

Stripling Irrigation Research Park

December 2020



It's Christmas time...

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UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

College of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences

C.M. STRIPLING IRRIGATION
RESEARCH PARK

From the Superintendent

I trust that you all had a nice and healthy Thanksgiving break. 2020 holidays are certainly not like any we've had before, at least in recent memory. (I know, that's an understatement). And like most of you, we'll be glad when the Nov 3 election is finally settled.

Field work continued at the Park during November. We did some repairs on our cotton pickers and grain combine and then harvested soybean plots for Drs. Vellidis and Laikos and cotton plots for Drs. Vellidis, Snider and Kemerait – finishing up a total of 3 modules of cotton and a couple loads of soybeans. Following harvest in our “Newton” lateral field, we pulled cotton stalks then disked the field, deep turned it, and then planted rye cover crop. In our “VRI” field, we disked in the peanut straw and sowed rye seed. In our remaining field areas, we pulled stalks and sowed rye immediately after. We flushed the supply and drain lines in our two subsurface drip irrigation fields to clean out any sediment that accumulated since our last flush. Just before the Thanksgiving break, we did our winterization of our irrigation systems as temps were to drop to near freezing. We also completed our soil sampling which gave us the data needed to spread lime on some of our fields.

The weather was quite conducive to harvest as the Park received only 1.46 inches of rain over 7 events last month. Our high temps ranged from 88F to 64F and our lows ranged from 72F to 35F (didn't quite reach freezing). The long term average high for November is 71F and low is 45F with 3 inches of rain over 6 events. So we received about half our 'average' rainfall.

Visitors to the Park included Dr. Snider and his crew (technicians, grad students, student workers), Dr. Vellidis' technician Matt and grad student Shelby, Dr. Kemerait's technician Caleb, plus Rick Heard (Advanced Ag Systems, Dothan).

I attended a number of virtual seminars/workshops, including Dr. Johnson's UGA Extension update, Extension Well Water Safety by Dr. Gary Hawkins and Agent Stephanie Butcher, IA's Irrigation 20/20, Flint River Soil & Water Conservation District's IrrigatorPro project wrap-up, Jain Irrigation's DU seminar, Nelson Irrigation's “End of Iron Solutions” seminar, Lindsay Irrigation's debut of their “SmartPivot” concept, and the Lower Flint – Ochlocknee Regional Water Council meeting.

I also was pleased to serve as a judge for the Irrigation Association's New Product Contest for the “agriculture irrigation” and “agriculture specialty” categories. The winner of the agriculture irrigation category is the All-Flo Pressure Regulator by Nelson Irrigation. The winner of the agriculture specialty category is Sweet Spot (6/8”) Aqua-Traxx Drip Tape by Toro. The full list of winners can be found at:

https://www.irrigation.org/2020Show/New_Product_Contest/2020_Winners/2020Show/New_Product_Contest/New_Product_Contest_2020_Winners.aspx

Congrats to Drs. Wes and Erin Porter on the birth of their son Jaxon Mark Porter, born Nov 26, 7 pounds 8 ounces and 20 inches long. All are doing well.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. SIRP will be officially closed December 25th to January 3rd so we can enjoy the time with our families and friends. We look forward to working with many of you in 2021. And let's hope 2021 brings an 'end' to the Corona pandemic!

Don't forget - on [our website](#), near the bottom right, in a bright red banner, is a “Donate Now” button. Use it to make a donation to help our facility!

