

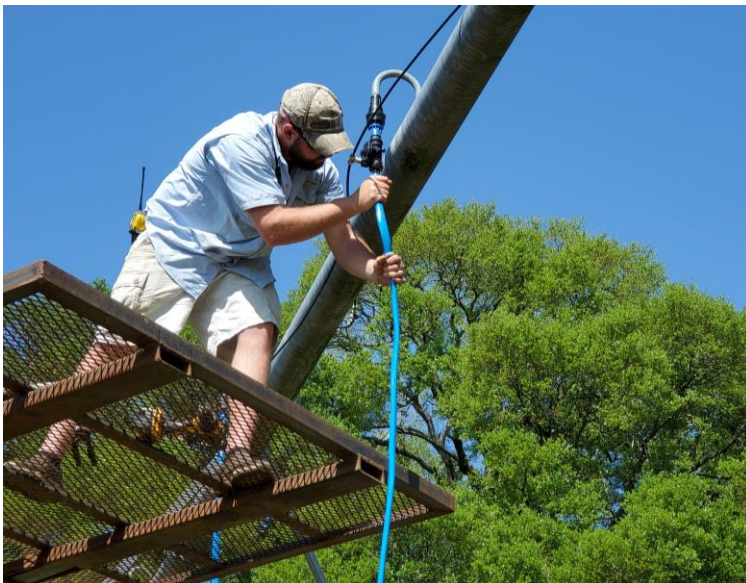
C.M. Stripling Irrigation Research Park

Monthly Newsletter

April 2021



Kyle installing new sprinklers on “Newton” Lateral.



In This Issue

- ▶ From the Superintendent
- ▶ Florida vs. Georgia Case
- ▶ Drought Conditions
- ▶ Water Resources
- ▶ Past & Upcoming Events
- ▶ In The News
- ▶ At the Park
- ▶ Did you know...
- ▶ SIRP Weather
- ▶ Contact Information



College of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

From the Superintendent

Calvin Perry

March is the month that we really ramp up our field activities at the Park as we prepare for our cropping season. We usually plant most of our corn plots at the end of March. So, the staff has been busy applying burn-down herbicide to cover crop, disking, deep turning, spreading pre-plant fertilizer, running strip-till implement, marking plot boundaries and planting corn studies. Like many of you, we had to do some maintenance, setup and calibration for the equipment used.

We were able to get in our field work as we received only 4.45 inches of rain over 9 rain days. (Our long-term average is 5.62 inches over 8 rain days.) Our high temps ranged from 89.2F to 58.7F and our lows from 70.5F to 34F (quite a range).

I had several presentations during March. Cale Cloud (Grady Co. ANR agent), Dr. Wes Porter, David Hall (SE District Extension Water Educator) and I were the speakers at this year's (virtual) Basics of Ag Irrigation extension agent training. I presented on GA's water resources and on methods/types of ag irrigation. I also presented "Cotton Irrigation Scheduling Methods: Which Method is a Best Fit?" on behalf of Dr. Porter and Dr. John Snider at the (virtual) 2021 Ga Water Resources Conference. My 3rd presentation event was "Georgia's Water Resources" at the Extension Foundations Training in Tifton.

I was pleased to participate in the interviews for a summer intern that will work with SIRP and with Mitchell Co. Extension. I'll introduce the intern selected in our next newsletter.

For what is either the 12th or 13th year, I enjoyed joining most of my fellow superintendents and farm managers for our annual meeting. This year we met virtually and heard from our new CAES Dean Nick Place, Assoc Dean Moore, Asst Dean Stougaard, and J. Dorsey, Director, Facilities & Real Property. Apparently SIRP was selected to host the 2022 meeting.

I attended (virtually) two UGA Extension agent trainings - "What Caused This? Steps to Identifying Confusing Symptoms in Agronomic Crops" hosted by Dr. Bob Kemerait and "Understanding Soybean Growth & Development" hosted by Dr. Corey Bryant. I also attended Jain Irrigation's "Basic Soil-Plant-Water Relationships", "Mobile Drip Irrigation" and "Advanced Guide: Tubing and Emitterline" webinars, Nelson Irrigation's webinar "Valve Applications for Mechanized Irrigation" and "Benefits of Soil Moisture Sensors" webinar hosted by the Alliance for Water Efficiency.

