

## TYPES OF SNOW CRYSTALS

### INCLUDES:

#### **Snow crystals**

Individual, single ice crystals, often with six-fold symmetrical shapes. These grow directly from condensing water vapor in the air, usually around a nucleus of dust or some other foreign material. Typical sizes range from microscopic to at most a few millimeters in diameter.

#### **Snowflakes**

Collections of snow crystals, loosely bound together into a puff-ball. These can grow to large sizes, up to about 10 cm across in some cases, when the snow is especially wet and sticky.

#### **Graupel**

Loose collections of frozen water droplets, sometimes called "soft hail."

#### **Rime**

Supercooled tiny water droplets (typically in a fog), which quickly freeze onto whatever they hit.

For example, one often sees small droplets of rime on large snow crystals.

#### **Hail**

Large, solid chunks of ice