

# Stripling Irrigation Research Park

April 2020

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B.J., Cale & Mandy marking corn plots in the Lindsay Lateral field... with 'Social Distancing'.



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**

College of Agricultural &  
Environmental Sciences

**C.M. STRIPLING IRRIGATION  
RESEARCH PARK**

# From the Superintendent

Just 3 months ago, we started hearing out of Wuhan, China, about pneumonia cases likely due to a new type of coronavirus. Since then, our entire WORLD has changed drastically. We now know about novel corona virus, COVID-19, social distancing, no handshakes, shelter in place, flatten the curve, proper handwashing, hand sanitizer, toilet paper shortages, face masks, PPE, etc. Our neighbor 45 minutes to our north, Albany, has become a hotspot for the virus and even our home county, Mitchell, has been hit relatively hard. Take a look at the latest statistics on the next page. Scary stuff.

Starting around March 12<sup>th</sup>, there was a deluge of guidance coming from UGA administration which often changed daily due to the rapidly changing COVID-19 situation. Starting March 16<sup>th</sup>, UGA paused instruction for 2 weeks. An email from President Morehead on March 17<sup>th</sup> announced that public activities were being canceled, including athletics and commencement. On March 20<sup>th</sup>, all research was to shut down. Later, VP David Lee started approving limited essential research, mostly off the main campus. Online instruction for the entire UGA campus began on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

On Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, I chose to implement a 2 day per week on-site / 3 day per week remote work plan for SIRP's essential personnel (BJ, Mandy, Kyle and myself). Candace began telework from home. We are NOT accepting non-UGA visitors and UGA folks must contact us prior to visiting. The goal is social distancing to protect my staff. As a result of all this, like many of you, in-person meetings and events have been canceled or indefinitely postponed. We are carrying out a limited number of research projects while following UGA guidelines. The projects are mainly corn-related research.

Enough about coronavirus. During March, conditions in south Georgia became much drier. The Park received only 3.26 inches of rain in 3 events. Over a couple pages, you can see from the US Drought Monitor how the drier conditions have developed. The long term average for March rainfall at the Park is 5.62 inches over 8 events. For the year, we've received 13.77 inches of rain – a bit under the long term average of 14.82 inches. Temps during March were all over the place with highs ranging from 59.8F to a balmy 90.7F and low temps ranging from 67.2F to a chilly 34.2F. Our long term average high for March is 72.5F and long term low is 47.3F. As I write this, it looks like we're in store for several rainy days.

Early in March, I attended our annual CAES Superintendents and Farm Managers meeting up in Blairsville at the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center. Superintendent Ray Covington did a great job hosting our group during our two day meeting. The Center there is a beautiful facility with great views of the North Georgia mountains. Next year, we'll travel to the opposite end of the state as we meet at Attapulgus in Decatur County.

Before our decision to close the Park to outside visitors, we had Marty Saylor with Lindsay Irrigation come by to replace the GPS receivers on our Lindsay linear-move irrigation system. The receivers are used by the VRI control system. We also hosted Ken Webb with the Flint River Soil & Water Conservation District. Cale Cloud, Extension Water Agent, gave Ken a crash-course on testing center pivot application uniformity. They tested uniformity of our 4-tower Valley system with new Senninger i-Wob sprinklers. (Our sprinklers tested out very uniform!).

Finally, I'm pleased to note that on March 1<sup>st</sup> I completed my 31<sup>st</sup> year with UGA/CAES. This year will certainly be one to remember the rest of my life!

I hope all of you reading this are healthy and safe. Take care. We'll get through this.



