

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WEATHER BUREAU
 IN COOPERATION WITH BLAKELY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
 CLIMATOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES NO. 20 -

LATITUDE 31° 33' N
 LONGITUDE 84° 56' W
 ELEV. (GROUND) 270 ft.

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

STATION BLAKELY, GEORGIA

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD 1927-1956

Month	Temperature (°F)									** Mean degree days	Precipitation Totals (Inches)						Mean number of days					Month	
	Means			Extremes			Mean	Greatest daily	Year		Snow, Sleet					Temperatures							
	Daily maximum	Daily minimum	Monthly	Record highest	Year	Record lowest					Year	Precip. .10 inch or more	Maximum monthly	Year	Greatest daily	Year	90° and above		32° and below				
																	Max.	Min.	above	below	below		below
(a)	30	30	30	30	1937+	30	1940+	25	30	30	30	0.1	1.5	1955	1.5	1955	30	30	30	30	30	JAN.	
JAN.	63.4	41.6	52.5	83	1937+	12	1940+	110	3.97	5.57	1936	0.1	1.5	1955	1.5	1955	7	0	*	7	0	JAN.	
FEB.	65.7	43.0	54.4	83	1956+	10	1951+	330	4.86	4.43	1939	T	T	1953+	T	1953+	7	0	*	4	0	FEB.	
MAR.	71.3	47.8	59.6	89	1929+	18	1943	230	6.04	10.88	1929	T	T	1955+	T	1955+	7	0	*	2	0	MAR.	
APR.	78.5	54.0	66.3	93	1942	30	1940+	60	4.93	8.81	1928	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	*	0	0	APR.
MAY	86.5	61.9	74.2	101	1941+	42	1928	0	3.72	4.17	1947	0	0	0	0	0	6	10	0	0	0	0	MAY
JUNE	91.7	68.4	80.1	107	1954+	49	1956	0	4.08	4.12	1946	0	0	0	0	0	8	21	0	0	0	0	JUNE
JULY	91.8	70.4	81.1	107	1930	60	1952+	0	6.80	4.14	1948	0	0	0	0	0	11	23	0	0	0	0	JULY
AUG.	91.7	70.0	80.9	104	1954+	57	1931	0	5.97	4.04	1936	0	0	0	0	0	9	23	0	0	0	0	AUG.
SEPT.	88.2	66.1	77.2	105	1927	46	1942+	0	4.26	4.57	1937	0	0	0	0	0	6	14	0	0	0	0	SEPT.
OCT.	80.9	55.9	68.4	100	1954+	30	1952	40	1.90	5.57	1929	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	*	0	0	OCT.
NOV.	69.8	45.4	57.6	89	1935	15	1950	250	3.00	4.76	1932	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	*	3	0	0	NOV.
DEC.	63.0	41.1	52.1	82	1933+	15	1937	420	4.79	4.72	1948	0.1	1.5	1943	1.5	1943	7	0	0	7	0	0	DEC.
Year	78.5	55.5	67.0	107	1954+	10	1951+	1740	54.32	10.88	1929	0.2	1.5	1955+	1.5	1955+	82	94	*	23	0	0	Year

(a) Average length of record, years.

+ Also on earlier dates, months, or years.

T Trace, an amount too small to measure.

* Less than one half.

** Base 65°F (estimated from mean temperature)

NARRATIVE CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

Blakely is located in Southwest Georgia approximately fifty miles North of the Florida line and about ten miles east of the Alabama line. It is the county seat of Early County, the center of the vast peanut producing area of Georgia. The soil is a sandy loam, and the terrain is mostly level with a slight rolling effect. The elevation of Blakely is about 270 feet, and within the county, this ranges mostly between 150 and 300 feet above sea level.

Summers in Blakely are moderately warm, but long periods of oppressive heat are uncommon. The maximum temperature reaches or exceeds 90 degrees on almost three-fourths of the days during the three months, June through August, but a temperature of 100 degrees is reached on only four days during an average year. During about one third of the years a temperature as high as 100 degrees is not experienced in Blakely. Nighttime temperatures usually drop to the low seventies, or even below seventy, in midsummer, giving an average temperature just slightly above 80 degrees during the hottest months. The highest temperature ever recorded in Blakely was 110 degrees on September 5, 1925. This month of September, 1925, which set record high temperatures at many other places in Georgia and the southeast, also had the highest mean temperature of any month, with 85.2 degrees.

