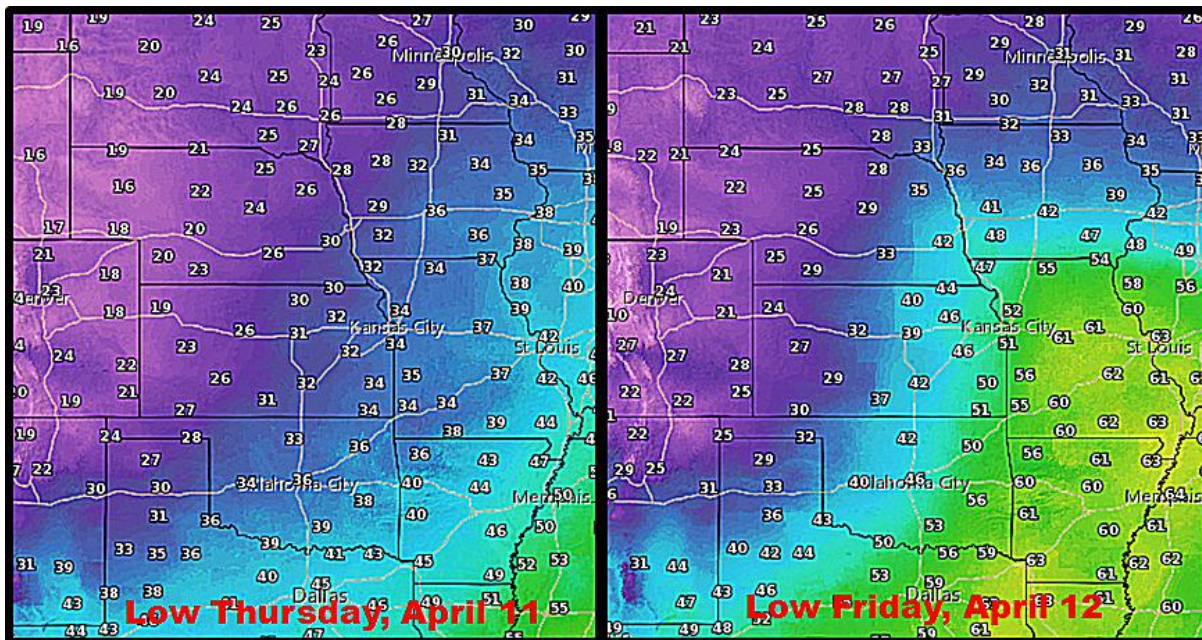


U.S. Hard Red Wheat To Tolerate Colder Weather This Week

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, April 9 (World Weather Inc.) – *Much colder temperatures advertised in U.S. hard red winter wheat production areas during the second half of this week and into the weekend will not pose a permanent threat to crops, but new growth will be burned back.* Extreme low temperatures in the teens and 20s will be notable, but with snow on the ground in the coldest areas crops will be adequately protected. Most of the wheat produced in those areas is not more advanced than the vegetative and early joint stage of development further minimizing the potential for permanent crop damage.



An impressive winter-like storm will bear down on Nebraska, Colorado and Kansas Wednesday into Thursday producing rain, snow and strong wind speeds. The storm will snarl traffic, stress livestock and drop temperatures notably lower than those of the past couple of days and those expected today and Wednesday. The environment will raise many concerns, but one issue that need not be worried about is over the condition of winter wheat in the region.

Wheat development is in the vegetative to joint stage in Nebraska, northeastern Colorado and northwestern Kansas. Crops farther south are in the joint stage with a few crops in southwestern Oklahoma and parts of the southern Texas Panhandle possibly approaching or entering the boot stage of development. Lowest temperatures Thursday and Friday mornings will slip to the upper teens and 20s Fahrenheit across most of the high Plains region. Some of the coldest areas should be buried in a little snow, but even if the snow melts before the coldest air arrives crop development has not advanced enough to seriously threaten production potentials.

A few middle teen low temperatures are expected, but that will occur due to snow being on the ground and in areas that are traditionally colder than surrounding areas – like Limon, Colorado. *Low temperatures in key wheat production areas will not be low enough*

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to cause permanent damage to unprotected crops and their reproductive parts. World Weather, Inc. believes the most advanced wheat fields are in the southwestern Plains where some booting may be under way, but low temperatures in those areas will not drop below freezing – at least not far enough to raise much potential for winterkill.

The cold air in the Plains is not likely to advance into the Midwest – at least not significantly enough to raise any concern about winter crops there or in the southern Plains, Delta and southeastern states. Warming is expected to resume during the weekend with mild to warm conditions likely again next week.

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