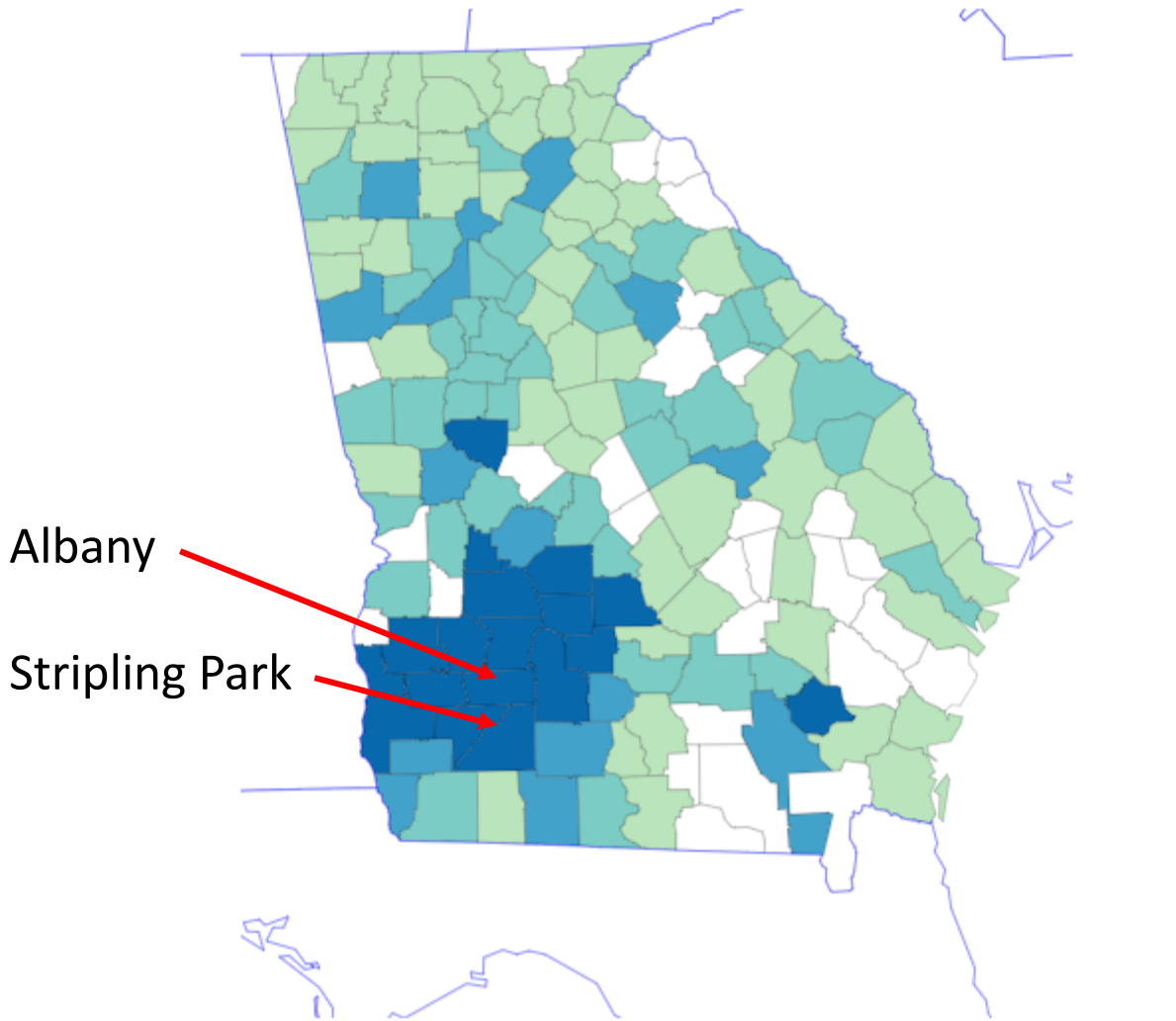
Calvin Perry

# From the Superintendent

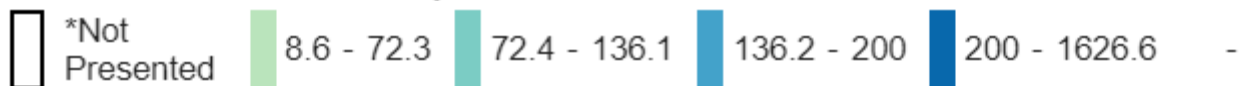
From Georgia Dept. of Public Health

<https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

COVID-19 Confirmed Case Rate per 100,000 persons  
by County



COVID-19 Confirmed Case Rate per 100,000 persons \*Based on patient  
county of residence when known

