

Stripling Irrigation Research Park

February 2020



Don't forget... Valentine's Day!

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UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

College of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences

C.M. STRIPLING IRRIGATION
RESEARCH PARK

From the Superintendent

As we do most years, we spent much of January attending meetings locally and over in Tifton. We attended several Mitchell County Extension production meetings hosted by our local agent, Brian Hayes, that featured UGA Extension specialists. We also attended the Georgia Peanut Farm Show, the Georgia Corn Short Course and the Georgia Cotton Conference, all in Tifton. These meetings provide a wealth of info for growers and for us.

During January, the Park received 4.48 inches rain over 13 rainy days scattered over the month. With the Park receiving 8.79 inches of rain in December (largest was 1.88 inches on Jan 3), we continue to be quite wet. (We've received 2.21 inches already in February). The Drought Monitor map on the next page reinforces our wet conditions. The high temps recorded at SIRP in January ranged from a balmy 81.6F (Jan 3) to a chilly 45.7F, with lows ranging from 66.2F down to 27.1F. Our long-term averages for January show 62F high, 39F low, and 4.57 inches of rain over 8 rainy days. So, we were fairly average in January. By the way, our 2020 January data is almost identical to our 2019 January data.

Because of wet field conditions, we've been limited in what we can do in our fields. We were able to get lime spread across the Park's fields in site-specific amounts. We also removed plumbing at the "Front 4" center pivots that previously supplied subsurface drip irrigation (SDI) zones. We did away with the SDI systems this time last year. We've also been busy testing the best field/plot and transition zone layout under our Lindsay linear-move irrigation system to allow the VRI system on that linear to accomplish research plots.

We were pleased to again host a group of high school students from The Westminster Schools of Atlanta. As part of teacher David McMahan's Discovery JanTerm program, the students once again spent several weeks exploring the ACF 'water wars' issues in great detail. While in SW Georgia, the students were able to engage with us as well as with a panel of farmers and landowners, including Murray Campbell, Glenn and Casey Cox, Preston Jimmerson, Bubba Johnson, and Charles Stripling. We gave them a tour of SIRP and covered several research and extension topics.

BJ, SIRP's Sr. Ag Specialist, accompanied me to Tifton for the annual meetings between UGA scientists and REC superintendents. This is always a great opportunity to interact with scientists who are interested in working at SIRP during the growing season. We enjoyed meeting new scientist Henry Sintim, soil fertility specialist, and later hosted him at the Park.

Visitors to the Park in January also included Dr. Mark McCann, Assistant Dean for Extension, Sheldon Alt and Nick Emanuel (CropMetrics) and Ben Fullner (CropX), as well as Perri Campis and the staff from the Flint River Soil & Water Conservation District.

Finally, I was pleased to be able to attend the Cornell Pump SE Region Pump School up at Lake Blackshear (near Cordele, Ga). This training covers pump basics, hydraulics, pump selection, basic calculations, motors, VFDs, etc. I learned a ton from this 1.5 day class.

Happy Valentine's Day!

