

A Look at North Carolina Agriculture



Capital: Raleigh

Population: 9,380,884

Founded: November 21, 1789 (12th)

State Bird: Cardinal

State Tree: Pine

State Flower: Dogwood Blossom

Number of Counties: 100

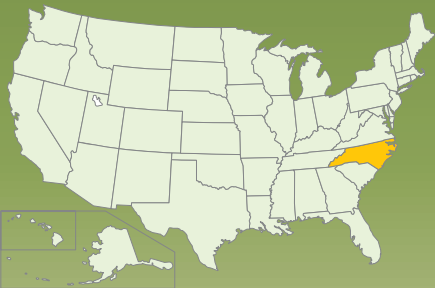
Largest City: Charlotte - 756,912

Nickname: The Tarheel State

Number of Farms: 52,500

Average Farm Size: 160 acres

Total Farmland: 8.4 million acres



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Climate & Soil

- North Carolina has a broad range of climate conditions due to its three distinct regions: the Appalachian Mountains, the Piedmont, and the Coastal Plains. This topographical variety along with the presence of the Gulf Stream off the coast, gives our state the largest climate variability of any state east of the Mississippi.
- The growing season ranges from 130 days in the northern mountains to 242 days along the coast.
- Monthly average temperatures range from a high of 88.3°F to a low of 27.3°F.
- There are over 400 different soils in North Carolina.
- A variety of crops flourish on almost all of the soils in North Carolina if they receive proper management.
- Cecil soils occur on the largest number of acres of the soils with the type location in North Carolina. They make up 1,601,740 acres in the state.
- About half of the acreage is cultivated, and the rest is used for pasture or forest.
- The most common crops are small grains, corn, cotton, and tobacco.

Crops & Livestock

- North Carolina ranks number one nationally in the production of flue-cured tobacco, sweet potatoes, and second in Christmas trees and egg production.
- The greenhouse/nursery industry is the number one crop producer in North Carolina, followed by tobacco, corn, soybeans, cotton, sweet potatoes, wheat, peanuts, blueberries, cucumbers, tomatoes, and a wide variety of other crops.
- Hogs and pigs, broilers, turkeys, and cattle and calves are the main animals raised by North Carolina farmers.
- North Carolina ranks third in the nation in the production of hogs, pigs, trout and turkeys.

General

- The highest point in North Carolina is Mount Mitchell at 6,648 feet above sea level. The lowest point in North Carolina is at the shore where North Carolina meets the Atlantic Ocean: sea level. Moving west, the next 2/5 of North Carolina, about 200 miles wide, consists of a piedmont plateau. In the west, the land slopes upward from gentle to rugged rolling hills to the high southern Appalachian Mountains containing the Blue Ridge and Great Smokey Mountains.
- North Carolina's agriculture industry, including food, fiber, flowers and forestry, contributes over \$70.1 billion annually to the state's economy. Agriculture accounts for 17.6% of the state's income and employs over 17% of the work force.
- Agriculture is North Carolina's #1 industry.