Winters are mild at Blakely and normal outside activities can be carried on continuously throughout the year with very few interruptions. A freezing temperature occurs on 23 days during an average winter, but a temperature as low as 20 degrees may be expected, on the average, only about two times per winter, and does not occur at all during approximately one-third of the winters. The lowest recorded temperature at Blakely was -1 degree on February 13, 1899. On only one other occasion, during the long period of record, has the temperature dropped below 10 degrees. This was on January 6, 1924, when a low 6 was recorded. Even during the coldest weather, daytime temperatures usually rise to comfortable levels. The records show only six days at Blakely when the temperature remained continuously below 32 degrees throughout the 24 hours.

The average dates of the last freezing temperature in spring and first freezing temperature in fall are March 8, and November 21, respectively, giving an average freeze free growing season of 259 days. The last spring freeze has

occurred at Blakely as early as February 1, (1946) and as late as April 13, (1940). Freezing has occurred in the fall as early as October 25, (1923 and 1937) and during one year (1931) no freezing occurred in autumn before the end of the year.

Blakely has an average yearly rainfall of more than 54 inches, which is ample for the varied agricultural and related activities of the area. March and July, each with an average of over 6 inches, are usually the wettest months and October, which averages just under two inches of rain, is the driest. Yearly rainfall amounts have varied from a high of 81.94 inches in 1948, to only 28.74 inches in the record dry year of 1954. The greatest amount of rainfall recorded in one calendar month at Blakely and in the State was 30.23 inches in July 1916. Measurable rainfall was recorded on 20 days during this month, but the heaviest fall occurred from the seventh through the tenth, when 1, 2, 3 and 4 day totals were 9.90, 17.25, 19.69 and 21.69 inches respectively. In contrast, the driest month of record was November, 1931, when only .02 of an inch fell.

Snow fall is rare and of minor significance at Blakely. Measurable amounts have been recorded on only two occasions within recent years - December, 1943, and January, 1954 - when 1.5 inches were measured. The greatest snow of record occurred in February, 1895 when 3.0 inches fell.

Tornado type storms have been observed in Early County only six times during the past sixty years with one casualty and minor property damage resulting.

Humidity and wind records are not available for Blakely. At Dothan, Alabama, 32 miles from Blakely, the average relative humidity ranges from about 90 percent in the early morning to near 55 percent in the mid-afternoon. These averages are slightly higher in July and August and lower in the spring and fall. The average hourly wind speed at Dothan is about 8 miles per hour, ranging from near 6 miles per hour in August to 10 miles per hour in March.