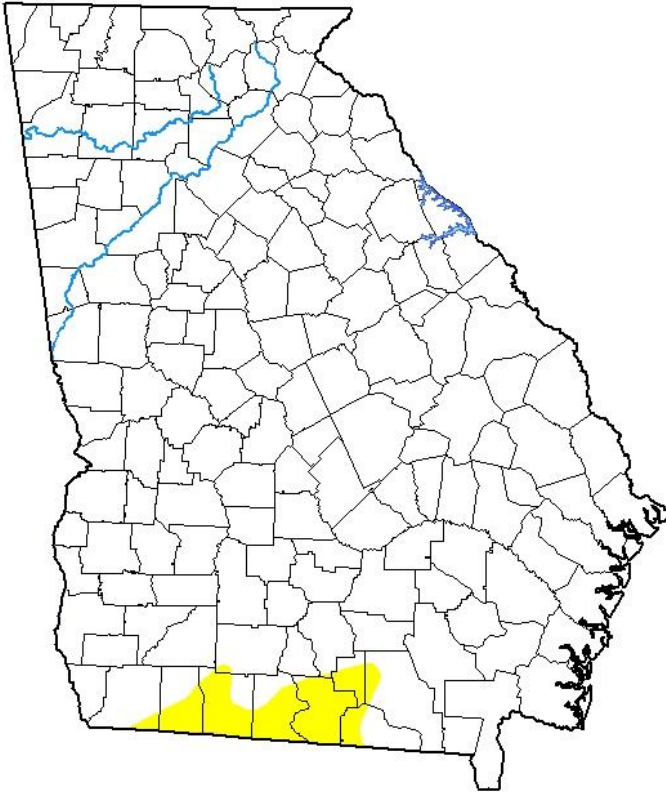


Calvin Perry

Drought Conditions

U.S. Drought Monitor Georgia

February 11, 2020
(Released Thursday, Feb. 13, 2020)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	96.68	3.32	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 02-04-2020	88.12	11.88	0.67	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 11-12-2019	34.31	65.69	33.24	5.66	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 10-01-2019	0.00	100.00	61.58	28.35	4.49	0.00
One Year Ago 02-12-2019	100.00	0.00	0.00	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:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



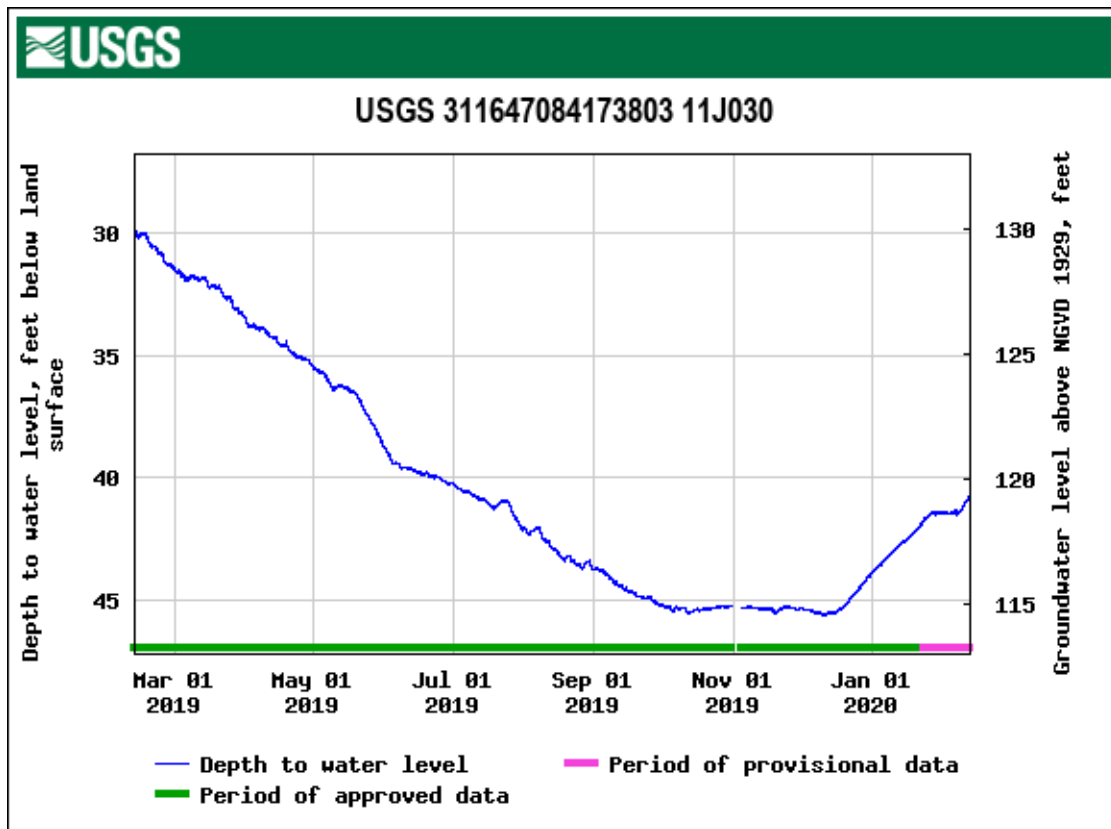
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Drought Monitor map for SE/Georgia as of February 11th. Currently, all of GA is out of drought conditions with deep south-central counties in 'abnormally dry' status. Good news, again, for most of the state!

