

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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GLAZE AND RIME

"Glaze" and "rime" - to use the latest official American designations of two kinds of ice-coating formed from liquid water in the atmosphere - differ greatly in appearance, as a rule, though transition forms between them are sometimes found. Glaze - which the public and the engineering profession often call "sleet" - is produced by the falling of rain on surfaces whose temperature is below the freezing point (32 degrees Fahrenheit), and is typically smooth and transparent. Rime is a rough deposit formed from fog, the drops of which are "undercooled" - i.e., are below the freezing point - and instantly turn to ice on coming in contact with solid objects.

The most remarkable examples of rime are seen on mountains and in the polar regions. It occurs on the branches of trees and on the corners and edges of upright objects, rather than on horizontal surfaces. In drifting fog it grows most rapidly if not entirely on the windward side of objects; i.e., it builds up against the wind. It has been observed to grow at the rate of more than an inch an hour.

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