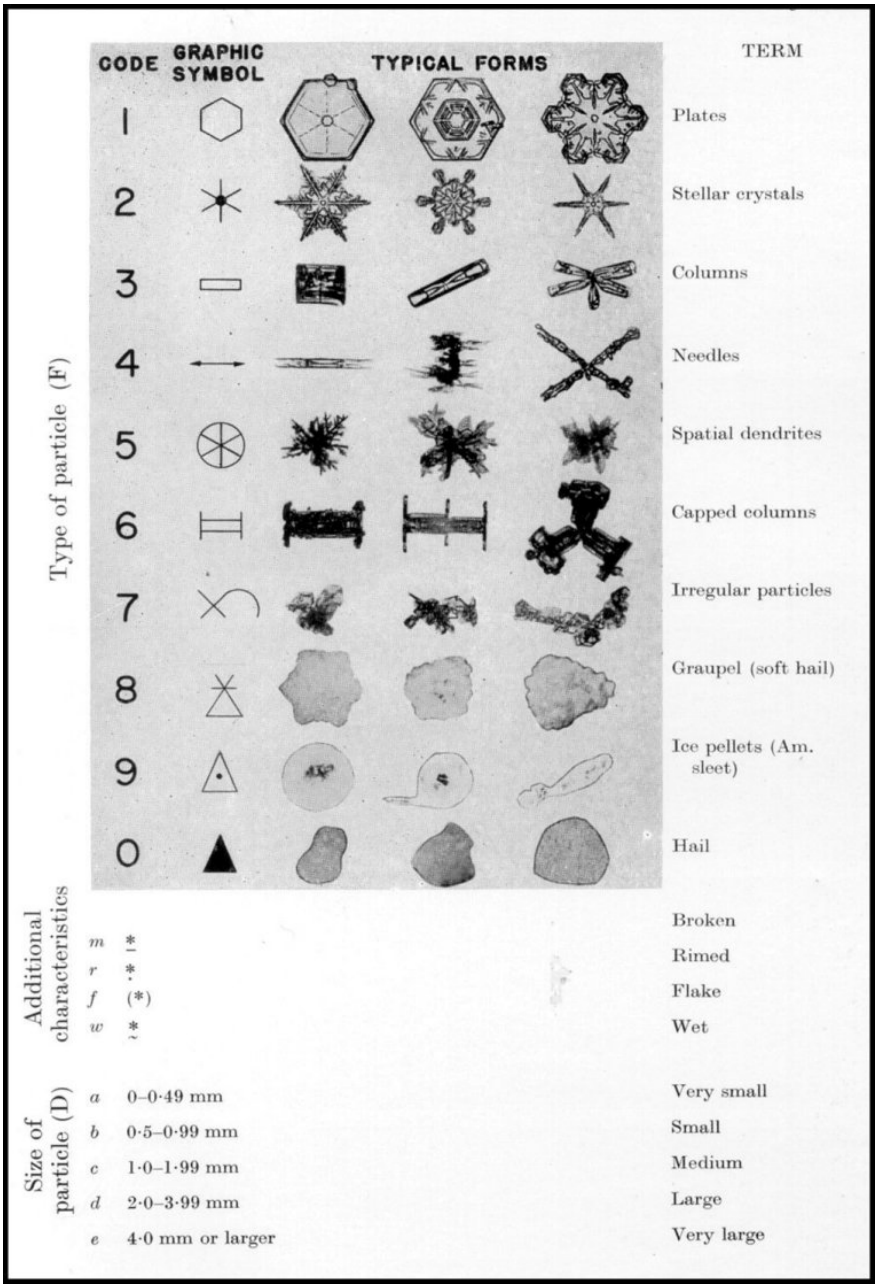
International Classification System

(from SnowCrystals.com)



	CODE	GRAPHIC SYMBOL	TYPICAL FORMS	TERM
Type of particle (F)	1			Plates
	2			Stellar crystals
	3			Columns
	4			Needles
	5			Spatial dendrites
	6			Capped columns
	7			Irregular particles
	8			Graupel (soft hail)
	9			Ice pellets (Am. sleet)
	0			Hail
Additional characteristics	*m*	*		Broken
	r	*		Rimed
	f	(*)		Flake
	w	*		Wet
Size of particle (D)	*a*	0–0·49 mm		Very small
	b	0·5–0·99 mm		Small
	c	1·0–1·99 mm		Medium
	d	2·0–3·99 mm		Large
	e	4·0 mm or larger		Very large

The above classification system provides a shorthand notation for describing falling snow. A large stellar crystal would be **2fe**. A medium-sized rimed plate would be written **1rc**.