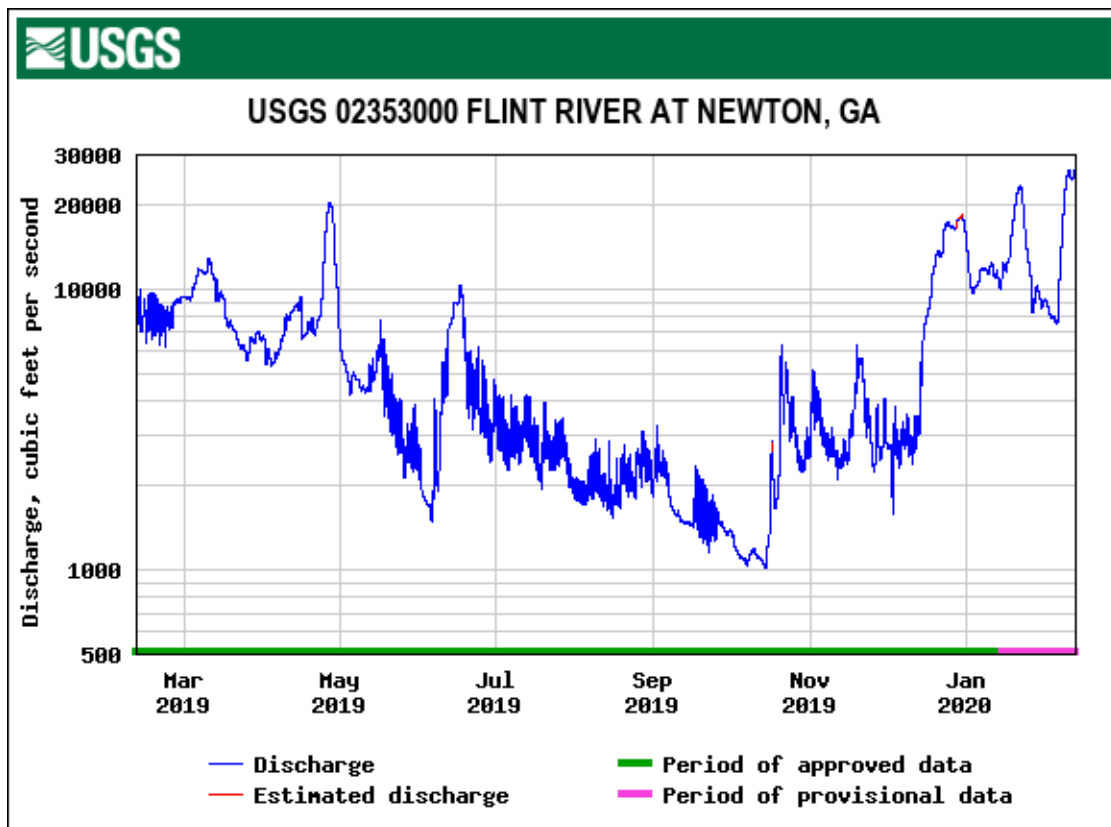
For more info:

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home/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: Rye in the Newton lateral field.

Below: Spreading lime on a few fields, getting ready for planting season.



At the Park



Above & Below: Westminster School JanTerm students learn about ag irrigation. Thanks to our speakers (L to R) Bubba Johnson, Charles Stripling, Murray Campbell, Glenn Cox, Casey Cox and Preston Jimmerson.



