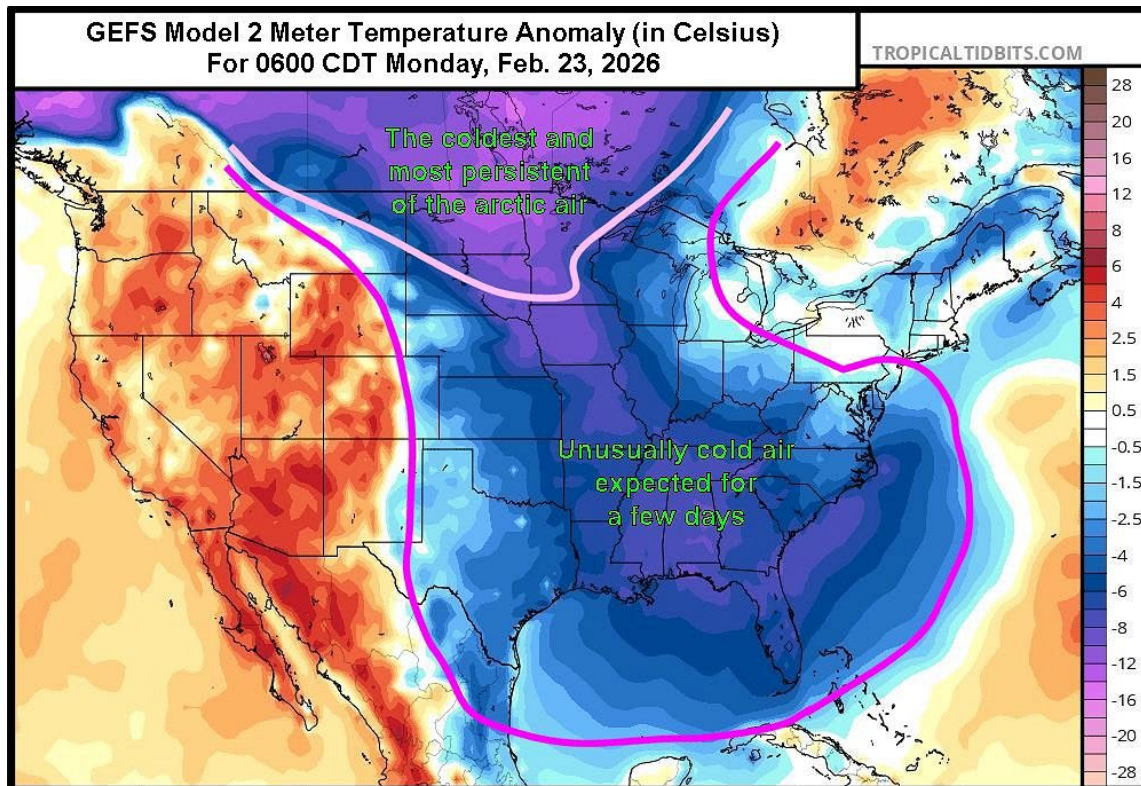


Upcoming U.S. Cold Surge To Be Followed By More Warmth

By Brad Luchen

Kansas City, Feb. 19 (World Weather Inc.) – Temperatures are about to trend colder across U.S. crop regions east of the Rocky Mountains as modified arctic air moves southeast from the U.S. Northern Plains. The cold air is not expected to be threateningly cold except in the Northern Plains and in central and western Nebraska. Most crops should be protected by snow cover; however, there is some minor risk of damage mainly in northern South Dakota. This cold air will temporarily cool soil temperatures after the significant warmth earlier in the week; however, unusual warmth will be quick to return after Monday, further reducing winter wheat hardiness, inducing a little livestock stress and eventually inducing some wheat development in the southern states.

Unusually cold air will spread into all U.S. crop regions east of the Rocky Mountains today through Sunday with the coverage of unusually cold air peaking Monday morning. Morning freezes are expected down into West Texas and along or near the Gulf of America Coast in the southern Delta. Freezes will also occur down into northern Florida. Freeze damage in Florida is unlikely to be anything close to that which occurred in early February when central Florida experienced serious damage to citrus and other crops.



Some threateningly cold temperatures (morning lows below 0 Fahrenheit) will occur in portions of the Northern Plains and in western and pockets of central Nebraska. A snow event occurring across Nebraska today should provide some protection to wheat Friday

