

Stripling Irrigation Research Park

July 2020



First blooms in the cotton plots.

This Month

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C.M. STRIPLING IRRIGATION
RESEARCH PARK

From the Superintendent

June was a super intense month here at Stripling Park. With very little rain, we irrigated essentially every day to meet the requirements of our cotton, corn, peanut and soybean research studies. We irrigate plots with 5 center pivot systems, 3 linear-move systems and 2 fields supplied by subsurface drip irrigation (SDI). SIRP's crew was also busy spraying crops (herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, PGRs), applying side-dress nitrogen to cotton, chemigating peanut plots, fertigating corn and cotton plots, mowing and/or spraying plot alleys, marking/flagging plots, and mowing quite a bit of grass in non-cropped areas of the Park.

Daily irrigation was required across various research plots as we received only 2.18 inches of rain during June – over 5 events. Until July 1, we had not received an appreciable amount since June 9th – 3 weeks without rain. With our sandy soils (with low water holding capacity), plots without irrigation were really suffering! Our highs ranged from a “chilly” 78.4F to a humid 97.3F. Lows ranged from 75.1 to a cool 58.2F. Fortunately, rain has shown up at the Park lately. Since July 1, we have recorded 1.67 inches, including today's 0.45 inch event.

With the COVID-19 situation, we are not hosting many visitors – at least inside our building. We prefer that visitors contact us to get approval ahead of time. Our visitors in June included Mike Mills (Reinke), Jeff Burton (CropX), Marty Saylor (Lindsay), Warren Mason (Civterra), and Brian Hayes (Mitchell Co. Extension). Visitors that have been primarily outside, in plots, have included Blaire Colvin and Bruce Stripling (FMC), Rick Heard (Advanced Ag Systems), plus researchers (and staff), including Vasileios Liakos, George Vellidis, John Snider, Bob Kemerait, Henry Sintim and Wes Porter.

In case you didn't know it – July is Smart Irrigation Month! Smart Irrigation Month is an Irrigation Association initiative celebrated throughout July to promote the social, economic and environmental benefits of efficient irrigation technologies, products and services in landscape, turf and agricultural irrigation. SIRP plans to send out info related to smart irrigation during July. See infographic on the next page.

Finally, we're pleased to announce that our annual 4-H2O Summer Camp is going virtual this year. We won't be having a 3-day in person camp but we're partnering with Mitchell County 4-H/Extension to do a 1 hour Zoom Into Science session to talk about water. See the flyer later in this newsletter for registration information. It's open to 4-H and to the public. Speakers will include Debra Cox, Brian Hayes and Sylvia Davis from Mitchell Co. Extension; Cale Cloud, SW District Water Agent; and myself.



Calvin Perry

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY

Improving Irrigation Efficiency

FOOD ↑

Farmers produce **262% more food** with **2% fewer inputs** than they did in 1950.

Data from American Farm Bureau

INPUTS ↓

WATER FERTILIZER SEED

Minimize Runoff & Waste

If too much water is applied and the storage capacity of the soil is exceeded, runoff occurs. Applying water with precision is key.

Know Your Soil

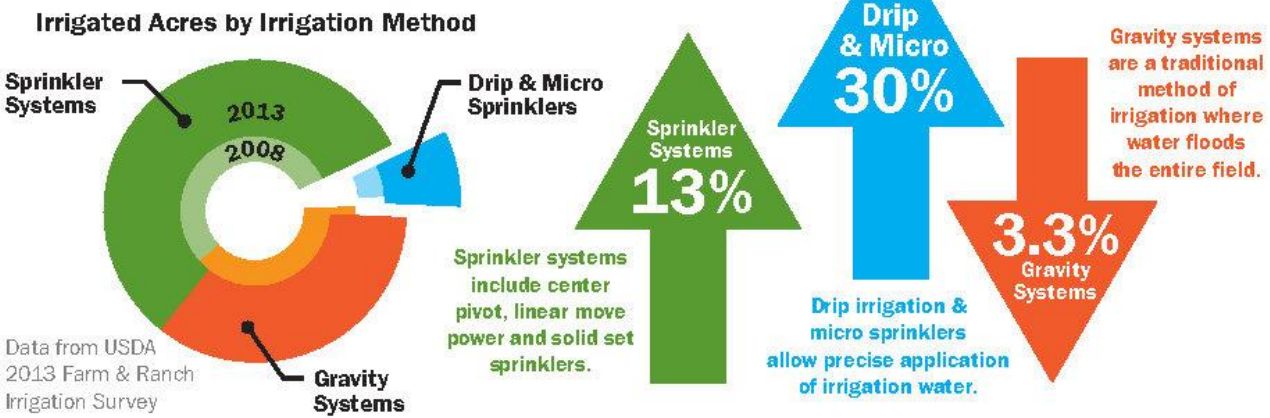
Proper soil management is one key to conserving water. Explore techniques to improve water efficiency.

