Squirrel et Willow Bend ainsi qu'un grand nombre de cours d'eau drainent les terres en direction de la rivière Whitemud qui se trouve au nord du territoire.

La population du territoire s'éleverait à plus de 100 000 habitants; environ 35 000 vivent à Brandon, dans le nord-ouest, et plus de 13 000 à Portage-la-Prairie, dans le nord-est. Carberry et MacGregor, dans le nord, Wawanesa, Glenboro, Treherne et Carmar, dans le centre du territoire, ainsi que Killarney, Pilot Mound et Morden,