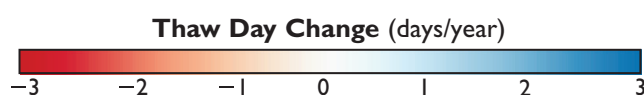
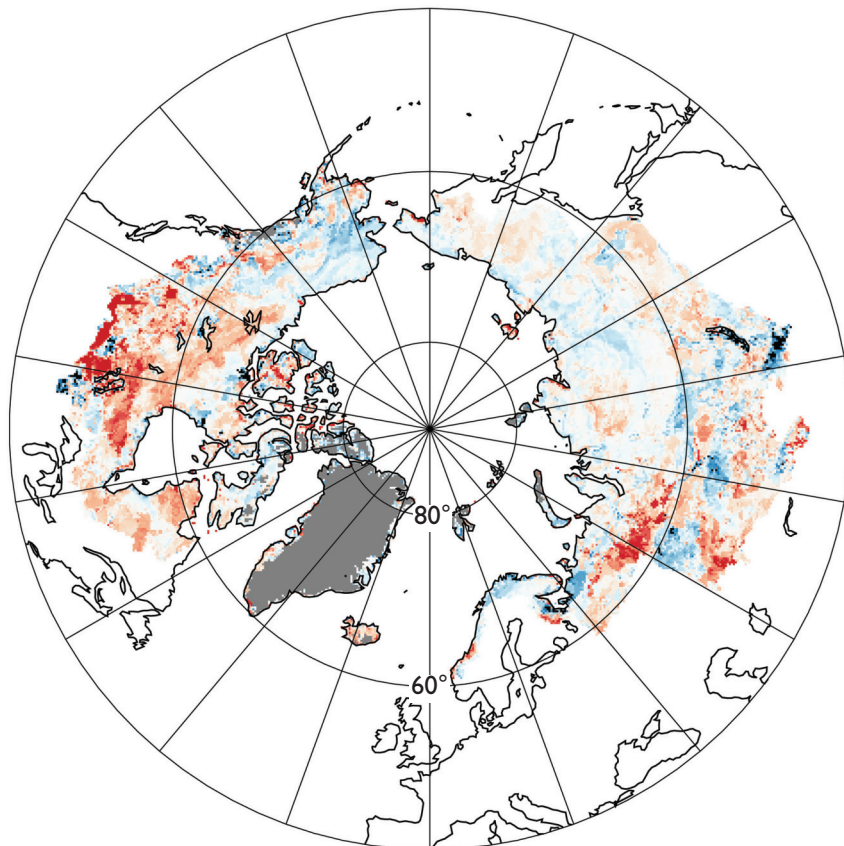


The boreal forest. In this graphic, it is delineated as coniferous and broadleaf forest and consists of a circumpolar band of predominantly coniferous needleleaf trees covering an area of approximately 3 million km². Comprising about 17% of the global land area, it is one of the world's two largest forest belts.

- Water
- Barren
- Grassland
- Shrubland
- Croplands
- Broadleaf Boreal Forest
- Coniferous Boreal Forest



Map showing the trend in springtime thaw day across the pan-boreal region from 1988 to 2001, excluding permanent ice and snow, barren, and sparsely vegetated areas (indicated in gray). Areas experiencing advance toward earlier thaw are indicated in red and orange, while light and dark blue delineate regions tend toward later thaw. The timing of springtime thaw governs the growing season length and other critical processes in the boreal forest. Multi-year brightness temperature measurements have been used to derive these changes in boreal forest growing season across multiple years. (Data from the Special Sensor Microwave Imager (SSM/I) instrument on a DMSP satellite.)