NR103
Atmospheric Moisture Terminology

1. Absolute Humidity -- the amount of water vapor in the air (grams / cm³)

2. Vapor Pressure (E) -- pressure of the atmospheric water vapor.
   Typical units:
   mmHg
   millibars (1mb = 1 x 10⁻³ bars and 1 bar = 1 kg / cm²)

   Note: Standard Atmospheric Pressure = 1013 mb

3. Saturation Vapor Pressure (Eₛ) -- maximum atmospheric vapor pressure possible at a particular temperature. (Same units as for vapor pressure)

4. Vapor Pressure Deficit -- difference between actual vapor pressure and the vapor of saturated air at the same temperature (Eₛ - E); therefore, it is a measure of the amount of moisture that can be taken up by an air mass.

5. Relative Humidity -- actual vapor pressure expressed as a percentage of saturation vapor pressure (RH = 100 x E / Eₛ).

6. Dew-Point Temperature (Tₐ) -- Temperature to which a moist air mass must be cooled to become saturated.