Use Efficient Irrigation Systems

Use smart irrigation systems and technologies to properly apply water to the field to maximize water efficiency.

Improve Irrigation Scheduling

Use either soil/plant or atmospheric based measurements to determine when to irrigate. This will help you decrease the amount of water applied.



JULY SMART IRRIGATION MONTH

Smart Irrigation Month is an Irrigation Association initiative to increase awareness of the value of water use ... and grow demand for water-saving products, practices and services.

For more great resources, visit: www.smartirrigationmonth.com

4-H2O is going virtual for 2020.

Zoom into Science!

GEORGIA
4-H SCIENCE PROGRAM



Thursday
July 23, 2020
4:00PM
eastern time



Learn all about Water!

Virtually meet the Southwest District 4-H2O Team as they tell you all about water's importance!

Register at: tinyurl.com/scizoomwater

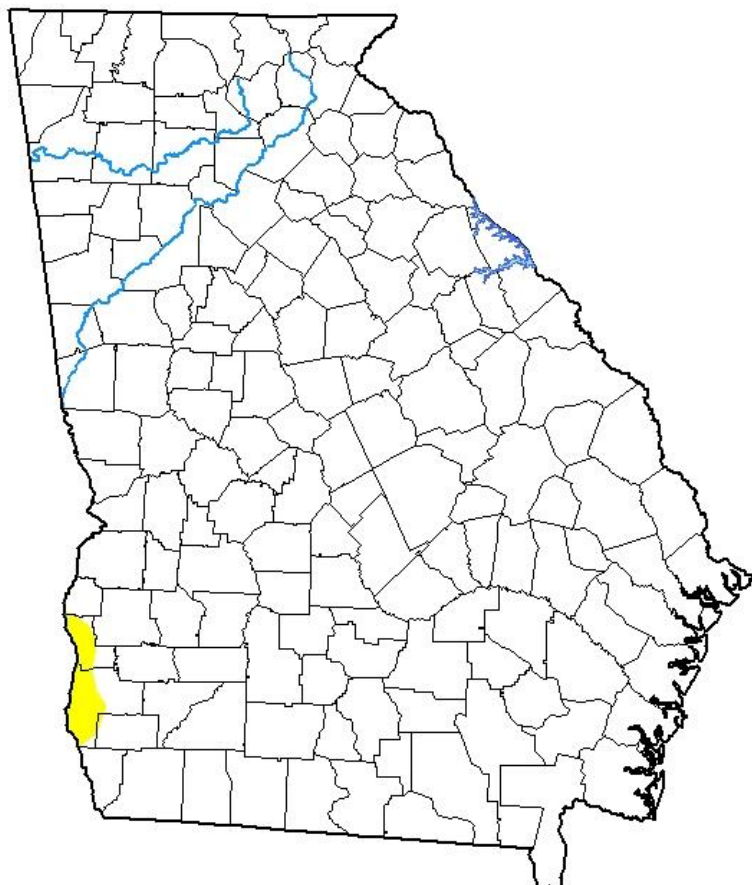
Questions: Kasey Bozeman, Extension 4-H Specialist, kaseyb@uga.edu

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Drought Conditions

U.S. Drought Monitor Georgia

June 30, 2020
(Released Thursday, Jul. 2, 2020)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	99.28	0.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 06-23-2020	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 03-31-2020	85.45	14.55	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 10-01-2019	0.00	100.00	61.58	28.35	4.49	0.00
One Year Ago 07-02-2019	63.35	36.65	6.89	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate 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:

