

## Northern Sami words for snow and conditions related to snow and ice

**Aškkas** (s)- Svallis. Bihci (s) - Hoarfrost on ground, branches...

**Borragis** (s)- Snow-free, rough, shiny ice in the spring.

**Ceavvi** (s)- Moist snow that packs and freezes. Tough.

**Cuoŋu** (s) - Hard crust on the surface during late winter and spring.

**Čearga** (s)- Snow packed by wind in the mountains (and in open places in the forest country).

**Čorrádat** (s) - Freezing rain (which sticks under the skis)

**Geardni** (s)- Ice-like layer on the surface.

**Čahki** (s) - A piece, lump of loose snow or packed snow, also hard snow clods under trees.

**Čahcejodáhat** (s)- Snow that is so wet that it does not stick under the skis and on branches.

**Dipma muohta** (a+s) - Loose snow (not vahca), denser than luobomuohta. From the surface or under the *vahca*.

**Dobadat** (s) - Sticky snow that gets stuck under skis and sleds and builds on more and more.

**Gálljin** (s) - Blankis (snow-free ice) in autumn.

**Jiekna** (s) - Pure ice on water. Even on the ground after rain or hail.

**Luobomuohta** (s)- Dry, loose, airy snow (from the surface or under vahca). Airier than dipma muohta.

**Muohta** (s)- Snow.

**Njáhcu** (s) - Club snow, so moist that it sticks only slightly under skis and sledges.

**Njuoippadat** (s)- Wet snow plowing in front of the skis.

**Oavli** (s)- Smaller area of visible water on bogs, around rocks, etc. Snow all around.

**Roaves muohta** (a+s) - Coarse transformed snow at depth, above *seanaš*.

**Ruovdecuoŋu** (s)- Iron hard snow, a moose can walk on it.

**Seanaš** (s)- Runny snow. Coarse-grained snow in the lower part of the snow cover. Affected by geothermal energy.

**Sievla** (s)- Soaked snow in the spring. You go through deep with the skis at every step. Snow falls over the skis. It is impactful.

**Skárta** (s) - Hard, thin (1-3 mm) crust of snow on ground and vegetation in autumn. Formed by snow melting and freezing.

**Skávva** (s)- Thawed snow that has begun to freeze into an ice-like layer on the surface in the evening.

**Soavli** (s)-Drenched snow mud.

**Soavlemuohta** (s)- Less wet snowstorm.

**Vahca** (s)-New snow, the snow of the last snowfall.

*Underlying also loose snow is dipma muohta or luobomuohta.*

## **Distribution of snow in time and space**

**Boares muohta** (s)- Early snow that remains when most of it has melted away. Quite coarse and firm.

**Gaddenolus** (s)- Ice released from land.

**Girjebievla** (s)- When the snow has partially melted away in the spring. There is more snow than bare ground. Patchy bare ground.

**Girjemuohta** (s)- When the snow has partially melted away in the spring. It's more bare ground than snow. Even in autumn when most of it has thawed out. Patchy snow.

**Guovlla** (s)- A high snow bank formed by the wind, usually on one side of a ravine or stream channel, sometimes with an overhang (overhang).

**Jassa** (s)- Snow patches in the summer in the mountains.

**Joavgan** (s) - Snow that the wind has filled in potholes, tracks and roads. Smooth surface.

**Johka lea čallan** - Longer or shorter gully, trench formed in the snow along a stream.

**Loškaája** (s) - Open cold spring in winter.

**Rinádat** (s) - It has been calm weather for a while. It has been snowing and a lot of snow has accumulated in the trees.

**Ritni** (s) - The snow itself when laying on trees

**Skiergu** (s) - Snow cover, but there is bare patch in late autumn under or between trees.

**Skilnji** (s)- Ice crystals, even small lumps, on lichen, moss and other plants under a snow cover. (Also on branches above the snow.)

**Spotnu** (s)-Snow has blown away from heights so that there is significantly less than in the surroundings (even on marshes, lakes and ponds). You feel when you leave the area that it becomes softer and thicker.

