

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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A LANDSMAN'S WIND SCALE

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The Beaufort wind scale of 13 degrees, from 0 for a calm up to 12 for a hurricane, was originally designed for the use of sailors in estimating the force of the wind at sea, but for some years past sailors have ceased to enjoy a monopoly of it. A set of specifications adapting the scale for use on land was drawn up by the British Meteorological Office and has been borrowed by other meteorological services, including those of the United States and Canada. It runs as follows:

0. Calm; smoke rises vertically.
1. Direction of wind shown by smoke drift but not by wind vanes.
2. Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; ordinary vane moved by wind.
3. Leaves and small twigs in constant motion; wind extends light flag.
4. Raises dust and loose paper; small branches are moved.
5. Small trees in leaf begin to sway; wavelets form on inland waters.
6. Large branches in motion; whistling heard in telegraph wires; umbrellas used with difficulty.
7. Whole trees in motion; inconvenience felt when walking against wind.
8. Breaks twigs of trees; generally impedes progress.
9. Slight structural damage occurs (chimney-pots and slates removed).
10. Seldom experienced inland, trees uprooted; considerable structural damage.
11. Very rarely experienced; accompanied by widespread damage.

No description is provided for No. 12, which is the full force of a hurricane.

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