

**Descriptions and differences of the ten cloud genera**

	<u>Colour</u>	<u>Shape</u>	<u>Shading</u>	<u>Physical constitution</u>	<u>Thickness</u>	<u>Appearance</u>
<b>Cirrus</b>	White or mostly white	Filaments Hair like	No	Ice crystals	Fibrous silky	Narrow bands Detached patches
<b>Cirrocumulus</b>	White	Small grains or ripples Patch Sheet Layer of cloud	No	Ice crystals	Thin	Very small elements More or less regularly arranged Merged or Separated
<b>Cirrostratus</b>	Whitish	Cloud veil Party or completely covering the sky	No	Ice crystals	Thin Transparent	Fibrous smooth appearance
<b>Altostratus</b>	Grey or bluish	Cloud sheet or layer totally or partly covering the sky	No		Thin or thick Thin parts can reveal the sun's position	Striated, fibrous or uniform appearance
<b>Nimbostratus</b>	Grey Often dark	Dense uniform and smooth cloud layer	No		Thick enough throughout to blot out the sun.	Is diffused by more or less continuously falling rain or snow. Low ragged clouds frequently occur below the layer with which they may/may not merge
<b>Alto cumulus</b>	White/ grey or both	Rounded masses Rolls Laminae	Yes		Thin or thick Patch sheet or layer of cloud	Sometimes partly fibrous or diffuse, may or may not be merged
<b>Stratocumulus</b>	White/ grey or both. Dark parts also seen	Tessellations Rounded masses Rolls	Yes	Water droplets Supercooled water droplets	Thin or thick Patch, sheet or layer.	Non fibrous which may or may not be merged

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<b>Stratus</b>	Grey	Fairly uniform base	No	Water droplets	Cloud layer can sometimes be in the form of ragged patches.	When sun is visible, its outline is clearly discernible
<b>Cumulus</b>	Sunlit parts are brilliant white Dark base	Sharp outlines Rising mounds, domes, towers, etc., Like a cauliflower.	Yes	Water droplets Supercooled water droplets	Moderate to large vertical growth	Detached clouds  Sometimes Cu is ragged
<b>Cumulonimbus</b>	Upper part whitish Dark base	Upper part starts to smooth out and eventually spreads out in the shape of an anvil or vast plume.	Yes	Water droplets Supercooled water droplets Ice crystals	Heavy dense clouds with considerable vertical extent like a mountain or huge tower.	At least part of its upper portion is usually smoothed, fibrous or striated and nearly always flattened.

<b>Cirrocumulus</b>	Most of the elements have an apparent width of $<1^\circ$ .	The thickness of one finger at arm's length when element $>30^\circ$ above the horizon
<b>Alto cumulus</b>	Most of the regularly arranged elements have an apparent width of between $1^\circ - 5^\circ$	
<b>Stratocumulus</b>	Most of the regularly arranged small elements have an apparent width of $>5^\circ$ .	

<b>Cirrostratus</b>	Can produce halos
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