**Suohpa** (s)- Snow bridge over a stream.

## Events with snow and rainy weather

**Bieggagaikkohat** (s)- Where the wind blew away the snow so that it has become a bare patch, bare of wind.

**Boavdi** (s)- Absence of snow or rain.

**Borga** (s)-Snowfall from above (cf. njeadga) at strong wind.

**Cuorpmasta** (v)- It is hail snowing in calm weather

**Guoldu** (s)-Snowfall from above in strong wind. Snow drifts down from mountains and cliffs and behind peaks.

**Muohtagahčahat** (s)- There are snowballs falling from the trees in the wind.

**Muohtti** (s)- Heavier snowfall of dry snow in calm weather.

**Muorragoaikkahat** (s)- Thawing and dripping from trees affecting the ground below.

**Njeađga** (s) - Snow drift, snow is brought up from the ground and drifts away.

**Oakti** (s)- Snow village or rain village.

**Rihitu** (s)- Avalanche.

**Šlahtti** (s)-Snow mixed rain.

**Solkihat** (s)-Setting in the snow when traveling on it. Sounds like a sigh. Occurs when there is an air bubble under the snow.

**Sotna** (s)-When the amount of snow decreases without warmer weather.

**Suddadit** (v) - Melt (not only about snow)

**Vatmá** (s)-Light snowfall of dry snow in calm weather

## Snow and animals, snow and people

**Ahtton** (s)- The situation where there are traces snowed over and at the same time fresh tracks where animals or people are currently in.

**Áidnen** (s)- The situation when there has been fresh snow and you see fresh tracks among older tracks.

**Čalgá** (v)- When someone (animal or human) walks in partially frozen snow (cuoŋu, salka, čearga) and sometimes sinks through. Cf. doajádat

**Čoakči** (s)- When it is coarse on blank ice because there is snow or sand on the ice, or because someone carved holes in the ice.

**Doalli** (s)- Tracks of some kind (reindeer, snowmobile...) that have snowed over so they just feel like a harder surface underneath. Sometimes the surface can be smoother right there.

**Gáláhat** (s)- The snow situation in the landscape is that of skiing in deep snow.

**Gáládat** (s)-20-30 cm loose snow, measurement of ski boots.

**Gállá** (v)-One walks in deep snow.

**Geamádat** (s)- It is "snow blind", ie. the situation where contours, pits, etc. under special lighting conditions are blurred and the terrain looks smooth.

**Gearilda**-One clearly sees tracks and contours far away through shadows and dawns when the light falls askew. (Cf. *geamádat*).

**Guorrat** (v) - To trace, to follow a trail.

**Joavgan** (s)- Tracks on snow, affected by snow in connection with wind.

**Jovgon luodda** (a+s) - Driven single track.

**Láhttu** (s)-Ski tracks.

**Linádat** (s)- The situation when there is powder snow in the landscape.

**Linádat siivu** - You are out skiing. It is powder snow and you make your way noiselessly, e.g. in connection with hunting.

**Luodda** (s) - Single track run. Cf. *lávki*.

**Muhtton** (s)-More or less old tracks that have been snowed over.

**Oláhat luodda** (s+s) - Tracks that thawed until spring.

**Oppas** (s)- Snow cover untouched by animals and people.

**Sale** (v) – burn frozen twigs, so much so that the ice melts, e.g. to get kindling for the stove or wood for the fire the next morning. Also heat vessels, skis, firewood so that the ice melts.

**Salka** (s)- Area where the snow has been affected and become hard (grazing pits, ski tracks, etc.). Not about individual tracks.

**Seaktite** (v) - Melt snow for drinking water.

**Skorahat** (s)- The situation in the landscape when it sizzles under the skis due to *geardni* or *skávva*.

**Varas luodda** (a+s) - Fresh track.

**Vuohtta** (v) - When you see tracks on the snow or other soft surfaces.

## **Snow conditions - reindeer/reindeer management**

**Ačát** (s)- Deep untouched snow cover when moving with sleds.

**Báikkolas guohtun** (a+s) - Patchy good pasture.

**Beaivebealli** (s)- sunny side in the terrain.

**Bievla** (s)-Barmark

**Boazoluodda** (s) - Reindeer tracks.

**Bodnevihki** (s)- Bad bottom, the vegetation can not uncover. Difficult for the reindeer to graze. "Gutter disease".

**Čiegar** (s)- Larger area where reindeer graze and it's frozen, may have snowed over, can't see well, may only be felt with a stick.