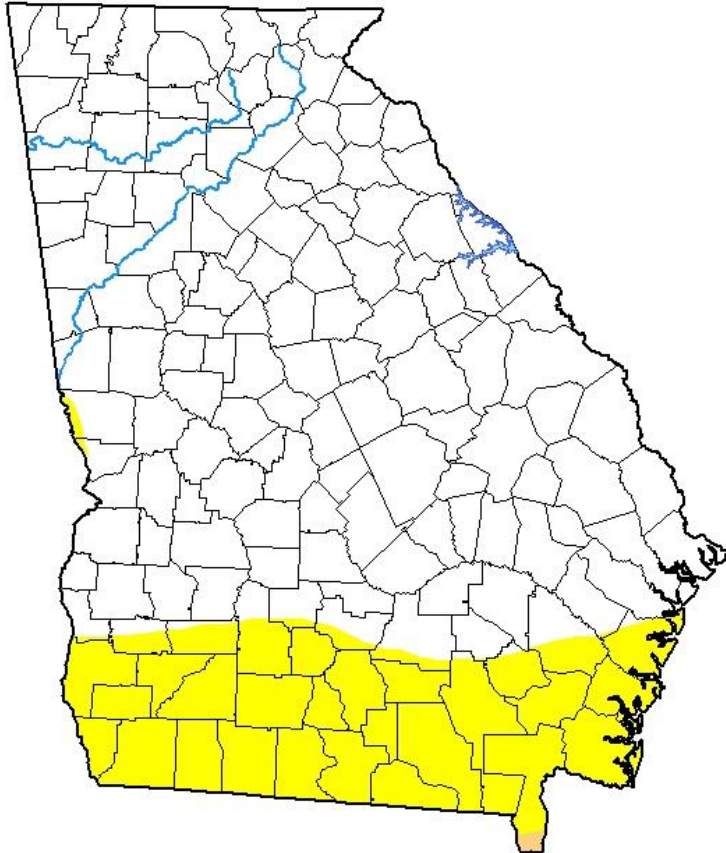


Rate indicates the number of cases among Georgia residents per 100,000 population using 2019 Census data projections as the denominator. Rates for counties with fewer than 5 cases may not be accurate and are not presented in this report.

# Drought Conditions

## U.S. Drought Monitor Georgia

**April 7, 2020**  
(Released Thursday, Apr. 9, 2020)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	77.28	22.72	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 03-31-2020	85.45	14.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 01-07-2020	96.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 12-31-2019	96.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 10-01-2019	0.00	100.00	61.58	28.35	4.49	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 04-09-2019	20.88	79.12	14.47	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>*

Author:

David Simeral  
Western Regional Climate Center



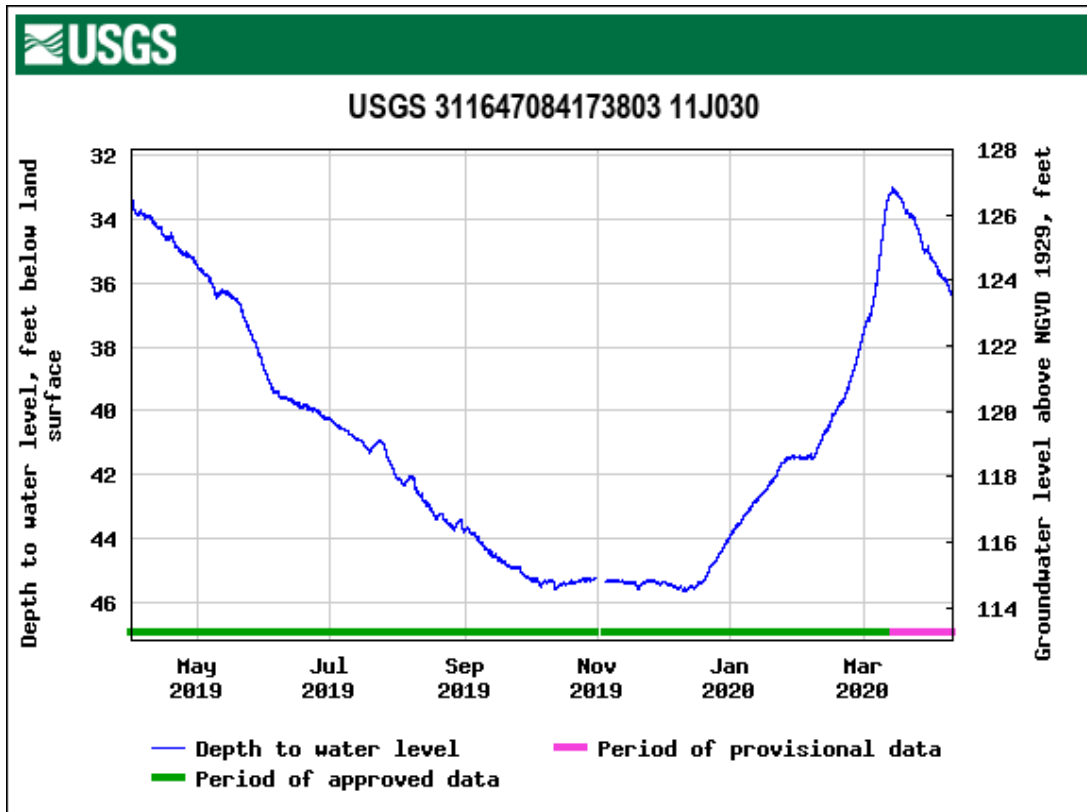
[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