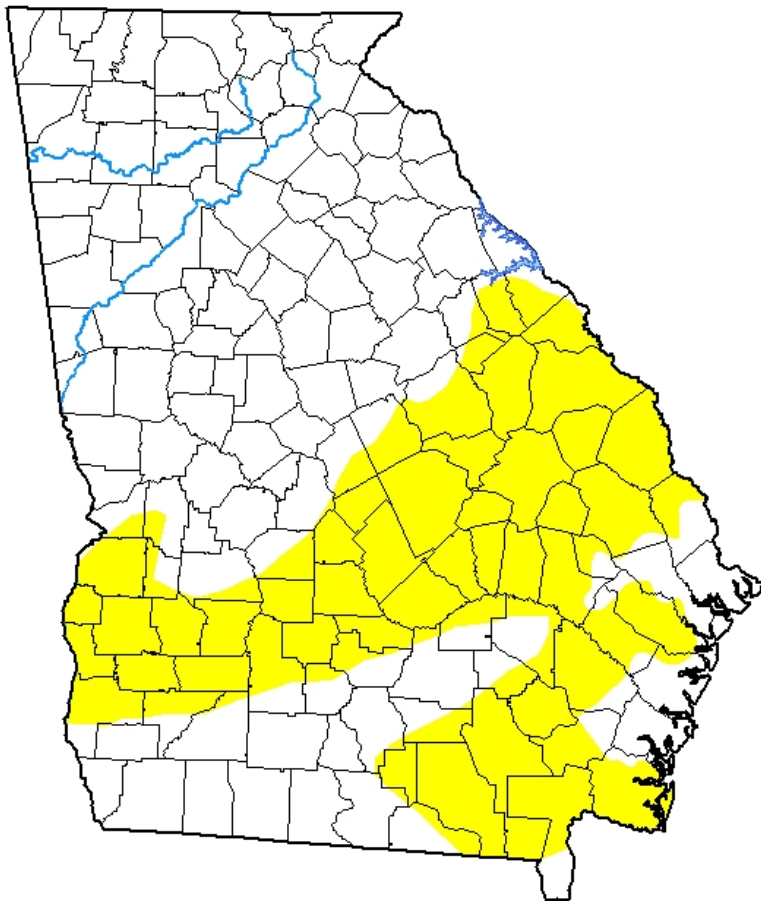


Calvin Perry

Drought Conditions

U.S. Drought Monitor Georgia

December 1, 2020
(Released Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	62.51	37.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 11-24-2020	51.89	48.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 09-01-2020	93.42	6.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12-31-2019	96.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-29-2020	97.20	2.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 12-03-2019	63.17	36.83	20.34	1.68	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:

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NCEI/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

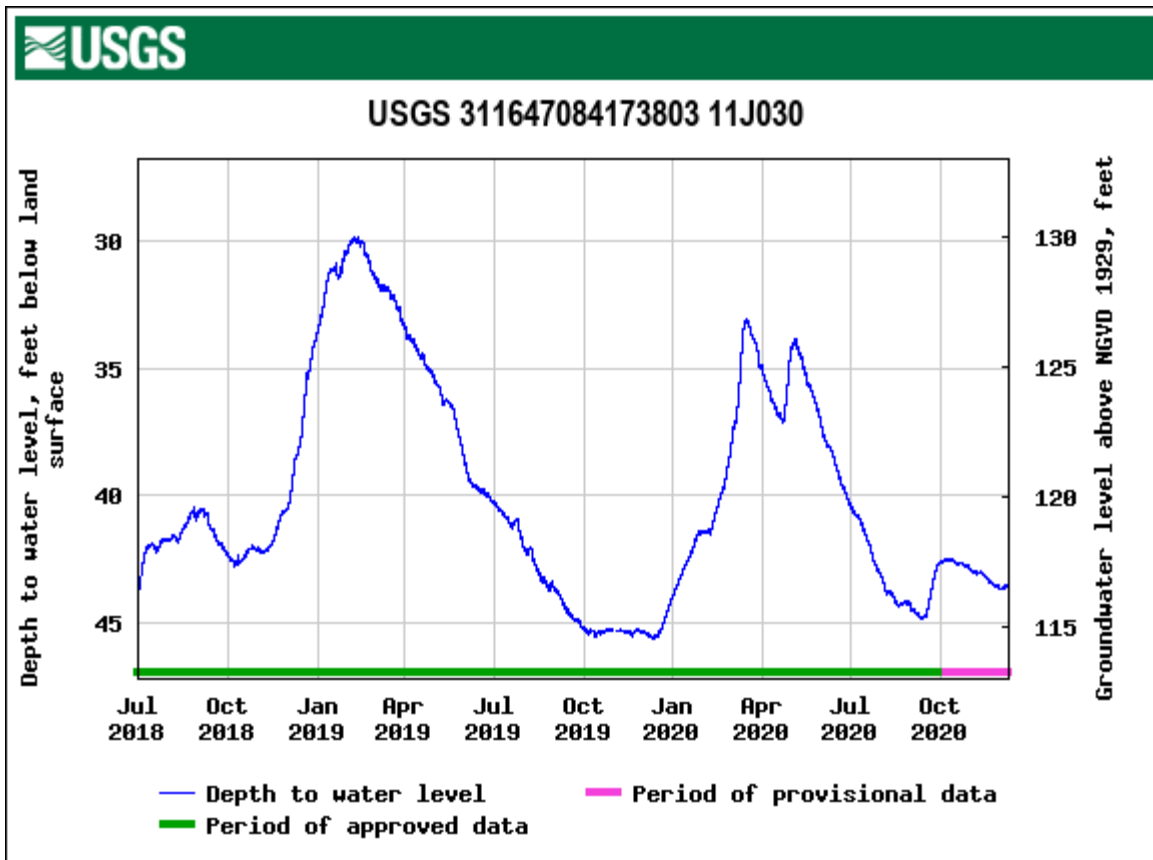
Drought Monitor map for Georgia as of Dec 1. “Abnormally Dry” areas have expanded since last month’s map. Now 37.49% of of Georgia is in the abnormally dry status. Currently, 62.51% of the state of Georgia is considered in no drought condition.

