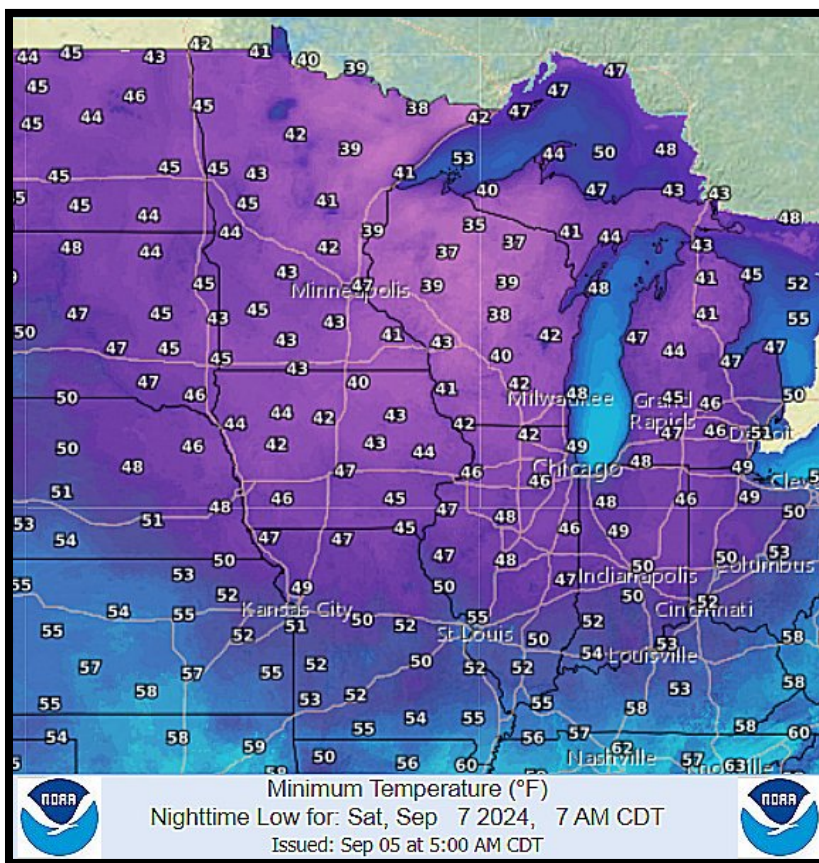


Upper U.S. Midwest Cold To Have Low Impact On Crops

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, September 5 (World Weather Inc.) – Cold air continues to push into the upper Midwest today from Canada. It will be the coldest airmass of the season and it should settle into Wisconsin Minnesota and upper Michigan Saturday morning. A part of northeastern Iowa and northwestern Illinois will also feel the coolness as will all other areas in the Midwest later in the weekend. Soft frost is expected in soybean and corn production areas of Wisconsin and a few areas in eastern and northern Minnesota as well as upper Michigan. The impact on crops is expected to be low unless the temperatures get colder than expected. There is potential for a pocket or two of near freezing temperatures in Wisconsin.



Most temperatures advertised by computer forecast modeling systems are predicted to remain above the frost threshold, but World Weather, Inc. says, given the degree of dryness that is present in the atmosphere over central North America this week and the strength of the anticipated surface high pressure center some of the temperatures will fall below that predicted level.

Wisconsin, eastern Minnesota and north-central portions of upper Michigan will experience low temperatures in the middle and upper 30s with a few pockets of near freezing conditions. Soft frost will

be possible in each of these areas, but the impact on immature crops should be low.

Some burning of leaf mass may result from any frost that occurs. Most of the temperatures will not be low enough for long enough period of time to have a lasting impact on crops and so the impact will be low.

In the absolute worst case scenario, there might be a soybean quality issue for those few areas that experience enough frost to induce more notable damage. However, soft frost for a couple of hours at temperatures of 34 Fahrenheit and warmer will probably not have much of an impact other than damaging some of the upper canopy leaf mass. There is potential for a few counties and parts of counties in Wisconsin to drop near freezing and damage might be a little more likely there, although its extent would be quite limited.

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Warming is expected to occur swiftly late this weekend in the Northern Plains and Canada's Prairies and then in the upper Midwest during the week next week ending any further threat of cold until much later this month.

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