

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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SNOW ROLLERS

Everyone has seen children start with a small handful of snow and roll it around and around the yard. As it travels it picks up more and more snow until finally it becomes a huge ball ready to serve as the base of a snowman or part of the wall of a fort.

Occasionally the wind itself indulges in this child's sport and forms what are known as "snow rollers." Sometimes a whole field is strewn with these snow rollers, small balls perhaps six to 18 inches in diameter. The wind whips up small particles of "good" packing snow and starts them down the field. Some of the particles gather up additional snow until finally the balls formed are too heavy for the wind to move farther. In such a case it can be noted that all the paths of the snowballs are in the same general direction that the wind has been blowing. An account of snow rollers observed in New Jersey states that "the whole landscape was covered with snowballs, differing in size from that of a lady's muff to the diameter of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  or 3 feet, hollow at each end to almost the very center, and all as true as so many logs shaped in a lathe."

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(Tomorrow: City Fogs)

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