

Cirrus



High1
Cirrus: Straight, nearly straight, or curved filaments, strands or hooks.



H2
Cirrus: Dense white puffs with wispy edges.



H3
Cirrus: Dense, anvil-shaped remains, which were originally the upper parts of **Cumulonimbus**.



H4
Cirrus: Filaments, strands or hooks, increasing in coverage and generally thickening as a whole.



H5
Cirrostratus with or without **Cirrus:** Increasing density and coverage, but coverage does not reach midway above the horizon.



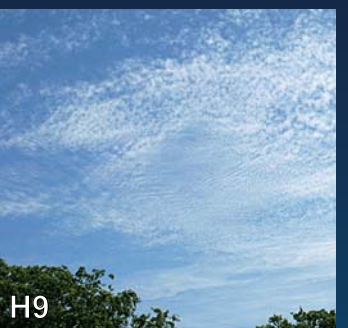
H6
Cirrostratus with or without **Cirrus:** Increasing density and covering much of, but not the entire sky.



H7
Cirrostratus: Veil covering the whole sky, sometimes a halo around the sun or moon is present.



H8
Cirrostratus: Veil not covering the whole sky nor increasing in coverage.



H9
Cirrocumulus: Thin white ripples or small puffs, which may be accompanied by some **Cirrus/Cirrostratus**.

Cirrostratus

Cirrocumulus

Altostratus

Nimbostratus

Alto cumulus



Mid1
Altostratus: Full or nearly full sky cover that is gray, shapeless and translucent; produces no halo.



M2
Altostratus: Thick opaque coverage, no precipitation, or **Nimbostratus:** during precipitation or virga.



M3
Alto cumulus: Translucent bands or patches in a relatively continuous layer.



M4
Alto cumulus Lenticularis: Lens or almond shaped, often formed by air moving over hills or mountains.



M5
Alto cumulus: One or more layers of translucent or opaque bands.



M6
Alto cumulus: A result of the spreading tops of **Cumulus** or sides of **Cumulonimbus**.



M7
Alto cumulus: In one or more opaque layers, sometimes with **Altostratus** or **Nimbostratus**.



M8
Alto cumulus: Small towers, which can be similar to small **Cumulus** with wispy trails of virga.



M9
Alto cumulus: Chaotic sky with multiple layers and kinds of **Alto cumulus** at several altitudes.

Cumulus

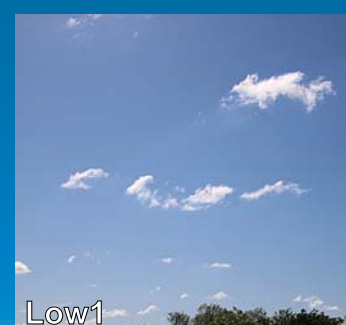
Cumulonimbus

Stratocumulus

Stratus

Cumulus / Stratocumulus

Cumulonimbus



Low1
Cumulus: Thin and ragged with continuously changing edges; forms during fair weather by daytime heating.



L2
Cumulus: Moderately tall with rounded puffy tops; may occur with **Cumulus/Stratocumulus (L4)**.



L3
Cumulonimbus: Very tall summits, which lack sharp outlines and are not anvil-shaped.



L4
Stratocumulus: Spread out **Cumulus** when vertical development stabilizes; sometimes can occur along with **Cumulus**.



L5
Stratocumulus: One or more layers, not resulting from spreading **Cumulus**.



L6
Stratus: In a continuous layer, or **Stratus fractus:** In ragged shreds, or both, without precipitation.



L7
Stratus- or Cumulus-fractus: Ragged shreds during precipitation, usually seen below **Altostratus** or **Nimbostratus**.



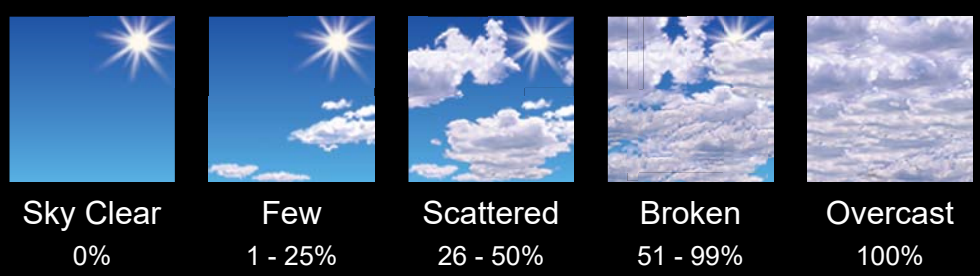
L8
Cumulus/Stratocumulus: Stratocumulus not from spreading **Cumulus**, with **Cumulus** base at a different level.



L9
Cumulonimbus: Very tall summits with anvil-shaped upper part.

Sky cover

The percent of sky covered by clouds. Clouds near the horizon appear to be lower, more numerous and closer together.



Other Cloud Phenomena



Mammatus: Small pouch or pocket-like clouds sinking into drier air and often seen near thunderstorms.



Fog: A cloud on the ground which lifts from the surface and becomes **Stratus** or dissipates with heat from the sun.



Wall Cloud: Rotating, lowered, rain-free base of thunderstorm in area of strongest updraft, under which a tornado may form.



Shelf Cloud: Forms in a gust front from a squall line or thunderstorm.



Asperitas: Long waves that ripple through the base of the cloud near the dry/moist air boundary of a thunderstorm.



Virga: Precipitation that evaporates before reaching the surface.