Horace S. Carter
 State Climatologist
 Weather Bureau Office
 Athens, Georgia

Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1927	51.8	52.4	56.8	62.9	75.3	79.1	80.4	80.0	78.4	68.8	62.0	50.1	68.2
1928	51.6	52.2	56.2	62.4	75.3	78.2	80.3	80.0	75.4	70.0	55.4	50.1	65.7
1929	51.0	51.6	56.2	62.4	75.3	77.8	79.4	81.1	76.4	66.9	60.0	48.6	66.9
1930	51.7	51.9	56.3	62.5	75.4	78.0	82.4	80.8	78.1	64.4	56.5	48.1	65.4
1931	48.2	52.2	51.0	63.5	75.6	82.0	82.8	78.2	78.4	70.3	63.6	60.7	67.3
1932	58.1	62.1	55.0	66.4	72.6	79.4	83.6	80.3	77.0	65.8	52.8	57.6	67.6
1933	55.6	52.8	59.2	66.4	73.6	79.5	80.0	81.3	81.3	70.6	59.8	59.2	68.4
1934	53.3	48.6	58.0	66.4	73.6	80.8	81.8	80.8	77.4	70.8	59.8	49.8	66.7
1935	51.7	51.9	63.8	66.6	76.0	81.6	81.7	81.5	76.2	60.3	44.3	44.3	66.9
1936	50.6	50.3	61.9	64.9	76.0	82.8	82.8	81.5	79.6	70.8	56.9	53.8	67.6
1937	63.4	53.1	56.4	64.6	74.8	80.8	81.0	80.6	75.0	65.6	54.7	50.6	66.7
1938	52.1	58.3	65.6	66.6	75.2	79.2	80.4	82.5	76.2	67.4	60.0	50.7	67.8
1939	54.5	57.6	62.8	65.5	72.4	80.1	81.4	78.1	79.1	69.3	58.2	53.8	67.4
1940	30.7	45.4	50.2	64.2	72.4	79.5	80.2	82.2	76.2	68.3	57.5	54.8	65.2
1941	50.8	47.2	54.3	68.3	76.7	80.7	80.9	82.4	79.2	58.7	58.7	53.6	67.3
1942	49.2	47.2	57.2	66.2	73.4	78.9	81.7	79.5	76.2	68.4	60.1	53.6	66.0
1943	53.1	52.8	57.8	65.2	75.0	81.2	81.4	82.4	75.6	65.3	55.3	50.8	66.3
1944	50.4	59.4	60.9	64.7	74.0	80.2	79.9	79.8	78.0	67.0	57.2	49.8	67.0
1945	50.2	57.6	67.8	69.2	72.0	80.9	80.2	79.6	79.2	66.2	59.1	45.3	67.3
1946	52.9	54.3	63.0	68.4	73.0	77.8	80.4	79.6	75.3	67.2	64.2	55.4	67.6
1947	56.8	47.4	53.6	69.6	72.8	78.2	78.2	80.6	77.4	64.4	56.0	53.7	66.3
1948	45.2	57.4	62.2	65.0	71.6	81.2	81.1	80.1	75.3	64.4	61.3	55.5	67.4
1949	47.7	50.4	57.0	70.3	78.6	80.6	80.6	80.1	72.5	62.5	55.0	53.8	67.4
1950	62.8	57.1	55.6	61.6	72.6	78.9	78.9	79.9	68.3	52.4	45.6	45.6	66.2
1951	52.2	51.5	60.1	64.3	72.6	80.9	82.5	83.6	78.3	70.7	53.7	55.7	67.4
1952	57.3	55.3	59.0	64.0	74.2	84.6	83.7	80.9	75.1	64.4	56.7	49.9	67.1
1953	53.3	53.8	62.8	63.5	70.8	80.9	80.4	80.3	75.8	68.0	55.4	50.7	66.0
1954	53.2	55.9	58.6	69.7	75.7	81.0	83.3	81.6	71.6	69.3	56.8	50.0	67.7
1955	49.9	55.1	63.9	69.4	75.2	80.4	80.4	81.5	77.7	65.9	56.8	51.2	67.0
1956	48.0	59.1	58.8	64.7	75.2	78.3	80.2	81.7	74.1	67.5	55.7	58.0	66.8

STATION HISTORY

Official Weather Observations were begun at Blakely in 1877, making this one of the longest records in Georgia. Except for about two years around 1912-1913 the station has operated continuously since its establishment, with only a very few minor breaks in the long period of record.

The station at Blakely has had fewer than the average number of changes in location and observer. There have been only four station locations, all within one and one-fourth miles of the Post Office. The station elevation has varied no more than 25 feet, from 250 to 275 feet, and the latitude and longitude have changed by only two minutes.

More remarkable than the few changes in station location is the fact that there have been only five observers throughout the stations almost eighty years of operation. The first observer at Blakely was Professor D. M. Wade, who served from the establishment of the station in early 1877 through June 1903. The station was located at Professor Wade's residence one and one-fourth miles east of the Post Office. The site was in a slight valley at an elevation of 250 feet above sea level. From August 1903 through June 1906, the station was located at a point on Church Street one and one-fourth miles northwest of the Post Office.

Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1927	0.66	3.82	2.51	1.55	2.68	7.72	1.95	4.24	2.31	2.02	0.54	10.95	41.05
1928	0.65	7.93	14.93	14.85	1.49	7.03	5.13	6.42	8.38	3.33	1.15	3.62	69.21
1929	5.88	10.31	15.86	2.57	5.35	3.54	6.18	1.69	4.32	6.80	3.08	4.02	69.30
1930	5.58	1.01	5.40	2.57	1.03	3.73	9.08	3.01	8.36	0.75	8.79	3.55	53.36
1931	2.00	2.81	2.76	3.16	2.26	0.72	7.22	6.92	0.56	0.61	0.02	5.06	34.10
1932	7.09	3.43	4.30	1.65	5.05	3.14	3.87	5.56	6.48	4.16	7.43	6.58	58.74
1933	4.09	5.11	7.55	8.24	1.62	2.68	4.29	6.36	2.49	0.24	0.47	2.49	45.15
1934	2.28	7.72	7.87	3.35	5.52	4.30	6.16	4.32	1.60	1.48	2.50	2.54	46.52
1935	1.90	5.81	3.75	3.67	2.13	1.20	10.47	7.69	4.47	8.25	2.37	2.69	46.29
1936	12.16	6.39	3.70	6.34	1.14	2.58	5.23	9.38	2.90	2.61	0.98	6.61	60.29
1937	4.89	8.14	4.87	9.76	3.25	3.25	5.70	11.05	7.11	4.44	7.59	2.07	71.10
1938	2.57	1.44	2.46	6.84	2.77	2.81	9.04	3.82	4.58	0.54	0.84	2.87	38.75
1939	3.50	12.35	3.62	6.83	5.94	3.81	5.93	11.37	4.88	0.08	0.96	4.35	66.59
1940	3.19	10.62	3.94	1.93	3.50	6.28	8.25	3.32	0.11	0.53	7.76	4.16	68.59
1941	2.13	2.68	5.73	2.29	1.54	3.79	8.42	5.62	3.19	2.96	1.23	8.58	48.16
1942	5.82	6.22	8.61	2.42	3.29	9.09	5.11	7.77	3.84	1.09	1.55	5.47	60.28
1943	5.57	1.57	1.77	2.05	3.25	4.49	3.02	1.11	3.27	0.06	3.05	5.47	42.97
1944	5.32	5.27	11.28	10.22	3.52	1.54	8.56	10.23	6.93	0.17	2.48	1.82	66.34
1945	5.06	4.51	1.47	8.68	2.44	5.27	8.57	11.84	7.17	2.42	1.51	10.37	69.04
1946	4.91	6.23	7.21	6.59	10.67	6.64	7.57	7.62	2.89	1.53	1.83	0.55	64.24
1947	6.16	1.36	11.30	6.54	10.14	6.58	5.97	3.91	3.12	1.27	10.11	5.40	82.14
1948	5.15	2.37	11.05	3.69	2.37	4.60	14.75	6.61	5.72	7.29	7.28	9.13	81.94
1949	4.08	1.08	7.29	8.28	1.25	6.96	6.86	6.11	4.04	2.03	0.97	2.55	52.75
1950	1.83	1.83	3.79	4.20	2.46	10.20	10.20	4.34	1.75	2.28	0.49	4.08	46.62
1951	2.12	1.84	5.61	4.10	2.39	3.24	4.52	3.65	5.62	0.46	5.95	6.06	44.96
1952	2.40	7.59	3.91	2.21	4.59	0.81	4.81	7.01	1.00	0.57	1.38	3.07	39.35
1953	5.09	4.19	2.99	5.53	3.32	3.61	7.17	5.05	5.05	0.31	2.68	12.92	60.04
1954	0.74	2.64	2.73	2.61	3.54	2.28	4.94	2.69	0.43	2.84	2.84	2.96	56.30
1955	3.72	2.61	0.31	5.49	5.03	3.53	12.82	3.26	5.00	2.60	0.77	0.77	46.64
1956	2.91	6.34	8.11	1.67	4.52	4.06	4.76	3.68	10.05	3.68	0.71	3.33	53.82

Two observers served at this location, which was at an elevation of 275 feet above sea level. Mr. J. L. Creel was observer through October 1903 and Mr. J. F. Creel ran the station through June 1906, when it was moved a very short distance to another location on Church Street. This move did not change the elevation nor the coordinates. Mr. R. M. Hobbs was the observer at the new location from July, 1906, through December, 1911.

In August, 1911, the station at Blakely was moved to its present location at 356 North Main Street and there began one of the truly outstanding records of cooperative public service. Dr. J. G. Standler began making the daily observations at this location and, without a break in record, he continues to do so today, forty-three years later. "Dr. Jack", as he is affectionately known, has, throughout the years, rendered an invaluable service to the Weather Bureau and to the people of Blakely. Without these records, a Summary, such as this, would not be possible.