

A Look at Georgia Agriculture



Georgia

Capital: Atlanta
Population: 8,186,453
Founded: January 2, 1788 (4th state)
State Bird: Brown Thrasher
State Tree: Live Oak
State Flower: Cherokee Rose
Number of Counties: 159
Largest City: Atlanta **Population:** 416,474
Nicknames: Peach State, Empire State of the South
Motto: Wisdom, justice, and moderation

Climature



- A humid subtropical climate with mild winters and hot moist summers is characteristic of most of Georgia. This, combined with a variety of soil types from the coast to the mountains, makes it an ideal place to produce a diverse variety of crops and livestock.
- Monthly average temperatures range from a high of 92.2°F to a low of 32.6°F.
- The average annual rainfall varies from 40" in central Georgia to more than 75" in northeast Georgia.

Crops



- Georgia produces almost half of the peanuts produced in the U.S. each year.
- Georgia was the first colony to produce cotton commercially, first planting it near Savannah in 1734. Georgia ranks third nationally in cotton production and acres planted, adding more than \$3 billion to the state's economy.
- Although Georgia is called the Peach State, it actually ranks third in United States peach production behind California and South Carolina. In 2001, the Georgia peach crop totaled 140 million pounds and brought in \$35 million.
- In 1986, Georgia passed legislation giving Vidalia onions, known by many as the sweetest onion in the world, legal status and defining the 20-county production area. The Vidalia onion was named Georgia's official state vegetable in 1990.
- Vegetable production has increased significantly in Georgia. Georgia's top five vegetables are onions, watermelon, tomatoes, sweet corn and bell peppers.
- Today's horticultural industry employs more than 40,000 Georgians. Once Georgia-produced horticultural products are sold and established in the landscape, the added value of the product exceeds \$2 billion annually.

Soil



- Geographically, Georgia can be divided into eight soil provinces or major land resource areas (MLRA). They are Southern Appalachian, Sand Mountain, Blue Ridge, Southern Coastal Plain, Black Lands, Southern Piedmont, Sand Hill, and Atlantic Coast Flatwoods.
- Georgia is the leading kaolin clay-producing state in the U.S. Georgia is also a leader in the production of marble, barite, and bauxite.

General



- One out of seven Georgians works in agriculture, forestry or a related sector.
- Agriculture contributes more than \$57 billion, or about 16%, annually to Georgia's \$350 billion economic output.
- More than 65% of Georgia is in forestland. Forestry is a \$19.7 billion per year industry in Georgia.
- Georgia's top ten commodities in order of their rank are broilers, cotton, forestry, peanuts, beef, dairy, hatching layers, horses, greenhouse, and container nursery.
- Georgia ranks first in the U.S. in the production of peanuts, pecans, rye, eggs and broilers.
- Georgia is the largest state east of the Mississippi with a land area of 57,919 square miles.
- Coca-Cola was invented in May 1886 by Dr. John S. Pemberton in Atlanta, Georgia.
- Plains is the home of Jimmy Carter, the 39th President and a Nobel Peace Prize Winner in 2002.

Animals



- Georgia leads the nation in broilers and value of egg production.
- On an average day, Georgia farmers produce 23 million pounds of chicken, 11.7 million table eggs, 7 million hatching eggs and 75 tons of turkey meat.
- Georgia farmers also raise beef cattle, dairy cattle, and swine.
- The Georgia equine industry is a healthy and growing segment of our state's economy with an estimated value of \$300 million.



Georgia Agriculture in the Classroom
P.O. Box 7068
Macon, GA 31209-7068
(478) 474-0679 Ext. 5365
www.agclassroom.org/ga