cumulonimbus cloud

_in atmospheric chemistry_

Heavy masses of dense cloud whose cumuliform summits rise in the forms of towers, the upper parts having a fibrous texture and often spreading out into the shape of an anvil; these clouds generally produce showers of rain and sometimes of snow, hail or soft hail, and often develop into thunderstorms; up to 12 000 m; summits may be as cold as −50 °C; strong convective motions with vertical velocities of 3 to greater than 30 m s⁻¹.

_Source:
PAC, 1990, 62, 2167 (Glossary of atmospheric chemistry terms (Recommendations 1990)) on page 2180_