U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WEATHER BUREAU
IN COOPERATION WITH DOUGLAS-COFFEE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CLIMATOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES NO. 20 -9

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

LATITUDE 31° 31' N
LONGITUDE 82° 51' W
ELEV. (GROUND) 240 feet

STATION DOUGLAS, GEORGIA

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD 1936-1963

Month	Temperature (°F) Means: Daily maximum	Daily minimum	Monthly	Extremes: Record highest	Year	Record lowest	Year	** Mean degree days	Precipitation Totals (Inches): Mean	Greatest daily	Year	Snow, Sleet: Mean	Maximum monthly	Year	Greatest daily	Year	Mean number of days: Precip. .10 inch or more	Temperatures: Max. 90° and above	Max. 32° and below	Min. 32° and below	Min. 0° and below	Month
(a)	28	28	28	28		28		28	28	28		28	28		28		28	28	28	28	28	
Jan.	62.9	39.9	51.4	84	1950	10	1940	430	3.33	4.60	1942	T	T	1958+	T	1958+	6	0	*	8	0	Jan.
Feb.	65.5	42.1	53.8	84	1962	19	1951+	340	4.03	8.08	1961	T	1.0	1958	1.0	1958	6	0	0	4	0	Feb.
Mar.	71.1	47.0	59.1	90	1955	22	1943	250	4.48	5.72	1959	T	T	1955	T	1955	6	*	0	2	0	Mar.
Apr.	78.6	53.7	66.2	93	1958+	31	1952	50	4.32	4.80	1948	0	0		0		5	1	0	*	0	Apr.
May	86.2	61.6	73.9	101	1938	40	1958	0	3.61	5.27	1943	0	0		0		5	9	0	0	0	May
Jun.	90.5	68.6	79.6	104	1952	52	1956	0	5.22	5.59	1936	0	0		0		8	19	0	0	0	Jun.
Jul.	91.6	70.6	81.1	103	1952+	60	1963+	0	6.27	4.70	1938	0	0		0		9	23	0	0	0	Jul.
Aug.	91.6	70.3	81.0	102	1954+	60	1957	0	5.08	4.64	1949	0	0		0		8	23	0	0	0	Aug.
Sep.	87.2	66.2	76.7	97	1951+	45	1940	0	4.06	3.25	1953	0	0		0		6	11	0	0	0	Sep.
Oct.	79.7	55.2	67.5	97	1951	30	1952	50	2.32	5.75	1944	0	0		0		3	1	0	*	0	Oct.
Nov.	70.6	44.5	57.6	88	1961+	16	1950	240	1.79	1.79	1952	0	0		0		3	0	0	3	0	Nov.
Dec.	62.8	39.2	51.0	81	1951	8	1962	450	3.40	2.25	1961	T	0.1	1943	0.1	1943	5	0	*	8	0	Dec.
Year	78.2	54.9	66.6	104	1952	8	1962	1810	47.91	8.08	1961	T	1.0	1958	1.0	1958	70	87	*	25	0	Year

(a) Average length of record, years.

T Trace, an amount too small to measure.

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

\+ Also on earlier dates, months, or years.

* Less than one half.

NARRATIVE CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

Douglas, the county seat of Coffee County, is located in south-central Georgia, approximately 90 miles west of the Atlantic Ocean and 120 miles northeast of the Gulf of Mexico. The County is partially in the Middle Coastal Plain and partially in the Lower Coastal Plain soil province. The soils of the area are predominantly sands and loamy sands and are well adapted to the production of tobacco, cotton, peanuts, corn and pasture. Tobacco is among the more important cash crops and Douglas is one of the leading markets in the Georgia tobacco belt.

The climate of Douglas and Coffee County is determined primarily by the latitude and nearness to the warm waters of the Gulf and Atlantic Ocean. Summers are warm and rather humid with ample rainfall, on the average, while winters are mild and comparatively short. Spring and fall have pleasant temperatures but fall is drier, more sunny and usually less windy than spring.