**Čuskkon luodda** (v+s) - Traces of reindeer that jumped.

**Doajádat** (s)- When cuoju (frost) breaks into large pieces because several reindeer is walking on it or when a reindeer runs (it holds when a single reindeer walks).

**Doajahat** (s)- Thicker layer of ice on the surface that does not carry the reindeer.

**Fieski** (s)- Southern area where reindeer graze, not too much snow.

**Galbmon luodda** (v+s) - Pure track with hard bottom. Have had time to freeze.

**Ganastan luottat** (v+s) - Traces of reindeer that walked between the trees and grazed trunk and branch lichens.

**Ganastite** (v)-The reindeer eat rock, trunk and branch lichens (not hanging lichens). In forests where hanging lichens are missing or the branches are high.

**Gatna** (s)-The word is used for stem and branch lichens when the rock lichens are covered with snow..

**Gazzavudohat** (s)- When you only see marks from the hooves on the snow crust.

**Goartil** (s)- Measurements of thumb-index finger. At 4-5, the reindeer start looking for others pastures. 6 goartil is 1 meter.

**Goavvedálvi** (s)- Generally very poor/catastrophic grazing conditions throughout the winter, for example, in Torne Lapland 1989/90. "Go giođa beaivi lie, de birge boazu". "When the spring sun warms, the reindeer survive".

**Guhkes suovdnji** (a+s) - Long grazing pit, sign of poor grazing.

**Guodohat** (s)- Grazed smaller area.

**Guohtun** (s)- Good pasture.

**Ijabealli** (s)-Night side of the terrain, north side, shadow side.

**Jávista** (v) - You intentionally blur tracks to be able to see new tracks, e.g. at *ruvggahat*.

**Jolas** (s)- Much like *vuojáhat* but the reindeer have not been driven (can be hard to tell).

**Lahppet** (v)-The reindeer eat from a. hanging lichens but to some extent also stem and branch lichens (moss, birch-bark lichen etc.).

**Lahppen luottat** (v+s) - Traces of reindeer that walked between the trees and grazed from a. hanging lichen (to some extent also trunk and branch lichens)

**Lávkegaska** (s)-Distance between track stamps.

**Lávki** (s)-Track stamp.

**Morri** (s)-Thaw snow that has frozen but does not bear. Occasional reindeer passing through at almost every step.

**Nuortabealli** (s)-The night side in the terrain, north side, shadow side.

**Oarjjá bealli** (s)-Sun side in terrain, south side.

**Rihpa suovdnji** (s+s) - Excavated litter in the grazing pit, sign of poor grazing.

**Ruohtahat** (s)- Tracks after a running reindeer herd.

**Ruvggahat** (s) - Traces of reindeer that have gone after each other.

**Ruvggahit** (v)-The reindeer go in a track (or several rows) one after the other in snow. You see the reindeer.

**Sanjás** (s)-When berrys or lichens under the snow are free of snow and ice.

**Sealaš** (s)-Snow free in the trees, snow on the ground.

**Skabasta** (v) - When the reindeer yearling looks for lichens in the trees (both hanging lichens, stem and branch lichens) and things that have fallen on the ground. The calf starts with this earlier than the adults. It is lighter and the snow carries it.

**Skabastan luottat** (v+s)- Traces of calves that walked between trees and grazed lichens and things that fell to the ground.

**Skoavli** (s)-The air space that forms under the snow in the spring.

**Suovdnji** (s)-Grazing pit.

**Suovu** (s)-Newly trodden snow (previously untouched) before it freezes, e.g. in a reindeer enclosure.

**Vuojáhat** (s)- Wider tracks where one has herded reindeers.