

FROST FLOWER



FROST FLOWERS ARE ICE CRYSTALS THAT FORM ON VERY THIN LAKE AND SEA ICE WHEN THE AIR IS MUCH COOLER THAN THE ICE ITSELF. A SUPERSATURATED VAPOR LAYER FORMS DIRECTLY ABOVE THE ICE (DUE TO SUBLIMATION WHERE THE PHASE CHANGES DIRECTLY FROM

ICE TO VAPOR). THE INTERACTION BETWEEN THE WARM WET AIR AND THE COLD DRY AIR JUST ABOVE IT CAN CONDENSE TO FLOWER-LIKE CRYSTALS ON THE ICE SURFACE. THIS PROCESS REQUIRES VERY LITTLE TO NO WIND.