

Precipitation Category: This field shows the predominant precipitation type that is falling at a forecast time. The field is divided into three categories: rain (liquid) in green, snow (frozen) in light blue, and freezing rain/mixed type in yellow.

This quantity is calculated based on the thermodynamic vertical profile of the atmosphere at each grid point. It uses the method of Bocchieri (1980) to calculate the probability of each of the three precipitation categories being produced given the vertical profile. We simply display the category with the highest calculated probability, and only display a value at those points that have a total hydrometeor mixing ratio of greater than 5 g/kg at the lowest model level, which represent points where observable precipitation is likely present at the surface.