For more info:

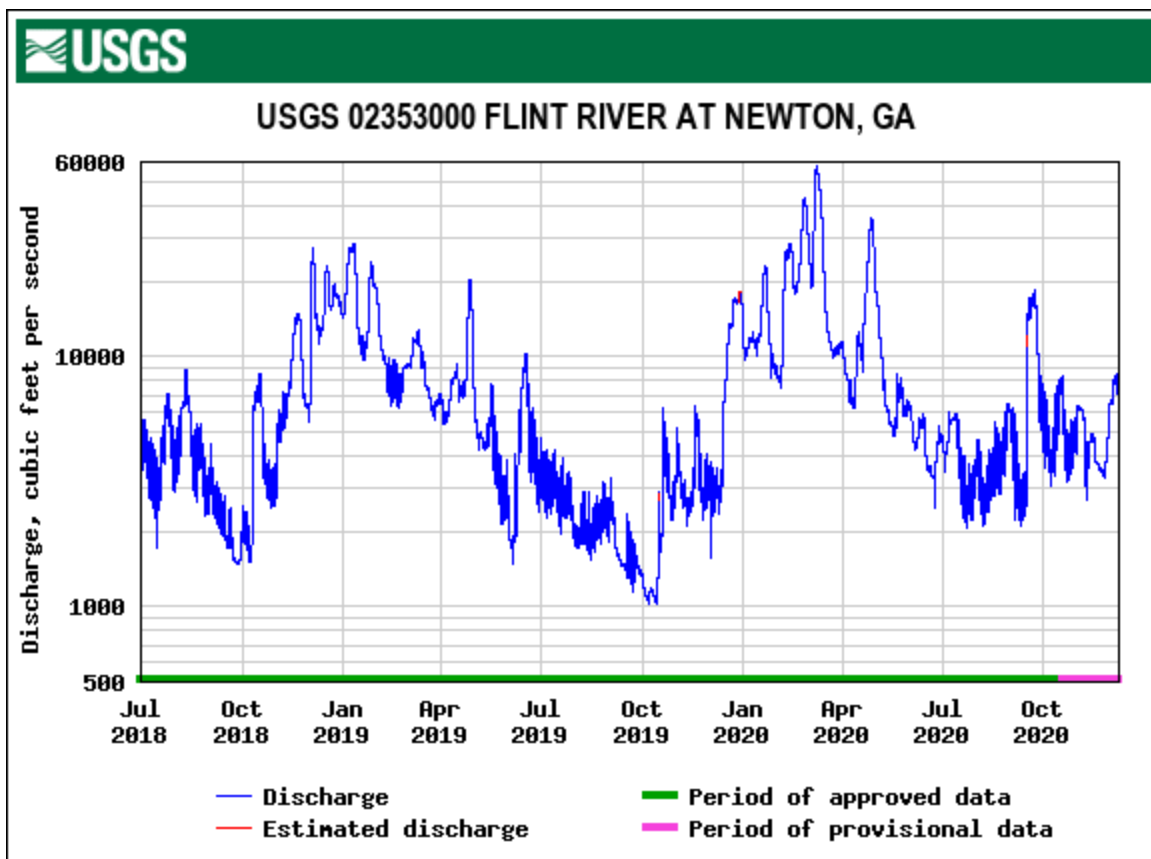
[https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?GA)

