



Georgia CoCoRaHS Newsletter

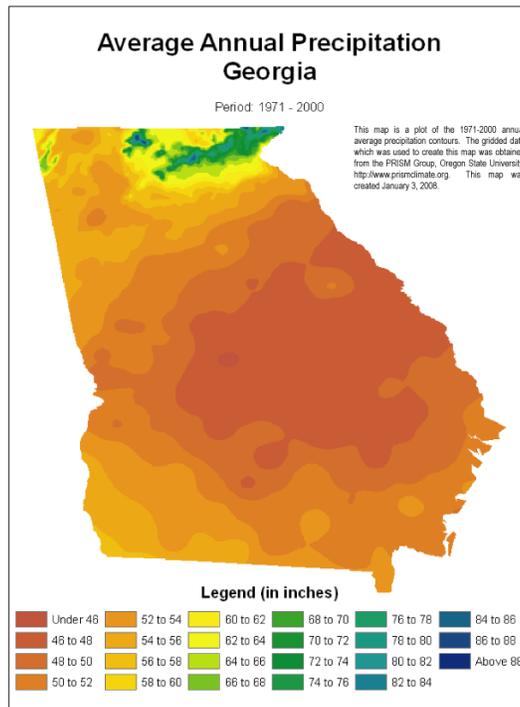
March 2014

What a difference a year makes...

In 2012, the maximum precipitation total from any CoCoRaHS reporting station in Georgia came from GA-RB-1: a pretty respectable 77.94 inches, compared to the paltry totals seen by some parts of our parched state. In 2013, RB-1 did it again, but this time it was more than 100 inches. In fact, the top three totals were 100+:

Station	2013 total	30-year average
GA-RB-1 (Rabun County, Dillard 3.5 NE)	105.86"	77.40"
GA-PC-7 (Pickens County, Nelson 6.6 NE)	102.46"	59.96"
GA-RB-4 (Rabun County, Rabun Gap 2.1 SW)	100.68"	70.93"

Nine more stations had yearly totals above 90 inches. For comparison, here's the 30-year average annual precipitation for Georgia:



(<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/images/ffc/gapcpn.gif>)

You can access 30-year normal precipitation data for your own station by visiting the PRISM CoCoRaHS Climate Portal. Learn more here: <http://cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=prismportal>

Spring. Finally.

Here in West Central Georgia, the daffodils are in bloom and the flowering trees are beginning to show their stuff. For many of us, the trials and tribulations of this winter's weather are already fading memories (with the probable exception of those who were unfortunate enough to get stuck overnight on I-285, or whose power was out for a long time.) Thanks to your diligent efforts, though, CoCoRaHS records will ensure this tough winter won't be forgotten. Of the 375 Georgia CoCoRaHS stations that have reported at least once so far this year, 164 reported measureable snow at some point. The highest snow total so far was reported by GA-CS-2 (Catoosa County, Ringgold 2.8 SW), with 13.2 inches of snow, most of which occurred February 11-13. GA-CG-11 (Chattooga County, Summerville 9.4 ENE) got 11.6 inches, and GA-FL-11 (Floyd County, Rome 4.2 WNW) came in with an even 10 inches.

State of the state

Last fall, Georgia CoCoRaHS welcomed its 1000th station – quite a milestone. For the record, it was GA-LW-20 (Lowndes County, Valdosta 9.1 S – no prize except bragging rights, I'm afraid.) The all-time total stands at 1068 as of today – with any luck, we'll reach 1100 by the end of this month's recruiting drive. Over time, we've had to close 467 stations due to observer request or inactivity, but there are still a lot of you out there making every drop count, and you are *greatly* appreciated.

Why we only use the official CoCoRaHS rain gauge

There are many different types of rain gauges available, ranging from the ones you can get for \$5 at the local hardware store, to expensive automated weather stations that tell you about the rain and a whole lot more. With so many options out there, why are CoCoRaHS observers required to use one standard type of gauge? An inch of rain is an inch of rain, right?

Well... not exactly. Every type of rain gauge has its own advantages and disadvantages in terms of measuring rain. If you ever have a chance to see Nolan Doesken's presentation about the measuring errors of rain gauges, it'll make your head spin. Truth is, precipitation "measurement" is really just an estimate. So when CoCoRaHS observers are all using the same type of gauge, we have a better handle on the possible errors that might be affecting the readings – leveling the playing field, if you will.

Your Super Weather Toy 3000 can still be a good source of information, however. The Comments section of the data entry form is a great place for the additional information an automated weather station, or just an auxiliary rain gauge, can provide. For example, you could mention that according to your Toy, all the rain fell between 6:30 and 7pm last night, and the peak rain rate it recorded was one inch of rain per hour. Or, "My CoCoRaHS gauge had 1.37 inches in it this morning, but my Cheapo Decorative Garden Gauge on the back forty had closer to two inches."

Thanks, everyone, for all you do in support of CoCoRaHS! -- Chris McGehee, State Co-coordinator