Visitors to the Park included Dr. Henry Sintim, Dr. Bob Kemerait, Brian Hayes (Mitchell Co. ANR agent), Cale Cloud, Eric Lee (Holder Ag Consulting), Justin

Wilkerson (J&B Irrigation), Sid Cameron (Valley Irrigation), Travis Bruner (Irrigation +) and Mike Mills (Reinke Irrigation). A small group associated with the Mitchell Co. USDA-FSA office used our conference room for some interviews for a county coordinator.

Our visitors also included Tim Gavin (Hydro-Rain), Wayne Smalley (Rivers Associates), David Shoemaker (Shoemaker Irrigation), and Richard Holton (Wiregrass Pump & Process). These guys installed a Hydro-Rain B-Hyve center pivot remote monitoring and control system on our 4-tower pivot. We will be putting this demo unit through its paces.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate Dr. George Vellidis on being a recipient of the 2021 Distinguished Alumnus/Alumna Award from the University of Florida Agricultural and Biological Engineering department. Dr. Vellidis has had numerous projects at SIRP over the past 13 or so years.



Florida v. Georgia Case

On April 1, the US Supreme Court released their ruling on the long-running Florida v. Georgia case related to water sharing in the ACF basin.

In a 9-0 ruling, the court ruled in favor of Georgia. Newly appointed justice Amy Coney Barrett wrote the unanimous opinion dismissing Florida's case. She included:

“In short, Florida has not met the exacting standard necessary to warrant the exercise of this Court's extraordinary authority to control the conduct of a coequal sovereign. We emphasize that Georgia has an obligation to make reasonable use of Basin waters in order to help conserve that increasingly scarce resource. But in light of the record before us, we must overrule Florida's exceptions to the Special Master's Report and dismiss the case.”

Here's the ruling:

https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/20pdf/220142_m648.pdf

Here are some articles discussing the ruling:

<https://www.ajc.com/politics/georgia-secures-major-victory-in-supreme-court-water-wars-case/6Y46FJJRUB75NTXDDBRVWFESCI/>

<https://news.bloomberglaw.com/environment-and-energy/georgia-defeats-florida-in-supreme-court-water-war>

<https://www.gainesvilletimes.com/news/lake-lanier/supreme-court-gives-georgia-win-water-war-florida/>

<https://www.ajc.com/news/georgia-news/despite-favorable-high-court-ruling-georgias-water-wars-far-from-over/224QAH52W5GT5KVPZETMKJKLXU/>

<https://www.ajc.com/news/business/your-guide-to-the-florida-georgia-supreme-court-water-case/7GJK5JCAOZF65JR7G35BJRHXDI/>



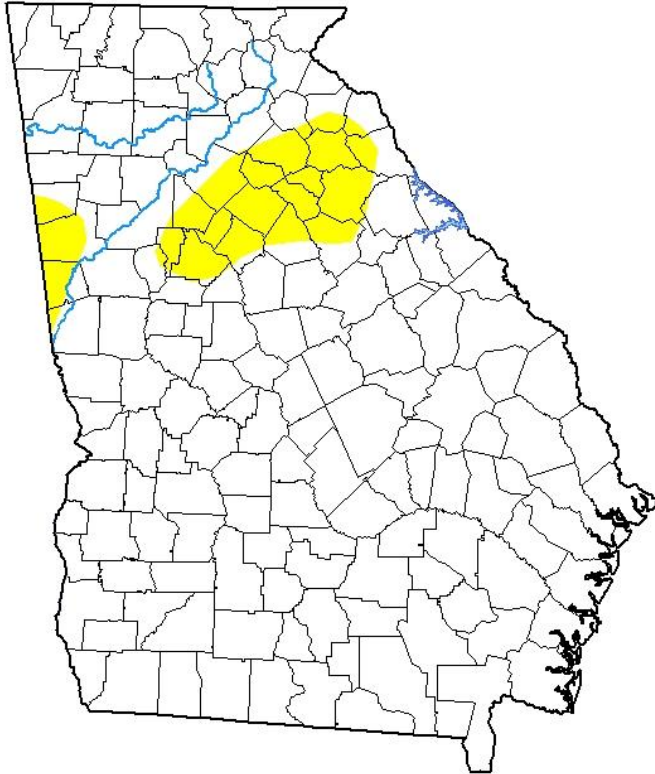
Drought Conditions

U.S. Drought Monitor Georgia

April 6, 2021

(Released Thursday, Apr. 8, 2021)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	92.27	7.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 03-30-2021	91.78	8.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 01-05-2021	90.90	9.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2020	65.78	34.22	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 04-07-2020	77.28	22.72	0.13	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>

