Cloud Chart

A field guide to common cloud types

Cumulus

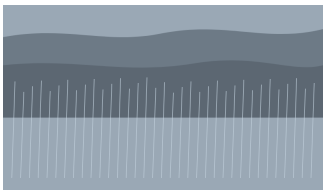
Puffy heaps, often fair weather when small.

Stratus

A low, even gray-white blanket. May drizzle.

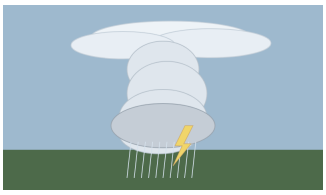
Cirrus

High, wispy ice-crystal curls. Sometimes called mares' tails.



Nimbostratus

A dark, layered rain or snow cloud. Steady precipitation.



Cumulonimbus

A towering thunderhead, sometimes with an anvil top.

Cirrocumulus

Tiny high puffs in ripples. A mackerel sky.

Altocumulus

Mid-level rounded heaps, larger than cirrocumulus.



Altostratus

A mid-level gray veil. The sun may show as a dull disk.

Stratocumulus

A lumpy low layer of joined heap clouds.

Cirrostratus

A thin high veil, often with a halo around the sun or moon.

Fog

A cloud on the ground. Moist air has cooled at the surface.

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