



No Green in This Land Greenland

Ranging in color from snow white to turquoise, sea ice lined the shoreline of eastern Greenland in June 2000 when Landsat 7 acquired this image. Snowcaps form dendritic patterns on the brown landscape, leaving south-facing slopes especially bare.

On the eastern promontory, “fast ice” clings to the shoreline. Common over shallow ocean waters along shorelines, fast ice holds fast to the shore or sea bottom, not moving with winds or currents. Off the coast, pieces of bright white sea ice float on the sea surface at the whim of the elements.

Some of the fast ice in this image is blue, likely because it is composed of large crystals that were stretched by the relentless, transformative action of wind.