[GA](#)

Water Resources



Above - USGS data for the past 2-1/2 years for a groundwater monitoring well here at SIRP in Floridan aquifer. Below - stream gage on the Flint River at Newton for past 2-1/2 years.



At the Park



Above: Disking the “Newton” Lateral field to better remove Dr. Vellidis’ berms.

Below: Deep turning the field.



At the Park



Above: Sowing rye cover crop in the “Camilla” Lateral field.
Below: Spreading lime.



At the Park



Above: Flushing irrigation systems before freezing weather hits.
Below: Cotton modules getting loaded onto trucks at the same time.



At the Park



Above: Last of the cotton harvesting for the year.
Below: Frost on the fence during the freezing temps.



At the Park



Above & Below: Updates are coming in 2021... like our front sign. We will also be making changes to our newsletter as well. Look for our new version in January 2021!



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

[Farmers find reasons to be thankful in 2020](#)

[Georgia: Pecan Research to Help Producers Meet Demand](#)

[2021 Outlook: Is the Stage Set for \\$5 Corn in the New Year?](#)

[NASS adjusts Georgia soybean production forecast](#)

[Astronauts harvest space crops](#)

[Startup launches innovative electric tractor](#)

[Newnan company develops new type of N95 mask](#)

[How to Overcome Water Challenges in Agriculture](#)

[INTRODUCING: THE SMART PIVOT](#)

[Valley 365[®]](#)

[BASF-Bosch Joint Venture to Accelerate Digital Innovations in Agricultural Sector](#)

[Reasoning with hurricane season and the coming La Niña](#)

[How The Ag Data Landscape Has Changed](#)

[Remote Soil Moisture Measurement Removes the Guesswork](#)

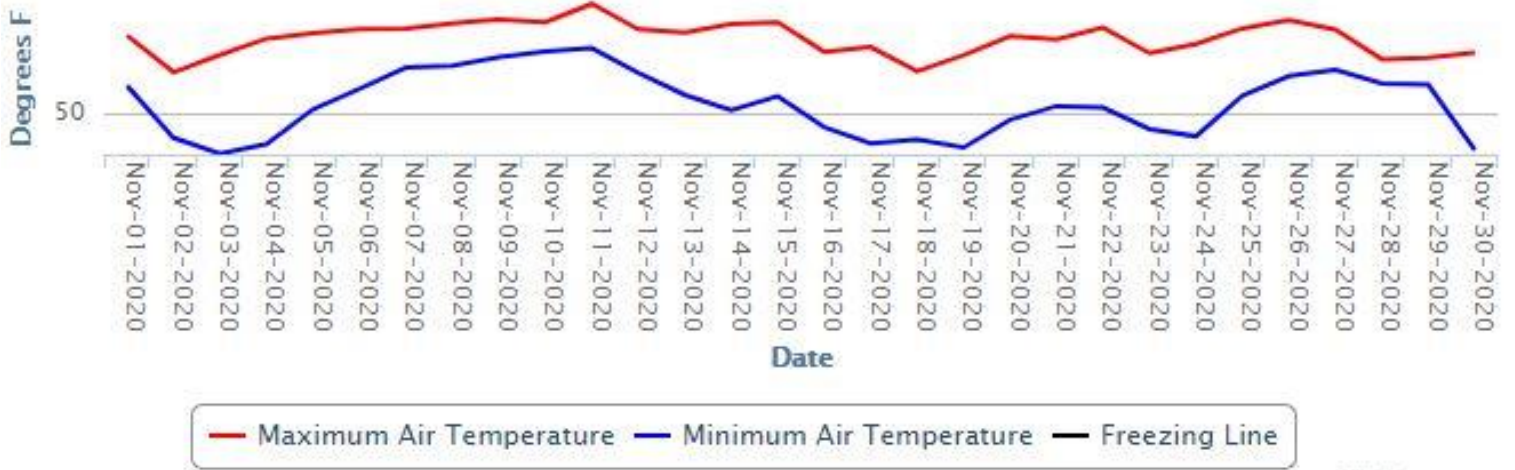
[Wealth of Information](#)