At the Park



Above: Another geyser... This time on the Lindsay Lateral irrigation system. But our BJ quickly took care of it.

Events

Past events

Jan 7	Weed Update (Mitchell Co. Extension)
Jan 8 – 10	Beltwide Cotton Conf. (Austin, TX)
Jan 14	Westminster School class tour
Jan 16	GA Peanut Show (Tifton)
Jan 20	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
Jan 21	Corn Short Course (Tifton)
Jan 21	Disease Update (Mitchell Co. Extension)
Jan 27	Cotton Production Mtg. (Mitchell Co. Extension)
Jan 29	GA Cotton Conference (Tifton)
Jan 31	Peanut Production Mtg. (Mitchell Co. Extension)
Feb 12	Pecan Production Mtg. (Mitchell Co. Extension)

Upcoming events

Apr 8	Extension Training (SIRP)
Apr 9	Extension Training (Midville)
Apr 10	Extension Training (Iron Horse)
APR 21	UK Young Ag Leaders

In the News

[UGA Climate Expert Shares Production Strategies for Spring Weather](#)

[Future technology expected to help remove guesswork in farming](#)

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[Scientists Report Nanosatellites Improve Detection of Corn Nitrogen Stress](#)

[Soil Sensor Company CropX Acquires Irrigation Tools Provider CropMetrics](#)

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<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/cropx-acquires-cropmetrics-to-expand-us-market-presence-300985649.html>

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[Is CropX's acquisition of CropMetrics a signal of increasing consolidation in digital agtech in 2020?](#)

[Connectivity Options for Agriculture](#)

[Why James Lee Adams wanted solar panels on his family's farm](#)

[Drone Tech Takes Weed Control on the Farm to a New Level](#)

[Soil carbon is a valuable resource, but all soil carbon is not created equal](#)

[Navigable Waters Protection Rule defines waters of the U.S.](#)

[Georgia Peaches: Watch for Increased San Jose Scale Populations](#)

[Rainout shelters help Missouri farmers manage drought](#)