Adam Hartman
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



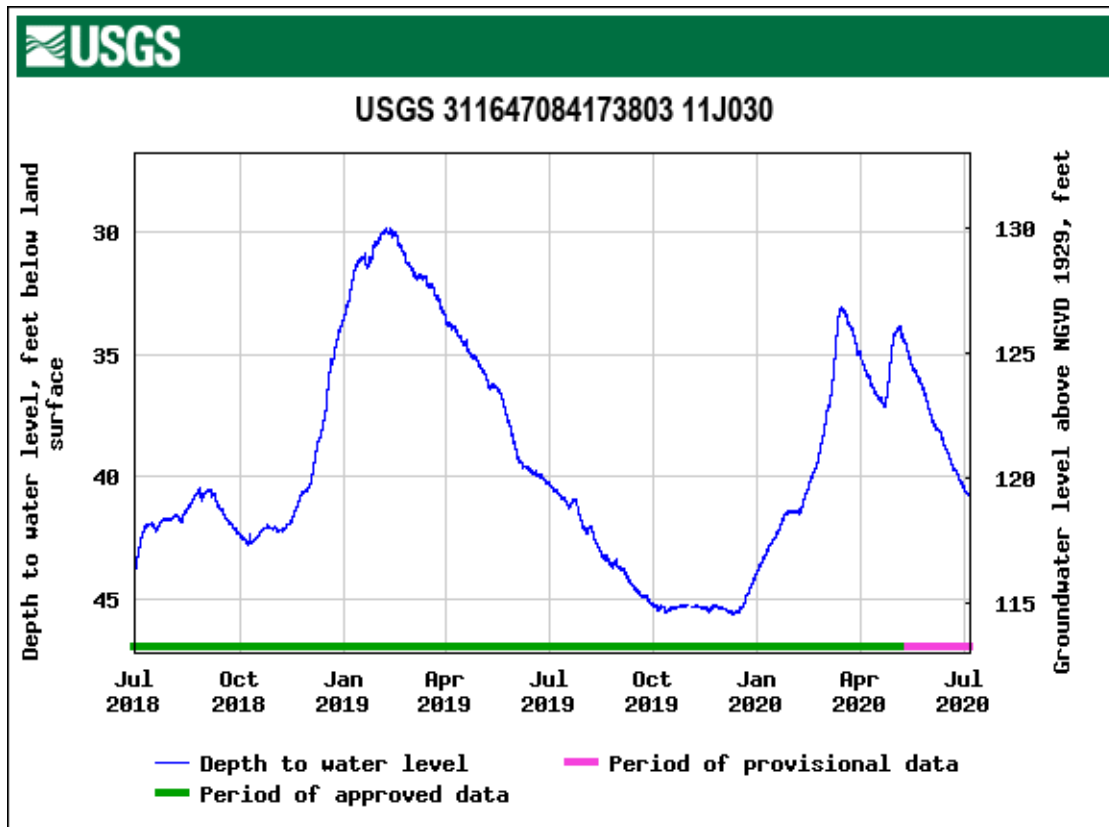
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Drought Monitor map for Georgia as of June 30th. Currently, most of the state of Georgia is considered out of drought conditions of any type. Rain occurring this week should erase the small patch of yellow near the Georgia-Alabama border.

