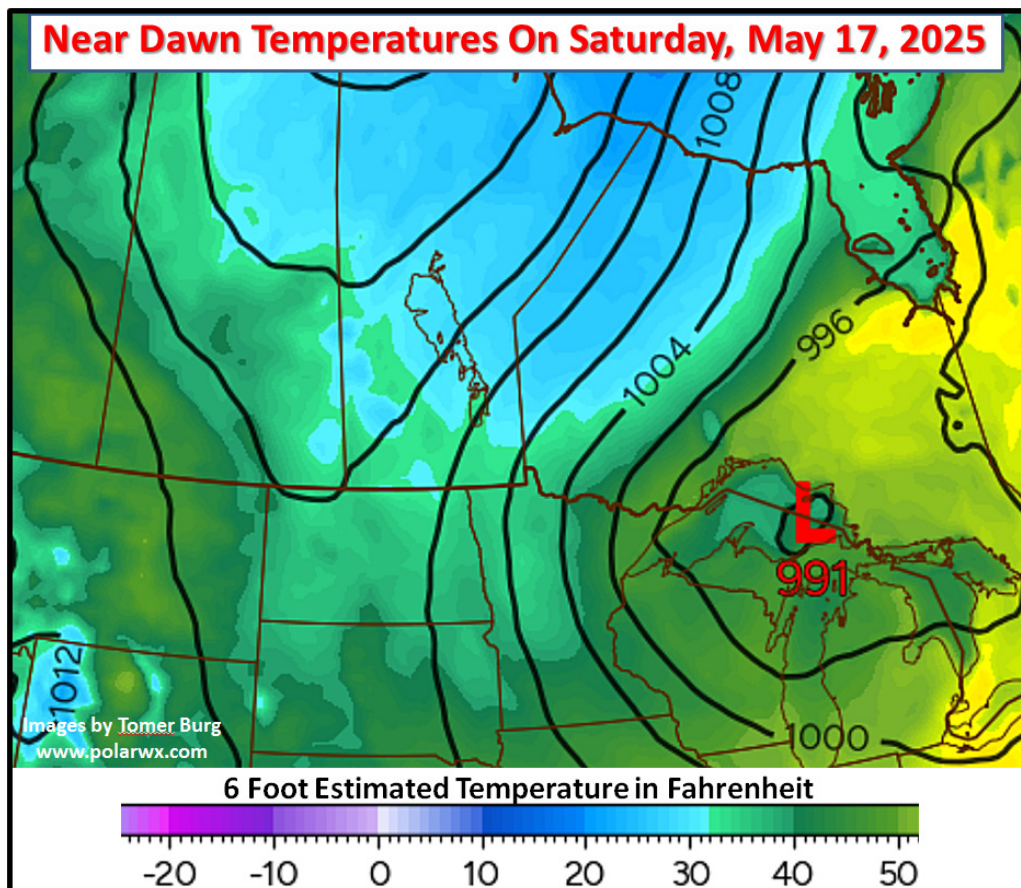


Eastern Canadian Prairies, Neighbors Face Frost, Light Freezes

By Andrew Owen

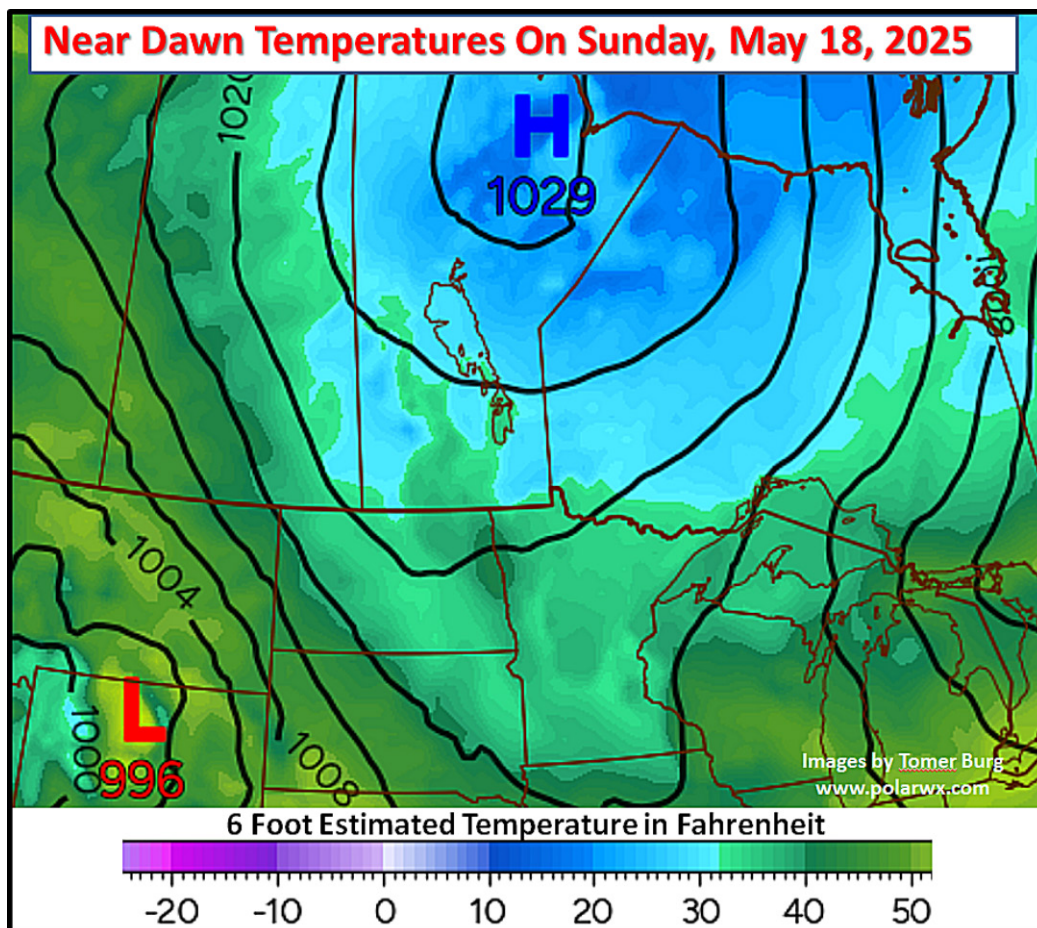
Kansas City, May 15 (World Weather Inc.) – *A late blast of cold air will advance across the eastern Canadian Prairies and neighboring locations in North Dakota and northern Minnesota this weekend following a significant rain event. Frost and light freezes are expected in portions of Manitoba, eastern Saskatchewan, and pockets of North Dakota and northern Minnesota from this event. The coldest conditions will be restricted to the eastern Canadian Prairies, where only a few crops have emerged. Other than some potential burning back of the crop or leaf damage, overall production impacts should be minimal. Crops that do experience some damage may be replanted.*

Planting is ongoing for the Canadian Prairies and northern Plains. As of May 13, planting in Manitoba was about 32% complete, up from 25% for the previous five-year average. However, some crops may have emerged in the south in recent days where temperatures surged well above normal with several areas warming to the 90s Fahrenheit. As of May 5, planting in Saskatchewan was 18% complete compared to 10% for the previous five-year average. Significant progress has likely made since that report with some crop emergence likely. In North Dakota, very little of the recently planted corn and soybeans had emerged as of Sunday. Spring wheat emergence was 20% done as of May 11 with some of the oats and canola potentially emerging as well. Only minor amounts of the crops produced in northern Minnesota have likely emerged.



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An upper-level low-pressure trough was making its way across the northern Plains earlier this morning. This trough will slowly advance easterly and into Ontario and the U.S. Upper Midwest later today into Saturday. A disturbance tracking ahead of the trough will initially promote widespread precipitation for the northern Plains and eastern Canadian Prairies today and Friday. The western two-thirds of North Dakota and portions of eastern South Dakota, southwestern Manitoba, and eastern