South Carolina Christmas Climatology

South Carolina State Climatology Office

Station	Max Temp	MinTemp	Number of days temperature <=32	# Precip Days
Aiken	1984/82	1983/4	28	20
Anderson County Ap	1955/81	1983/2	34	20
Bamberg	1955/79	1983/7	24	15
Beaufort WWTP	1974/76,1984/76	1983/10	9	15
Brookgreen Gardens	1984/79	1989/4	22	12
Caesars Head	1955/67	1983/-5	39	23
Charleston City	1984/76	1983/18	8	18
Charleston Intl Arpt	1984/77	1983/11	19	17
Chester	1955/78	1983/4	38	20
Columbia Metro Arpt	1955/79	1983/7	30	22
Conway	1984/80	1989/8	24	23
Darlington	1955/80	1983/9	30	19
Florence Regional Ap	1955/81	1983/9,1989/9	28	17
Greenville	1955/78	1983/6	34	19
Lake City 2SE	1955/79	1989/6	21	10
Laurens	1955/78	1983/5	34	21
Newberry	1955/80	1983/5	30	21
Orangeburg 2	1955/81	1983/8	28	18
Saluda	1955/79	1983/6	31	19
Walhalla	1955/81	1983/2	37	23
Walterboro 1 SW	1984/80	1983/8	22	13
Winthrop	1955/78	1983/3	33	18

Snowfall Summary for Christmas

*Snow mixed with sleet fell in 1899 at a few western stations, but snow generally melted as it fell.
*Significant ice storm - mixture of rain, snow, sleet and freezing rain fell on 24th through early morning 25th in 1945
(8.5" Caesars Head, 5.2" Spartanburg, 2" Greenwood). "Severest occurrence of its kind in 25 years"
*A trace to 6 inches at Caesars Head and Long Creek fell in the Piedmont in 1947 (3.5" Walhalla)
*Wet, cold and blustery winter conditions in 1953 with a few snow flurries in the northern part of the State.
*Caesars Head 4" 1962, 1" at Greenville Spartanburg (No text to confirm if mixed with sleet and or freezing rain).
*Trace for northern stations in 1970. No text describing the event.
*Freezing rain for Upstate in 1975, minor damage.
*Winter storm brought heavy snow to coastal SC on the 22nd-24th 1989 (4" Yemassee, 5" Beaufort, 8 " Charleston, 14" Myrtle Beach).
*Trace reported in 1998 for northern stations.
*Late in the evening on the 25th in 2004, a mixture of rain, sleet, freezing rain and snow began to develop over central and coastal sections.
By sunlight on 26th, a light coating of ice had disrupted travel and caused power failures.

Highlights

*December 1984: Historical weather records say the "June in December" weather resulted from a displacement of the upper winds across the eastern US, with the jet stream being mostly from the southwest instead of the usual northwesterly direction. This blocked inflow of colder air during latter half of December.

*Many stations reported temperatures above 70 F from December 13-31 except on the 23rd and 26th.