Drought Monitor map for Georgia as of April 7<sup>th</sup>. Currently, the entire southern tier of counties (22.72% of the state) is classified as 'abnormally dry' status. The rest of the state is not in any drought condition.

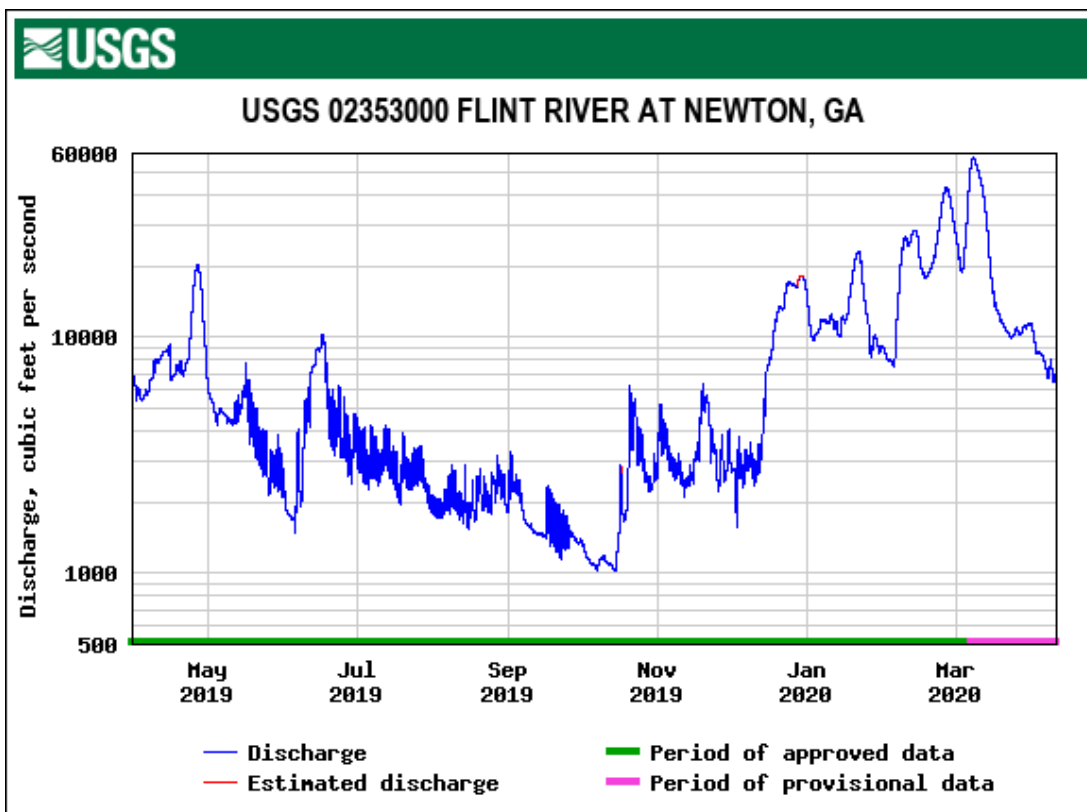
For more info:

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?GA>

# Water Resources



Above and below - USGS data for the past year for a groundwater monitoring well here at SIRP in Floridan aquifer and stream gage on the Flint River at Newton.



# At the Park



Above: B.J. measuring VRI zones for chemigation.  
Below: Kyle disking VRI area for (later) planting veggies.



# At the Park



Above: Drone shot of the VRI, showing the different studies to go in that field.  
Below: B.J., Kyle & Mandy repairing drip tape in the Access field... before the 'Social Distancing' kicked in.



# At the Park



Above: Our local farm supply dealer spreading corn fertilizer.  
Below: Strip-tilling ahead of planting Dr. Kemerait's soybean sentinel plots.