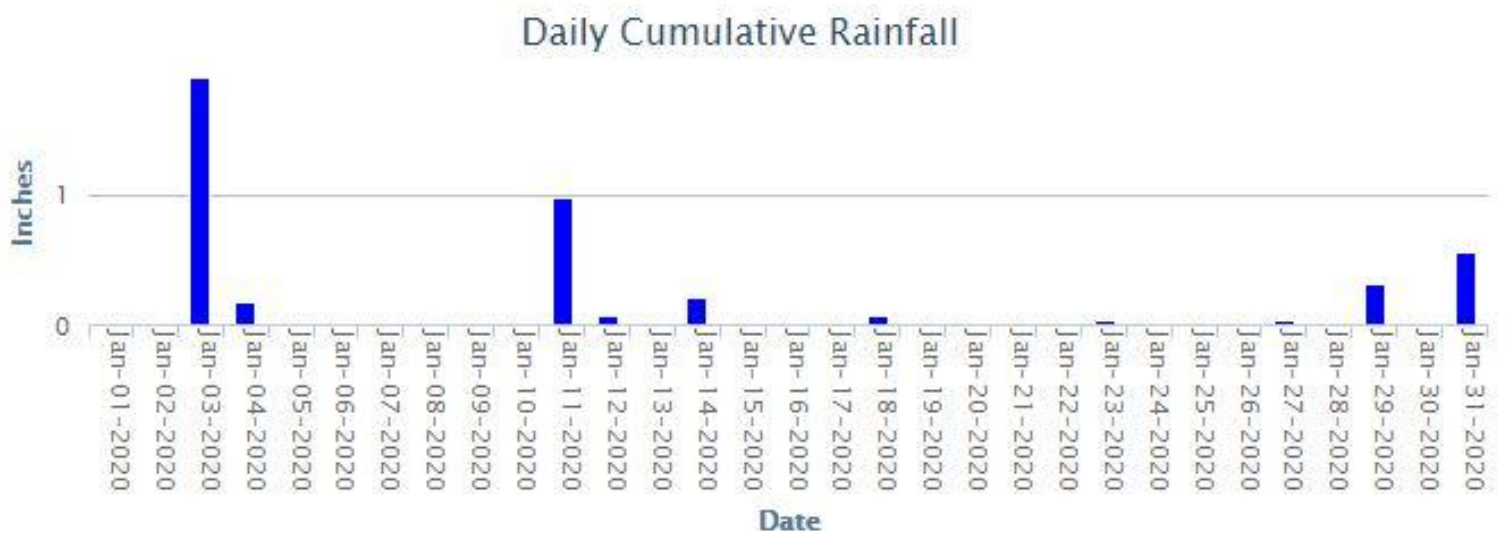
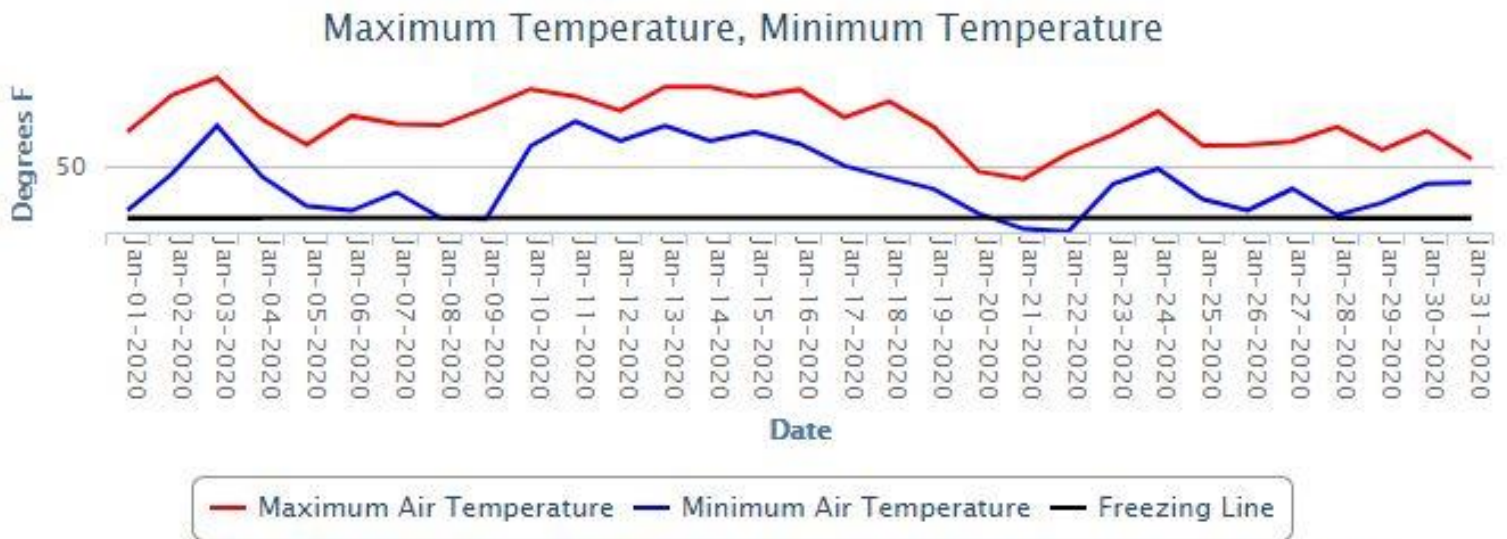
[Illinois farmer works to address erosion concerns](#)

[Insect bites and warmer climate means double-trouble for plants](#)

Video / Podcast / Radio:

[Georgia Pecans: Tree Planting – 8 Key Points](#)

SIRP Weather



For January, SIRP had 4.48 inches of rainfall, compared to 8.79 inches in December, 2.30 inches in November, and 5.08 inches in October.

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

Contact Information

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Trivia:

What is the largest living structure on Earth?