



# A Look at *North Carolina* Agriculture

Capital: Raleigh

Population: 10,146,800

Founded: November 21, 1789 (12<sup>th</sup>)

State Bird: Cardinal

State Tree: Pine

State Flower: Dogwood Blossom

State Mammal: Gray Squirrel

State Dog: Plott Hound

State Insect: Honey Bee

State Shell: Scotch Bonnet

State Saltwater Fish: Channel Bass

State Precious Stone: Emerald

State Beverage: Milk

State Rock: Granite

State Reptile: Eastern Box Turtle

State Historic Boat: Shad Boat

Number of Counties: 100

Largest City: Charlotte - 809,958

Nickname: The Tarheel State

Number of Farms: 48,800

Average Farm Size: 170 acres

Total Farmland: 8.3 million acres



[www.agclassroom.org/nc](http://www.agclassroom.org/nc)

## 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 growing season ranges from 130 days in the northern mountains to 242 in 270 days along the coast.
- The eastern 2/5 of North Carolina is characterized as coastal plain and tidewater. 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.
- 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.
- Monthly average temperatures range from a high of 89 degrees to a low of 30 degrees.

## Crops & Livestock

- North Carolina ranks number one nationally in the production of flue-cured tobacco, and sweet potatoes; second in the production of Christmas trees and third in the production of fresh market tomatoes. Fresh market cucumber and strawberry production in North Carolina ranks fourth in the nation, followed by peanuts and upland cotton at fifth in the nation.
- Hogs and pigs, turkeys, broilers, cattle and calves are the main animals raised by North Carolina farmers. North Carolina ranks second in the nation for the production of hogs and pigs, turkeys and trout sold and fourth in the nation in the production of broilers.

## General

- Mount Mitchell is the tallest point in North Carolina, rising to 6684 ft.
- North Carolina had 48,800 farms in 2015. A total of 8,300,000 acres of North Carolina's land is in farms (2015). The average size of a farm is 170 acres.
- North Carolina's agriculture industry, including food, fiber and forestry, contributes over \$84 billion annually to the state's economy, and accounts for 17 percent of the state's income and employs 17 percent of the work force.