

## **Cirrus**

- \* Form above 23,000 feet in the troposphere
- \* Wispy and often transparent
- \* Indicates a stable situation
- \* Several variations
  - Castellanus: series of dense lumps connected by a thinner base
  - Duplicatus: sheets of cirrus at different layers of the atmosphere, connected at one or more points.
  - Fibratus: long, fibrous, and curved w/ no tufts or curls at the ends.
  - Intortus: Filaments are irregularly curved or tangled.
  - Kelvin-helmholtz: Horizontal, indicative of severe turbulence at atmosphere.
  - Radiatus: Large area displaying horizontal banding.
  - Spissatus: Thick enough to appear greyish.
  - Uncinus: Like Fibratus, only more curled at the ends.
  - Verbratus: Curved horizontal strips, a “rib cage” appearance.
  - With Mammatus: Bubble-like protrusions on the underside.

## **Stratus**

- \* Horizontal layer-like having a uniform base
- \* Associated with widespread precipitation or ocean air
- \* Often produces drizzle
- \* Several variations
  - Fractus: Ragged shreds

## **Cumulus**

- \* Mostly fair-weather
  - But can grow to be more storm-condition
- \* Continued upward growth suggests showers late in day

## **Nimbus**

- \* Precipitation-bearing
  - Low-lying