# At the Park



Above: Re-tilling seed bed and planting corn.  
Below: Doing a bucket test to check application depth with pivot.



# At the Park



Above: Irrigating Dr. Porter's corn in the Lindsay Lateral field.  
Below: Measuring corn & soybeans... via radio waves? LOL



# Events

## Past events

## Upcoming events

All events have been cancelled or delayed until further notice due to the COVID-19 virus.

We hope that everyone is practicing 'Social Distancing', and that you all stay safe, happy and healthy!

# In the News

[Cotton consultants discuss right timing for irrigation efficiency](#)

[Ag research adjusts to COVID-19](#)

[COVID-19 not stopping Southern corn farmers kicking off 2020 planting](#)

[Missouri to install more soil moisture monitors for drought, flooding](#)

[How More Flash Drought Research Could Be Helpful In Georgia](#)

[Senators looking to expand broadband delivery to rural Georgia](#)

[State lawmakers try to boost rural broadband](#)

[Georgia Cotton: You Get One Chance To Gain A Health Stand – 5 Key Considerations](#)

[Farmers & ranchers ready to meet increased food bank needs](#)

[UPDATED APRIL 13 - COVID-19 prompts postponements of ag events](#)

[Efficiently manage peanut thrips early to avoid damage, diseases](#)

[Trickle Effect of COVID-19 Hits Agriculture, Farmer Finances Hard](#)

[Florida Looks to U.S. Supreme Court in Water War](#)

