



## Quick Facts

### Hail

- About 24 people are injured each year by hail in the U.S.
- The larger the hail, the stronger the thunderstorm.
- Hail rarely causes fatalities.
- The last fatality in the U.S. attributed to hail was in Lake Worth Village, Texas on March 28, 2000. A 19-year old man was struck by softball sized hail while trying to move a new car. He died the following day from associated head injuries.
- The largest hailstone ever recovered in the United States fell in Aurora, Nebraska on June 22, 2003, with a record 7-inch diameter and a circumference of 18.75 inches.
- The heaviest hailstone ever documented in the U.S. fell in Coffeyville, Kansas on September 3, 1970, weighing in at 1.65 pounds.
- The majority of hail damage occurs to agricultural crops, costing hundreds of millions of dollars annually.
- Hailstones can vary from pea size up to grapefruit size or larger.
- National Weather Service Doppler Radar can estimate the size of hail by the amount of energy reflected back to the radar by the storm.
- The area of the U.S. most at risk for large hail is the western Great Plains, in a 625-square-mile area near the meeting of the borders of Nebraska, Colorado, and Wyoming, averaging 7 to 9 hail days per year.
- Hail one inch (quarter size) or larger is considered “severe”.
- Estimating Hail Size (diameter):
 

Pea = ¼ inch	Quarter = 1 inch	Baseball = 2 ¾ inches
Mothball = ½ inch	Ping-Pong Ball = 1 ½ inches	Tea Cup = 3 inches
Dime/Penny = ¾ inch	Golf Ball = 1 ¾ inches	Grapefruit = 4 inches
Nickel = 7/8 inch	Tennis Ball = 2 ½ inches	Softball = 4 ½ inches



*Record Hailstone, Aurora, NE, 2003*

#### On the Web:

UCAR Hail Fact Sheet .....[www.ucar.edu/communications/factsheets/Hail.html](http://www.ucar.edu/communications/factsheets/Hail.html)  
 Aurora Hail Stone.....[www.noaaneews.noaa.gov/stories/s2008.htm](http://www.noaaneews.noaa.gov/stories/s2008.htm)  
 National Weather Service..... [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)