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National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

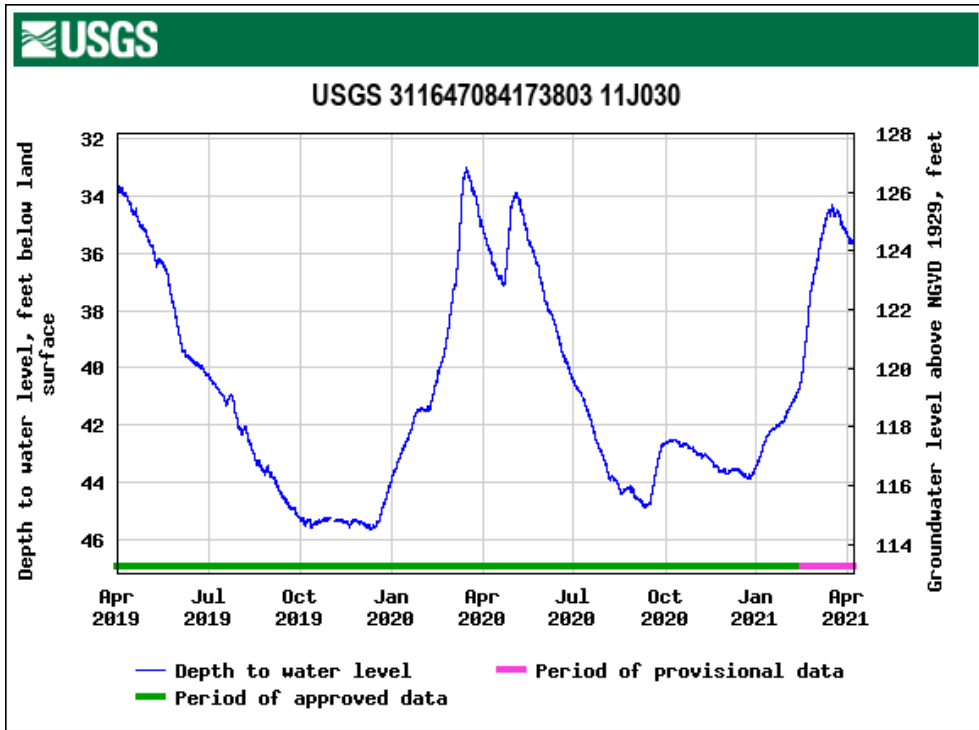
Drought Monitor map for the Georgia as of April 6. Georgia has 7.73% of the area affected by “Abnormally Dry” conditions – much of metro Atlanta is affected. South Georgia is not in dry status at the moment.

For more info:

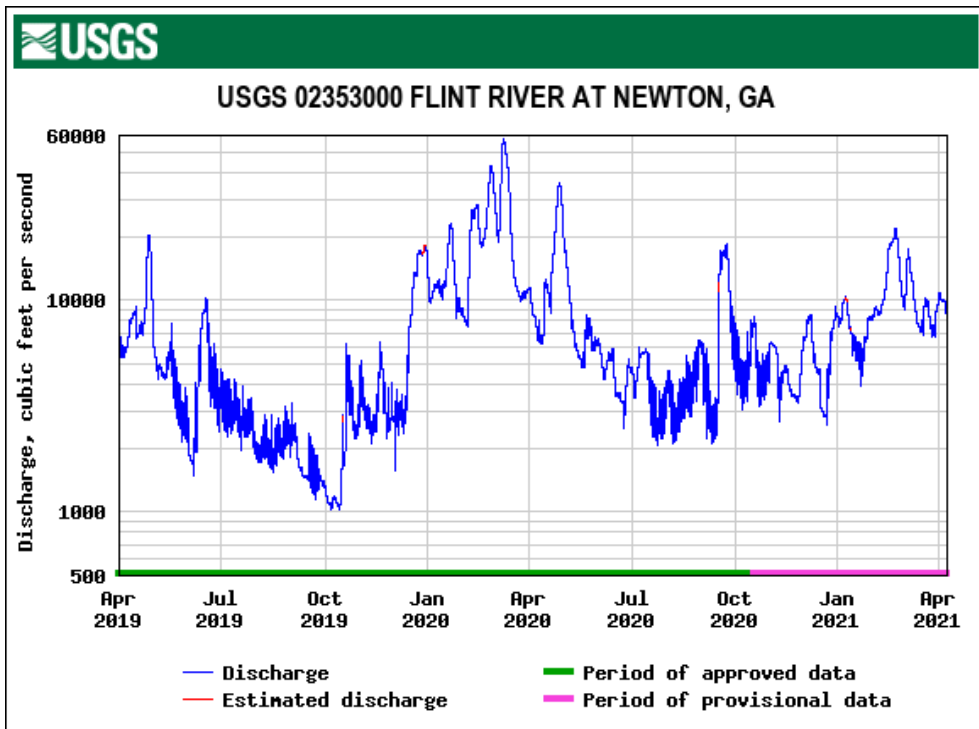
<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?GA>



