



## COOL CLOUD SCIENCE WITH CRM

### Another cloudy day in the Connecticut River Valley??

Don't let it get you down! Let's learn a little about clouds...and then, make our own fluffy "cumulus" clouds at home!

### Did you know?

Clouds are made up of tiny droplets of frozen crystals of water.

Most clouds form as warm air rises in the atmosphere and cools down. All air contains some water vapor and warm air can hold more water vapor than cold air. As warm air cools, the water vapor turns into tiny droplets of water or ice. As more and more air cools down, more droplets form and they eventually become a cloud.

### 10 main types of clouds

**Cirrus** - Cirrus clouds are high level clouds that are thin and wispy. They appear during good weather.

**Cirrocumulus** - These are high clouds that look like tiny cotton balls bunched together.

**Cirrostratus** - High, flat clouds that might cover the sky making it appear overcast. These clouds signal that it may rain in the next day or so.

**Altostratus** - Medium level clouds that form a dark gray covering. Usually they are a sign of rain.

**Alto cumulus** - Middle level clouds that are small, white, and puffy.

**Nimbostratus** - These are thick, dark gray middle level to low level clouds. They usually bring rain or snow.

**Stratus** - Stratus clouds are low level clouds that are flat and cover much of the sky. They are gray in color and may produce light rain or drizzle.

**Stratocumulus** - These are low, puffy, and gray clouds. They may produce a little rain and can turn into nimbostratus clouds.

**Cumulus** - Cumulus clouds are low to mid-level clouds. They are big, white, puffy, and beautiful clouds. They usually mean good weather unless they grow really tall and turn into cumulonimbus clouds.

**Cumulonimbus** - Cumulonimbus clouds are very tall clouds that span all the way from low level to high level. They can cause violent thunderstorms with heavy rain, hail, and even tornadoes.



