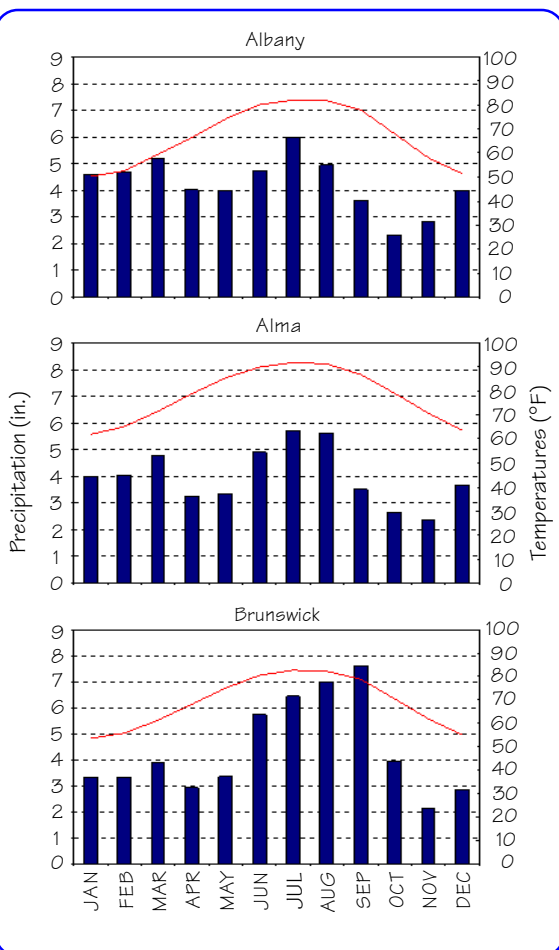


CLIMATOLOGY OF THE GEORGIA COASTAL PLAIN

Georgia Coastal Plain: An Introduction

The Coastal Plain region includes all of Georgia south of the Fall Line. This region consists of about three-fifths of the total land area in the state. The terrain is slightly rolling to level with elevations ranging from sea level to 600 feet. The low-lying coastal sections are rather marshy and large with slow-moving streams bordered by wide, swampy, dense woodland. Streams draining the region include the Altamaha, Flint, Ocmulgee, Oconee, Ogeechee, and Savannah Rivers. Soils on the Coastal Plain are generally sandy and well adapted to a wide variety of agricultural products. Much of the state's pecan production comes from the upper Coastal Plain.



Coastal Plain: Precipitation Profile

Temperatures on the Georgia Coastal Plain are warm. Annual average high temperatures eclipse 77° F, whereas annual average low temperature dips to around 54° F. Conditions are warm from north to south. The mercury can get quite high along the Coastal Plain. For example, the temperature in Millen has reach 109° F! In addition to record heat, the region is used to numerous days of warm weather. The number of days in which the temperature has exceeded 90° F increases from 70 days along the Georgia coast to 97 days in Albany. Similarly, the number of days in which the daily low temperature is at or below 32° F increases from south to north, as well as from the southwest to the northeast. Coastal cities experience few cold days; Brunswick and Savannah experience low temperatures of 32° F or below only 11 and 26 days per year, respectively. Many of the record low temperatures recorded in the region can be attributed to a blast of arctic air in January, 1985. This storm caused the mercury to dip to -3° F in Cordele, Sandersville, and Swainsboro.