Saskatchewan will receive 0.75 to 3.00 inches of rain with locally greater amounts in North Dakota by Saturday morning. Eastern North Dakota and much of Minnesota will receive 0.10 to 0.75 inch of rain with locally greater amounts. Light snow or freezing rain will also be possible in pockets of Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan overnight tonight into early Friday. Snow and ice accumulations will be minimal and should not remain on the ground for an extended period of time.



In addition to bringing significant amounts of moisture to portions of the northern Plains and eastern Canadian Prairies, the upper-level trough will gradually pull in cooler air from northern Canadian into these areas during the next several days. The colder air combined with rain and cloudiness will help drop temperatures below or well below normal for this time of year.

Low temperatures Friday morning will only drop to the upper 30s and 40s from western Manitoba and much of Saskatchewan into North Dakota and eastern Montana while other areas in the northern Plains cooled to the 40s and 50s. There is potential a few pockets

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in western Manitoba and eastern fringes of Saskatchewan cool near or slightly below freezing as well. *Low temperatures Saturday and Sunday mornings will drop to the 30s and 40s for much of the eastern Canadian Prairies, North Dakota, eastern South Dakota, and Minnesota. Several locations in western Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan, along with pockets in northeastern North Dakota and northern Minnesota, will cool as low as 28 degrees.* Warmer air will then return next week with temperatures gradually trending closer to normal for this time of year.

Areas exposed to the coldest conditions over the weekend do not have many crops that have emerged. The grains and oilseeds that have emerged may see leaf mass burned back or other minor damage, though overall production impacts should be minimal. The main concern is that a few producers may have to replant any crops that potentially experience more significant impacts.

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