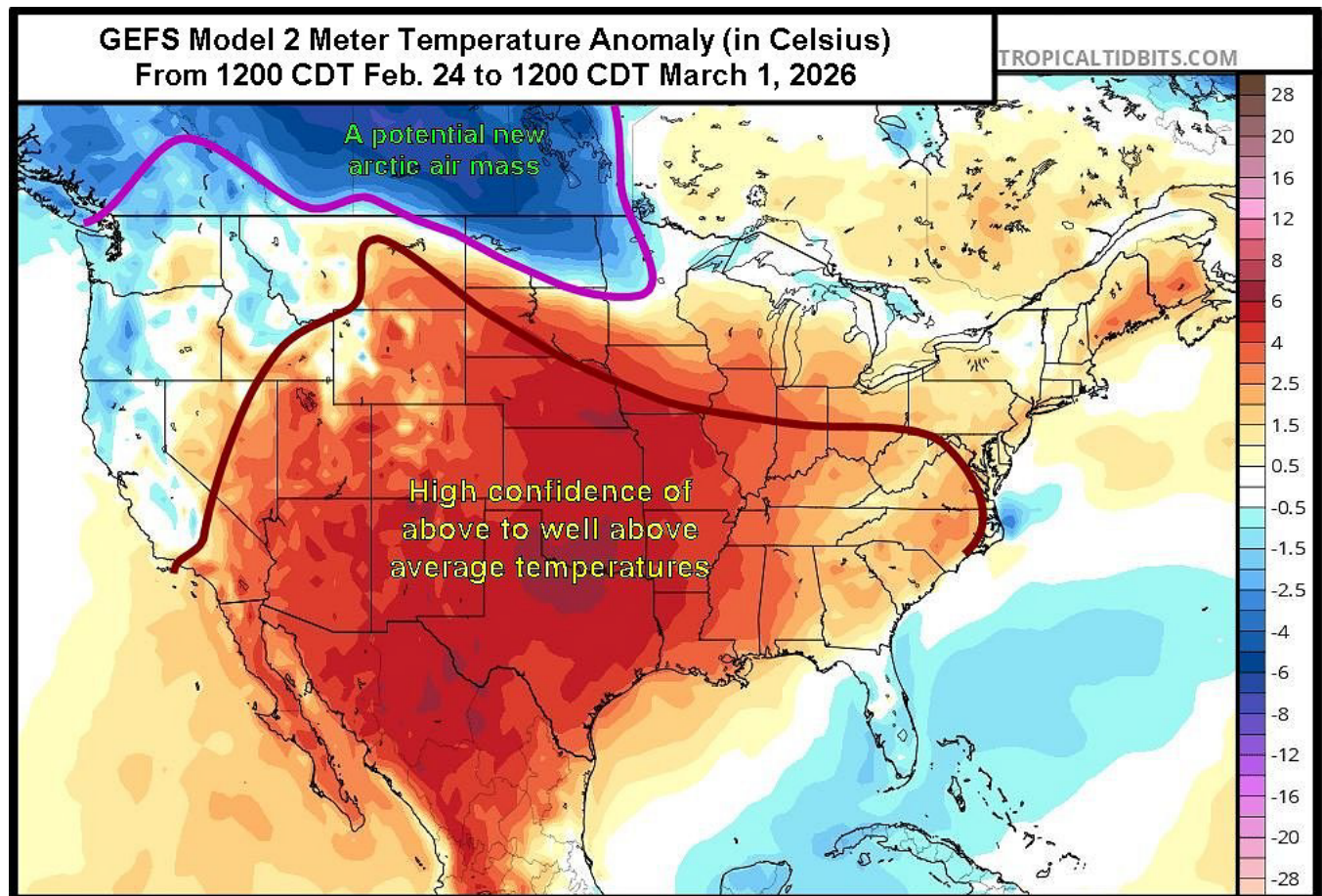
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morning. Friday is the only day with a potential for subzero morning lows in the Hard Red Winter Wheat Region from this cold surge.

The Northern Plains will experience subzero morning lows Friday through Monday. Most of the region has at least some snow on the ground; however, snow is lacking in north-central and northwestern South Dakota and this area will be at risk of some minor winterkill.

Portions of South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado and Montana were all exposed to potentially damaging cold over multiple days in late January and during the first days of February. This week's cold is unlikely to have nearly the same potential impact and any new crop damage should be minimal.

The unusually cold air will not last long in U.S. crop regions outside of the Northern Plains. Temperatures by Tuesday will already be back to well above average across the Hard Red Winter Wheat Region and West Texas with highs reaching the upper 60s to the 80s. This unusual warmth will prevail through at least Feb. 27 or Feb. 28. The unusual warmth will spread over into the Corn Belt, Delta, and southeastern states too.



A new, large arctic air mass will be growing in the last few days of February up in the Canada Prairies and this will need to be monitored. The Northern Plains will briefly receive unusual warmth as well Feb. 26 – 27 before this next arctic air mass begins to affect the region. Confidence is high that this new surge of arctic air will reach into the Northern Plains; however, confidence is low as to how much farther south it will be able to get in the first few days of March. If it does reach crop regions south of the Northern Plains in the first

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week of March, it would likely be brief again. This is something World Weather, Inc. will be monitoring.

Concerns with this variable temperature pattern going into the end of February include more livestock stress in the central and southwestern Plains and some heaving topsoil which could lead to some blowing dust later in the spring. Winter wheat has already lost some of its winter hardiness and this process may resume next week after the weekend chill. Some winter wheat development may have occurred after recent rain in the southern Plains and the unusual warmth that occurred recently; however, the weekend cold snap will keep that development on hold. More greening and minor development will evolve with next week's warm up.

Hard red winter wheat areas are unlikely to get much moisture which will maintain concern about developing dryness and drought. Rain is needed and that need will steadily increase as temperatures become more consistently warm this spring. A close monitoring of the next potential surge of unusually cold air will then be warranted for Feb. 28 – March 3.

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