

HIGH ALTITUDE CLOUD CHART

LEVEL: ABOVE 20,000 FT (6,000 M)

Cirrus (Ci)

Thin, wispy strands often called "mare's tails." Made entirely of ice crystals.

- Delicate, fibrous appearance
- No shading (pure white)
- Indicates fair weather or approaching front

Cirrocumulus (Cc)

Small, white patches or ripples, often resembling fish scales (Mackerel sky).

- Regularly spaced grain-like patterns
- Individual elements appear very small
- Highly unstable air indicator

Cirrostratus (Cs)

Transparent, whitish veil covering much of the sky.

- Smooth appearance
- Produces "halo" around the sun or moon
- Often indicates moisture/rain within 24 hours

Field Identification Template – Meteorological Reference Only