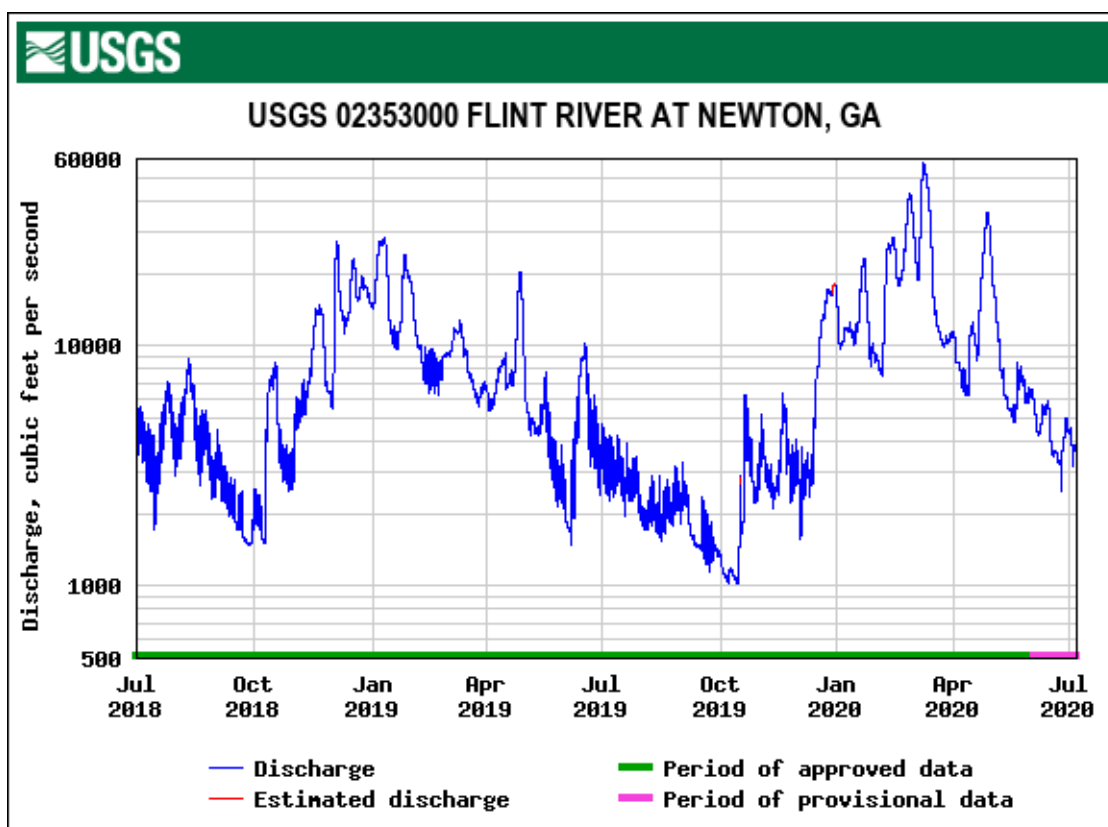
For more info:

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?GA>

Water Resources



Above and below - USGS data for the past 2 years for a groundwater monitoring well here at SIRP in Floridan aquifer (it was installed in 2018) and stream gage on the Flint River at Newton.



At the Park



Above: Valley E – irrigating around dryland plot using VRI.
Below: Access Field SDI wetting pattern .



At the Park



Above: Applying side-dress N to NLM cotton plots.
Below: B.J. spraying FF-N cotton field.



At the Park



Above: Fertigating NLM cotton field.
Below: Repairing leak in Pine SDI field.



At the Park



Above: Cale Cloud chemigating VRI Field peanuts.
Below: Kudzu bugs in FF-S soybeans.



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

[Lindsay's Fieldnet Pivot Watch Is Now Available to Purchase on Amazon](#)

[Netafim Adds Senteck's Soil Sensor Technology to Its Irrigation Product Line](#)

[Establishment of the American Pecan Promotion Board](#)

[July Scouting: Dry Conditions, Insect and Nutrient Concerns](#)

[Sweet corn season keeps farm family busy](#)

[Maximizing drone coverage with a swarm](#)

[UGA weed science experts weigh effects of dicamba ruling](#)

[Sunbelt, Georgia National Fair still on schedule](#)

[Bubble-blowing drones may one day aid artificial pollination](#)

[Corn-on-corn rotation can be detrimental to soil health study says](#)

[COVID-19 Presents Greatest Leadership Challenge Of Our Lifetime](#)

