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A Science Service Feature

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CURIOUS SNOW FORMATIONS

The cohesive character of moist snow, which is utilized by the younger generation in the making of snowballs and snow men, enables this substance to assume naturally a variety of striking forms. Thus a strip of snow lying along a window ledge or the branch of a tree will sometimes slip down in the middle and hang in festoon shape, supported only at the ends, constituting what is called a "snow garland".

Over a level or gently sloping surface of snow the wind occasionally rolls muff-shaped snowballs, known as "snow-rollers". Thousands of them are sometimes formed in a few hours, and the largest may grow to the size of barrels. Each roller is found at the end of a long trough in the snow, marking the path along which the rolling has occurred.

Huge overhanging caps of snow formed on tree stumps, posts and the like have been aptly named "snow mushrooms" by Vaughan Cornish, who, in one of his books, describes those that occur in great numbers in the Selkirk Mountains of western Canada.

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