Is Cumulonimbus present?

Is it formed by spreading out of Cumulus?

Is it clearly fibrous, does it have an anvil or plume?

Is it formed by spreading out of Cumulus?

Are Cumulus and Stratocumulus on different levels?

Is the vertical extent moderate or great?

Stratocumulus cumulogenitus (C. 4)
Flattened due to a stable layer or during the afternoon.

Cumulus + Stratocumulus bases at different levels (C. 8)
Usually Cumulus base below Stratocumulus.

Stratus fractus, Cumulus fractus (C. 7)
Ragged Stratus or Cumulus below rain-bearing clouds, before, during, after precipitation.

Status nebulosus / fractus (C. 6)
Smooth, uniform layer or in ragged shreds when dissipating.

Cumulus mediocris / congestus (C. 2)
Defined cauliflower shape.

Stratocumulus not formed by the spreading out of Cumulus (C. 5)
Rounded shapes with shading.

Cumulus humilis / fractus (C. 1)
Very little vertical extent, can be frayed.

Cumulonimbus calvus (C. 3)
Upper part lacks sharp outlines; all forms of shower possible.

Cumulonimbus capillatus / capillatus incus (C. 9)
Top mostly with anvil, all forms of shower possible.

Learn how to classify low-level clouds (with a base no more than 2 km above the Earth’s surface) using this flow chart from the International Cloud Atlas. The name under each image refers to the cloud’s genus followed by its species, variety or other feature; the code appears in parentheses. This makes it possible to classify the view of the sky more precisely.