The maximum temperature reaches or exceeds 90° on slightly more than two-thirds of the days during June, July and August and on about one day in three during May and September. Long periods of extremely hot weather are rare, however, due partly to the moderating effect of the frequent afternoon showers of summer. The temperature reaches 100° during less than one-half the summers and, for the period of this summary, such occurrences have a averaged less than two per year. Summer nights are usually comfortable. The temperature generally drops to the low seventies or sixties by early morning. The average minimum for the three summer months is approximately 70°. The highest temperature of record at Douglas is 104° in June 1952.

The relatively mild winters experienced in the Douglas area cause only minor interruptions in construction work and other outside activities. The minimum temperature drops to freezing or below on just 25 days during an average winter and a temperature as low as 20° is felt during only about one-half the winters. The cold spells that drop early morning temperatures to freezing or below usually last no more than two or three days and may be followed by several days of mild weather, even in mid-winter. During the coldest weather, daytime temperatures normally warm up to comfortable levels. The average maximum for the three winter months is about 63°. Douglas had its lowest recorded temperature in December 1962, with a reading of 8° above zero. The freeze-free growing season normally extends from early March to around mid-November, averaging nearly 260 days in length.

The average annual rainfall of about 48 inches usually provides adequate moisture for agriculture and other uses. Rainfall distribution shows a maximum in summer when requirements for growing crops, lawns, gardens, etc. are greatest. The average rainfall for June, July and August is more than one-third the annual average. Fall is the driest season and November, with an average of less than two inches, is usually the driest month. Typical of the autumn season are long periods of clear sunny weather with warm days and crisp, cool nights. Monthly rainfall totals have ranged from 12.58 inches in March 1944 to none in October 1943. Only a trace of rain was recorded in October 1961. Annual rainfall extremes are 65.04 inches in 1944 and 24.51 inches in 1954. Rains that produce an inch or more in 24-hours occur, on the average, about 12 times per year. They are more likely in July and least likely in November. Snowfall is of no significance in the Douglas area as measurable amounts are rarely observed.

Three tornado type storms have been reported in Coffee County during the period of this summary. A storm caused an estimated $50,000 damage in the Broxton area on April 2, 1955. A second storm heavily damaged a planning mill near Douglas on April 8, 1957, and the third caused damage to farm property in the eastern part of the County on April 12, 1961. Some of the more intense summer thunderstorms are occasionally accompanied by locally damaging winds and hail. Tropical storms that affect southeast Georgia normally bring only heavy rain to the Douglas area.