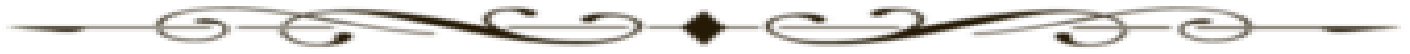
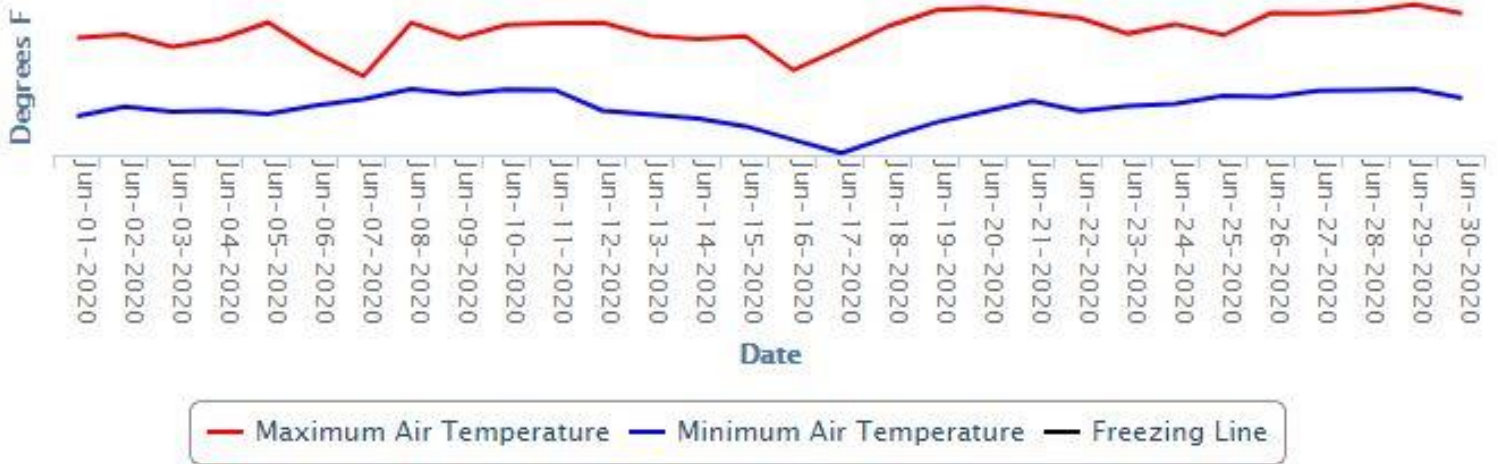
Video / Podcast / Radio:

[Takin' Care of Livestock - \(Takin' Care of Business Parody\)](#)

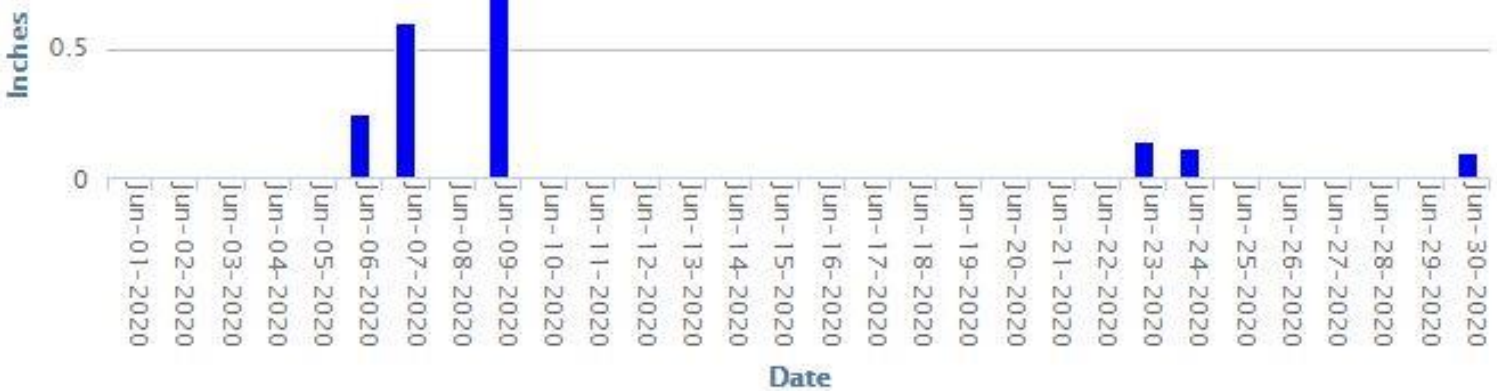
Peterson Farm Bros.

SIRP Weather

Maximum Temperature, Minimum Temperature



Daily Cumulative Rainfall



For June, SIRP had 2.18 inches of rainfall, compared to 2.03 inches in May, 9.10 inches in April, 3.26 inches in March, and 6.03 inches for February.

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

Contact Information

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Trivia:

Which fledgling network aired its first music video, titled "Video Killed the Radio Star," in 1981?