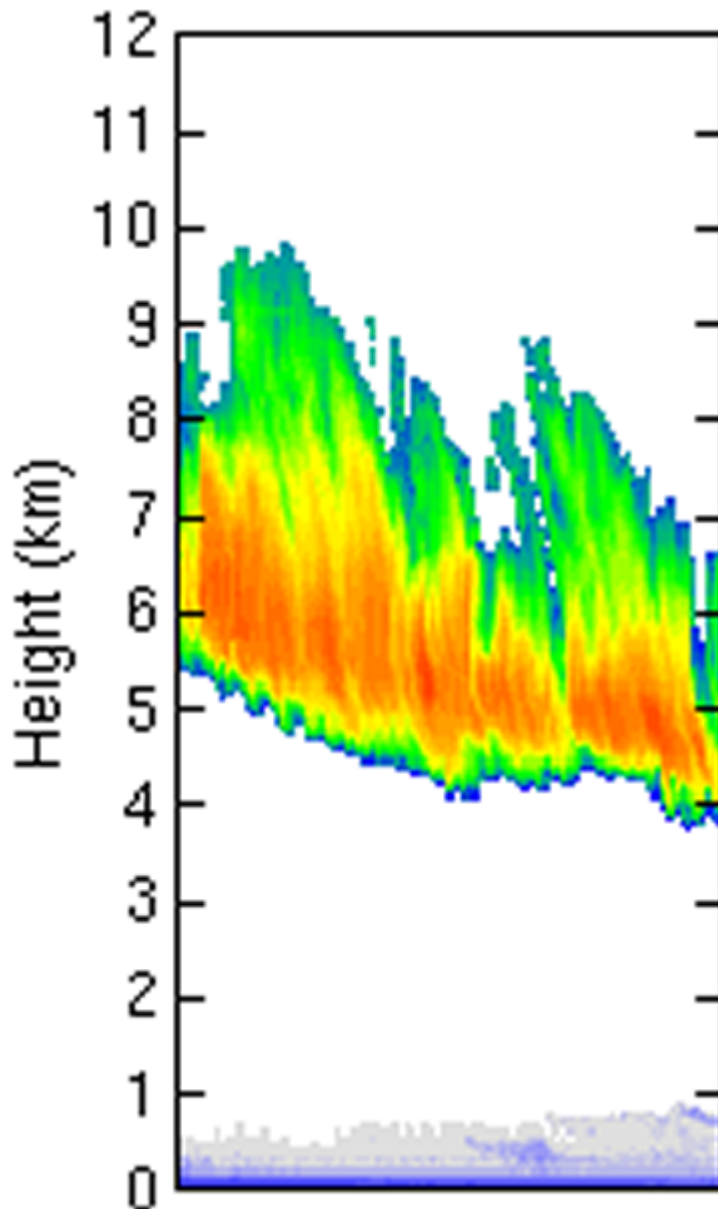


## Altostratus cloud

- Altostratus clouds are mid-level clouds and appear between 2 and 7 km above the ground.
- The temperature falls the further away you are from the ground. At a certain height above the ground, the air reaches freezing point. The height at which this happens depends on the time of year. Freezing point is nearer the ground in winter, higher up in the summer. Altostratus clouds usually appear where the air is below freezing.
- Altostratus clouds, because they are found in air below freezing point ( $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), are made up of ice crystals and 'supercooled' droplets of liquid water i.e. water that is at a temperature below  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$  (normally water turns to ice at this temperature).
- The radar signal returned by these clouds is quite strong because the larger ice crystals inside the cloud send back quite powerful signals. These crystals can be several hundred millionths of a metre across. The radar image is medium sized, and is at the green and yellow end of the radar reflectivity scale.



## Cirrus cloud

- Cirrus clouds appear high in the sky, between about 5km and 14km above the surface.
- Cirrus clouds are purely made up of crystals of ice. Ice particles send back a strong radar signal, so the radar images are very brightly coloured, including areas at the red and orange end of the radar reflectivity scale.
- The radar images have a characteristic 'fallstreak' structure, which means they look like vertical streaks on the radar image, like dabs of brightly coloured paint.