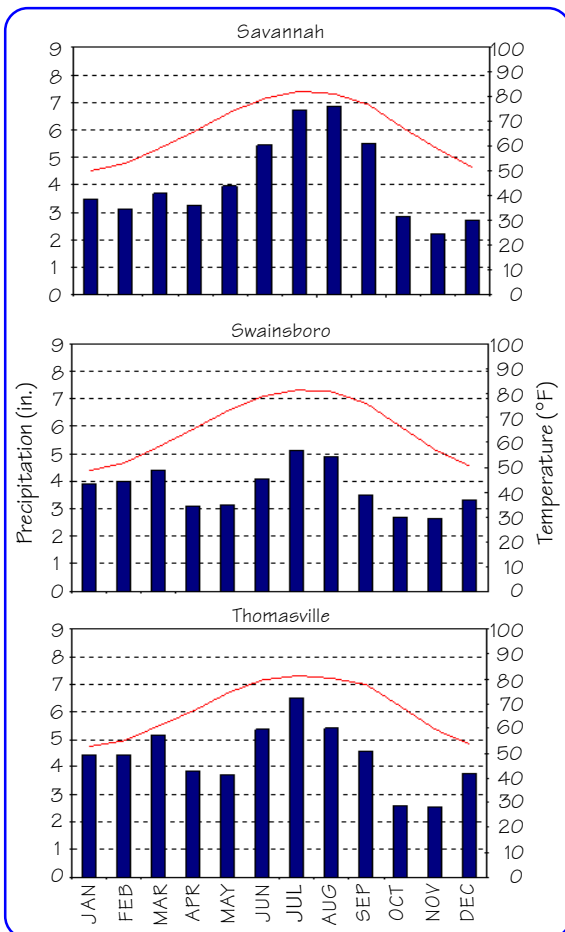
CLIMATOLOGY OF THE GEORGIA COASTAL PLAIN

Coastal Plain: A Temperature Profile

Precipitation on Georgia's Coastal Plain annually averages in excess of 45 inches. Rainfall in the region peaks in the south along the coast, gradually decreasing to the north. The number of rainy days is relatively consistent across the region, averaging 121 days. The Thomasville area is unique not only because it receives rain more frequently, but it also receives 1 inch or more of rain 18 days per year, as well as 85 days of measurable precipitation. Record rainfall in the region dates back into the 1920s. For instance, Albany received in excess of 7 inches in 1928. Seasonal rainfall varies throughout the region, though Fall tends to be the driest season. Snowfall is not common on the Coastal Plain. On rare occasions snow does fall, with amounts decrease from north to south. Sandersville has recorded a record 12 inches in one year, whereas the record at Thomasville is only 2 inches. Winter storms in 1958, 1973, 1974, and 1989 are responsible for much of the snow that has fallen in the region.

Going to EXTREMES!

Station	Annual Snow (in.)	Date	Hi Temp (°F)	Date	Lo Temp (°F)	Date	Prcp (in.)	Date
Albany	3.0"	1973	107°	7/15/80	1°	1/21/85	7.60"	4/23/28
Alma	4.4"	1973	105°	8/18/95	-1°	1/21/85	6.92"	12/4/64
Brunswick	0"	--	106°	7/21/86	5°	1/30/66	9.92"	10/19/44
Cordele	3.5"	1973	106°	6/5/85	-3°	1/21/85	4.90"	10/4/48
Millen	15.0"	1968	109°	7/24/52	0°	1/21/85	8.02"	8/29/64
Sandersville	12.0"	1973	107°	7/22/86	-3°	1/21/85	5.69"	10/1/96
Savannah	4.6"	1989	105°	7/20/86	3°	1/21/85	8.47"	9/5/50
Swainsboro	7.5"	1973	109°	7/24/52	-3°	1/21/85	7.22"	7/29/57
Thomasville	2.0"	1958	106°	7/12/01	5°	1/21/85	8.99"	12/4/64



Georgia's Coast

The Georgia Coast, from Cumberland Island to Savannah, with its close proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, experiences moderate climate conditions. Summers bring warm weather and numerous threats as the hurricane season develops. Average summer temperatures hover around the 90° F mark, with lows in the middle 50s. Winters daily averages include: Savannah 51.7° F, Brunswick 54.8° F, and Sapelo Island 52.2° F. It is very rare for daily high temperatures to drop below 32° F. Precipitation along the coast averages in excess of 50 inches per year. Twenty-four hour rainfall records at Savannah, Sapelo Island, and Brunswick, are 9.92 inches, 8.47 inches, and 8.07 inches, respectively. The dry season arrives during the winter months, whereas summer - the hurricane season - brings about 20 inches of rain. Snowfall along the Georgia coast is rare. When snow does fall, total amounts decrease from northeast to southwest. Savannah and Sapelo Island recorded significant snowfall in 1989, whereas in the past 40 years Brunswick has not received any measurable snowfall.