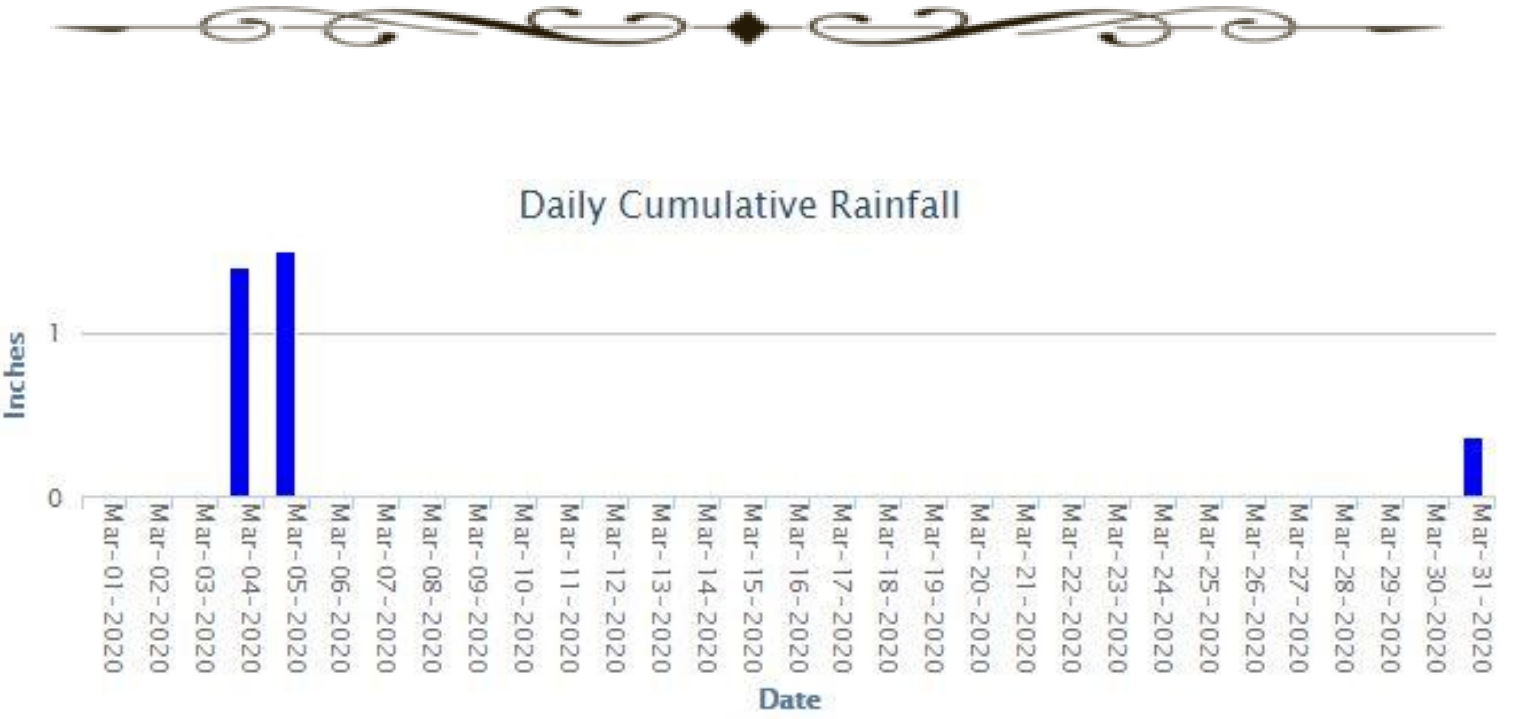
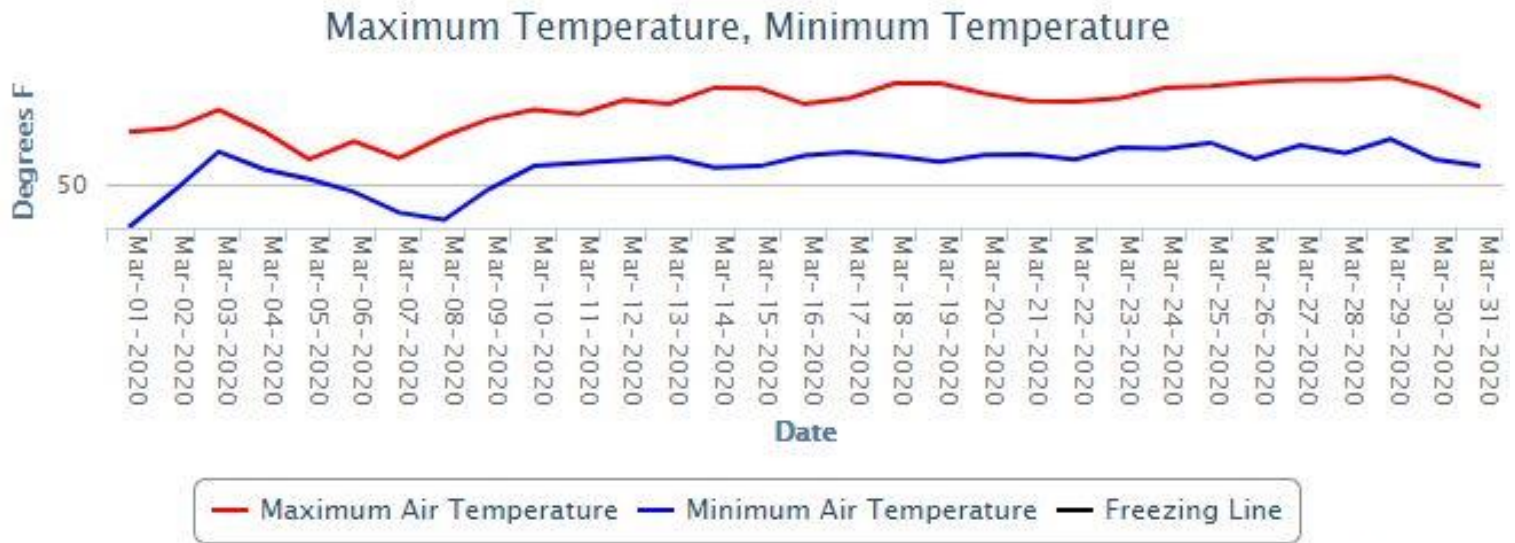
[Engineered honeybee gut bacteria trick attackers into self-destructing](#)

[Georgia Ag Commissioner Extends Farm Recovery Program Application Deadline](#)

**Video / Podcast / Radio:**

[Staying safe through COVID-19](#)

# SIRP Weather



For March, SIRP had 3.26 inches of rainfall, compared to 6.03 inches for February, 4.48 inches in January, and 8.79 inches in December.

To explore weather information, visit [www.georgiaweather.net](http://www.georgiaweather.net).

# Contact Information

CM Stripling Irrigation Research Park  
8207 Highway 37 West  
Camilla, GA 31730  
(229) 522-3623

Calvin Perry (Superintendent): [perrycd@uga.edu](mailto:perrycd@uga.edu)  
Candace Gray (Admin. Associate): [sirp@uga.edu](mailto:sirp@uga.edu)



## C.M. Stripling Irrigation Research Park

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### Trivia:

The Jell-O company tried what unusual flavor in 1942?