A Look at Georgia Agriculture

Capital: Atlanta

Population: 9,829,211

Founded: January 2, 1788 (4th)

State Bird: Brown Thrasher

State Tree: Live Oak

State Flower: Cherokee Rose

Number of Counties: 159

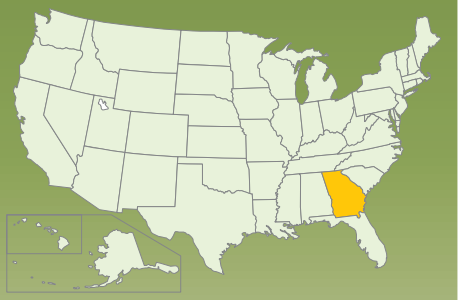
Largest City: Atlanta - 540,921

Nickname: Peach State

Number of Farms: 47,800

Average Farm Size: 212 acres

Total Farmland: 10.1 billion acres



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Climate & Soil

- 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.
- Geographically, Georgia can be divided into eight soil provinces or major land resource areas. 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.

Crops & Livestock

- Georgia produces almost half of the peanuts produced in the U.S. each year. Their value was more than $401 million in 2009.
- Georgia was the first colony to produce cotton commercially, first planting it near Savannah in 1734. Georgia ranks third nationally in cotton production. Its value was more than $700 million in 2009.
- Although Georgia is called the Peach State, it actually ranks third in United States peach production behind California and South Carolina. In 2009, the Georgia peach crop sales totaled $60 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.
- Georgia leads the nation in broilers and value of egg production. In 2009, broilers were valued at $4 billion dollars and eggs at more than $570 million dollars.
- Beef cattle are raised in all of the counties in Georgia.

General

- One of out of seven Georgians works in agriculture, forestry or a related sector.
- Agriculture contributes more than $67 billion, or about 12%, annually to Georgia's $787 billion dollar economic output.
- More than 65% of Georgia is in forestland. Forestry is a $16.7 billion per year industry in Georgia.
- Georgia's top ten commodities in order of their rank are broilers, cotton, eggs, timber, peanuts, horses, beef, greenhouse products for ornamental horticulture, dairy, and container plants from nurseries.
- Georgia ranks first in the U.S. in the production of peanuts, pecans, rye, eggs and broilers.
- 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.
- Georgia was the first state to charter a state university, The University of Georgia, was founded in 1785.

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