Video / Podcast / Radio:

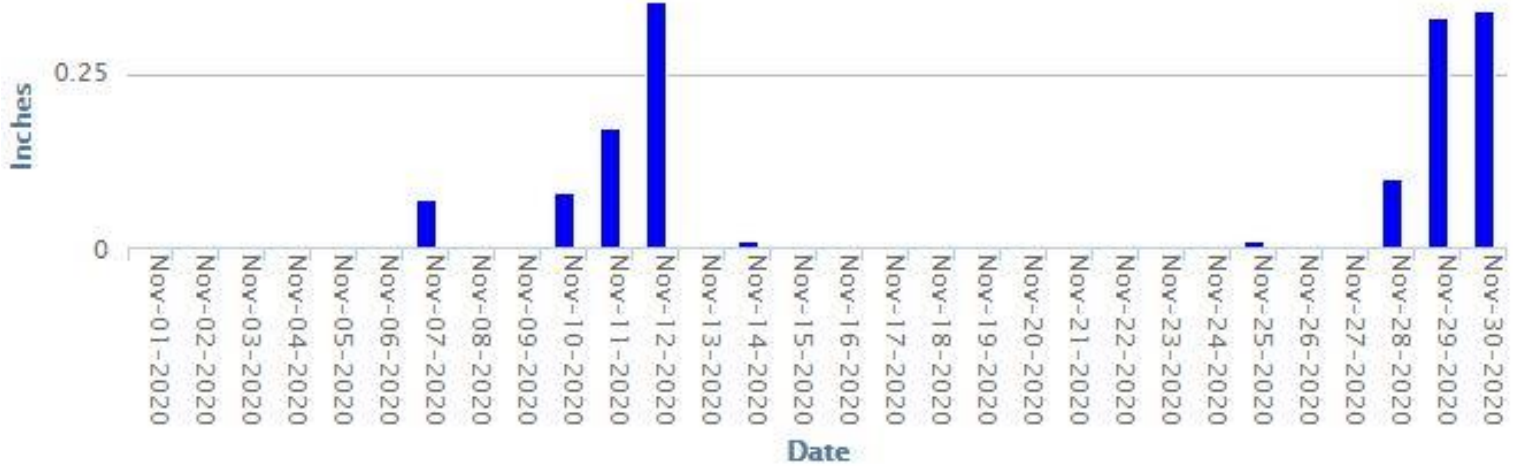
[Georgia Peanuts: Through the Eyes of a Farmer – Clay Oliver](#)

SIRP Weather

Maximum Temperature, Minimum Temperature



Daily Cumulative Rainfall



For November, SIRP had 1.46 inches of rainfall, compared to 2.56 inches in October, 7.21 inches in September, 5.28 inches in August and 4.28 inches in July.

To explore weather information, visit www.georgiaweather.net.

Contact Information

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Trivia:

Which two U.S. states don't observe Daylight Saving Time?