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WEATHER BUREAU

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
1936	51.1	48.8	61.8	65.9	74.7	80.0	82.6	81.9	79.9	71.2	56.4	52.4	67.2
1937	63.2	52.3	57.8	66.6	74.8	81.4	82.0	79.8	76.4	66.7	55.4	51.4	67.3
1938	53.2	59.6	65.2	67.3	76.0	77.2	78.8	81.9	75.2	65.0	60.5	49.8	67.5
1939	54.9	59.2	62.7	66.5	73.0	81.0	81.4	79.8	78.6	69.4	55.6	53.0	67.9
1940	39.2	51.1	56.2	65.2	72.0	80.2	80.9	81.2	74.0	66.6	58.4	55.8	65.2
1941	51.5	48.0	54.0	68.0	74.1	80.6	82.0	83.4	78.0	73.9	59.0	53.2	67.1
1942	49.0	47.0	59.5	66.0	73.9	80.2	84.2	80.5	77.2	68.2	59.2	52.6	66.5
1943	54.2	53.7	58.6	65.2	75.0	81.9	82.4	81.6	74.6	64.4	56.1	50.9	66.6
1944	49.2	58.5	61.0	65.4	74.6	81.8	79.5	80.0	78.2	63.7	56.2	47.3	66.3
1945	50.1	56.2	67.2	68.6	72.0	81.0	79.7	80.0	79.1	66.4	59.4	47.6	67.3
1946	53.5	55.2	62.4	67.4	73.4	77.5	80.4	79.8	74.8	67.6	64.3	54.4	67.6
1947	56.3	46.8	53.0	70.3	73.7	76.9	79.0	80.6	76.9	70.9	57.0	53.4	66.4
1948	47.2	55.2	62.7	69.9	74.8	79.4	82.0	80.4	76.2	64.8	64.4	56.6	67.8
1949	59.9	60.1	59.0	66.5	73.8	78.3	81.6	80.9	76.9	73.2	55.5	54.9	68.4
1950	62.8	57.9	56.8	62.5	76.2	80.9	77.6	79.8	75.4	70.5	54.3	47.3	66.8
1951	51.7	53.6	58.6	64.8	72.5	81.2	82.3	83.4	78.8	70.6	55.1	55.5	67.3
1952	57.7	54.3	59.6	63.8	74.8	83.5	84.0	82.1	76.9	63.8	58.5	50.3	67.4
1953	53.5	53.8	63.1	64.6	72.4	80.4	80.4	81.0	75.6	68.2	56.5	51.8	67.2
1954	53.4	55.9	57.7	70.0	69.7	81.1	82.4	83.2	79.1	66.9	54.4	49.5	66.9
1955	50.8	55.4	63.8	69.3	75.3	75.6	79.8	80.4	75.7	64.0	55.8	49.0	66.3
1956	47.5	58.9	57.7	64.3	75.1	77.1	80.5	81.4	75.0	67.1	57.1	57.7	66.6
1957	53.4	58.9	58.8	66.7	74.2	79.2	80.6	80.2	77.0	63.7	60.3	51.6	67.1
1958	44.7	44.3	55.5	66.1	71.6	79.2	81.0	81.4	77.0	65.2	60.3	48.4	64.6
1959	46.7	54.9	54.8	65.6	74.7	78.8	80.3	81.3	76.6	69.3	53.1	50.6	65.6
1960	49.6	49.4	48.6	65.6	71.4	77.7	81.1	79.8	76.6	67.9	58.2	43.4	64.1
1961	43.0	54.4	60.8	60.2	70.9	76.3	80.5	79.2	76.9	63.7	60.7	51.1	64.8
1962	47.9	58.0	54.9	62.7	77.0	78.8	82.2	81.0	76.2	68.0	53.3	46.3	65.5
1963	45.1	46.3	59.8	67.2	73.0	78.3	80.3	81.8	74.5	66.9	55.8	43.1	64.4

Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1936	4.59	4.63	4.64	4.20	1.65	8.52	15.07	1.69	2.37	1.60	0.45	4.18	53.59
1937	5.40	5.48	5.22	5.18	2.12	4.89	4.05	3.00	3.23	2.22	1.62	1.36	43.77
1938	1.31	1.20	1.63	1.89	3.48	4.86	10.92	2.58	7.85	1.34	1.02	1.59	39.67
1939	2.28	7.95	1.21	5.84	9.12	2.93	3.54	6.55	3.63	0.01	0.86	2.43	46.35
1940	3.44	3.14	1.73	3.33	2.03	2.68	4.78	5.47	2.10	0.58	1.81	4.10	35.19
1941	0.88	2.25	4.31	1.25	1.27	6.76	5.22	4.35	2.37	1.58	1.08	5.99	37.31
1942	7.16	5.28	7.16	0.72	3.50	9.46	2.83	6.54	3.99	1.10	1.88	5.10	54.72
1943	3.28	3.06	4.63	2.91	7.52	6.88	5.50	6.08	1.91	0.00	1.05	4.24	47.06
1944	5.49	5.91	12.58	7.00	1.21	4.03	11.08	3.44	3.26	8.28	2.04	0.72	65.04
1945	3.45	3.48	1.78	6.83	3.15	3.83	10.16	6.89	4.59	1.58	1.53	7.29	54.56
1946	3.31	1.76	4.17	1.93	4.21	7.11	5.30	5.17	4.79	3.89	1.49	0.16	43.29
1947	5.21	0.98	6.16	5.57	4.55	4.10	3.50	1.89	8.40	7.31	8.82	6.39	62.88
1948	3.26	2.51	9.45	9.20	2.00	3.31	8.98	4.33	2.53	2.72	3.16	5.95	57.40
1949	0.68	6.62	2.32	7.58	4.79	6.51	5.48	10.61	0.73	1.52	0.47	1.71	49.02
1950	1.09	1.25	5.76	2.82	2.70	3.51	7.51	2.00	4.30	4.55	1.03	4.24	40.76
1951	0.96	1.15	9.42	2.49	1.75	6.49	5.19	6.62	5.45	2.12	3.33	3.40	48.37
1952	2.08	3.16	3.19	1.28	3.11	1.33	2.11	6.35	8.76	1.35	2.45	2.97	33.14
1953	4.53	4.93	2.63	6.84	2.49	4.07	6.80	8.79	9.52	1.30	0.63	7.76	60.29
1954	1.19	1.60	1.68	1.99	1.50	3.21	2.11	3.08	2.69	0.31	2.20	2.95	24.51
1955	4.33	2.15	0.80	4.26	5.45	1.46	10.61	5.06	5.90	3.58	0.16	0.57	44.33
1956	3.00	5.61	1.67	3.62	4.24	5.90	2.86	5.18	5.94	6.74	0.33	2.40	47.49
1957	1.68	1.96	4.05	2.03	5.43	5.35	3.52	2.29	6.57	2.07	3.61	1.92	40.48
1958	3.12	3.31	4.81	6.61	6.46	10.13	6.25	5.39	0.96	1.02	0.88	2.25	51.19
1959	3.08	8.88	10.28	2.70	8.07	2.76	7.36	2.91	2.31	6.02	0.30	4.41	59.08
1960	4.10	6.10	2.40	7.45	1.67	3.80	6.60	5.10	3.40	0.80	0.70	1.70	43.82
1961	5.10	11.58	5.10	7.90	2.98	5.02	5.90	9.13	1.90	T	1.61	4.08	60.30
1962	4.25	2.42	3.31	5.49	0.15	5.72	4.30	5.26	6.33	1.30	3.19	2.86	44.58
1963	4.87	4.34	3.34	2.05	4.47	11.46	7.93	6.43	2.90	0.10	2.36	2.40	52.65

STATION HISTORY

A cooperative weather station was first established at Douglas, Georgia in January 1902. The observer for this early station was Mr. A. B. Finley and the instruments were located at his residence near the middle of town. The station became inactive after May 1904 and no official records were kept at Douglas for the next several years. The station was reestablished near the end of 1908 and continued with only slight success until April 1910. Much of the record is missing or incomplete during this period. Observers were Mr. J. B. Marshall from November 1908 to March 1909 and Mr. C. W. Davis from April 1909 to April 1910. The latitude, longitude and elevation for both these stations were: 31° 30' N., 82° 51'W., and 260 feet respectively.

A third, and more successful effort to establish a permanent cooperative weather station at Douglas was made in January 1936. This station was located at the Post Office. The instrument shelter was on the Post Office lawn and the rain gage was on the roof, 40 feet above the ground. The latitude was 31° 31' N and the longitude and elevation were the same as for the earlier stations. The station continued at the Post Office for the next 12 years but with three different observers. Mr. E. L. Nance was observer from January 1936 to March 1937. He was followed in order by Mr. J. A. Tomlinson, who served from April 1937 to July 1939 and Mr. Leon Bagwell, who was observer from August 1939 through January 1948, a period of nearly 9 years.

In February 1948 the station was moved to the City Water Plant, three-tenths of a mile south southeast of the Post Office. The latitude was again 31° 30' N and the elevation became 245 feet. The station continued at this location through May 1954 with Mr. Frank Simmons serving as observer. On June 1, 1954 the station was moved to Radio Station WDMG at 620 East Ward Street. This location was four-tenths of a mile east of the Post Office and the coordinates and elevation remained the same as at the previous site. Several different Radio Station personnel served as observer during the four years the station was located at Radio Station WDMG.

The station was moved to its present location at the City Sewage Treatment Plant in February 1958. The coordinates and elevation of this site, which is 1.5 miles NNE of the Post Office, are shown in the heading of this summary. Mr. Warren Grantham served as observer until August 1962 and the duties have been very capably handled by Mr. Johnny S. Phillips since that time. The exposure of the station is considered to be very good.