Water Resources



Above - USGS data for the past 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 years.



Events

Past events

Upcoming events

April 13	Flint River Soil & Water Conservation District Meeting
May 25	Chemigation Training for Georgia Dept. of Ag Inspectors



In The News

[Stepping on Stepped-up Basis Has Big Consequences](#)

[Time for Women to Step up and Seek Ag Leadership Positions](#)

[Farm Bureau Seeks Dynamic Entrepreneurs with Solutions to Today's Farm and Rural Challenges](#)

[What Policymakers Can Learn From the 'Minnesota Model' of Broadband Expansion](#)

[Illinois, Benton Institute Work Together to Close the Digital Divide](#)

[Cold Days Ahead for Corn](#)

[Georgia Pecans: Budbreak and Production Meeting Videos](#)

[Precision Ag: Mechanical Planter Settings Can Impact Harvest Yield](#)

[Seven Steps to Early Soybean Planting Success](#)

[Plant gene found in insect, shields it from leaf toxins](#)

[Tech collaboration to support sustainable ag initiatives](#)

[Incorrect maps hamper efforts to reach rural broadband have-nots](#)

[North Carolina corn growers have unique challenges, opportunities](#)

[Nevada farmers and conservationists balk at 'water banking'](#)

[AGCO and EZ-Drops to Bring Y-Logic Premium Nutrient Delivery System](#)

[Why combining farms and solar panels could transform how we produce both food and energy](#)

[Can Artificial Intelligence Help Growers Win the Weed Wars?](#)

[Heritage Orchard reclaiming Georgia's forgotten apples](#)

[Farming Electric: Will It Ever Happen?](#)

[HIGH-SPEED PIVOTS](#)

[USDA Launches Soil Moisture Measurement Tool for Crop Planning](#)

[The Importance of New Technologies for Crop Farming](#)



At the Park

Right: Strip-tilling the Pine SDI field

Below: Spreading corn fertilizer.



At the Park

Right: Mandy, Kyle & B.J. assembling VRI valves & regulators.



Below: B.J. planting corn seed in Camilla Middle Lateral field for Dr. Porter.



At the Park

Right: Corn emerging in
Camilla Middle Lateral
field on March 30th.

Below: Same corn
coming up pretty good
on April 5th.



Did you know... these crazy laws existed???

In California, you can't legally buy a mousetrap without having what?
A hunting license

In Texas, it's illegal to swear in front of what?
A corpse

In Georgia, it's illegal to eat what with a fork?
Fried chicken

In Minnesota, it is illegal to tease what type of animal?
Skunks

In St. Louis, Missouri, it's illegal for a firefighter to rescue who?
Undressed women (even if they are wearing a nightgown)

In June in Wyoming, it is illegal to take a picture of what?
A rabbit

On Sunday, what is illegal to sell in Columbus, Ohio?
Cornflakes

What is illegal to eat with a cherry pie in Kansas?
Ice cream

If one is wearing a swimsuit in Florida in public, what is illegal for one to do?
Sing

In Alaska, it's legal to shoot bears, but illegal to do what?
Wake one up

Unless one is a magician, what is illegal to own as a pet in Queensland, Australia?
A rabbit

It was illegal for women to wear what in 19th century Florence?
Buttons

It is illegal to do what in the French vineyards?
Land a flying saucer.

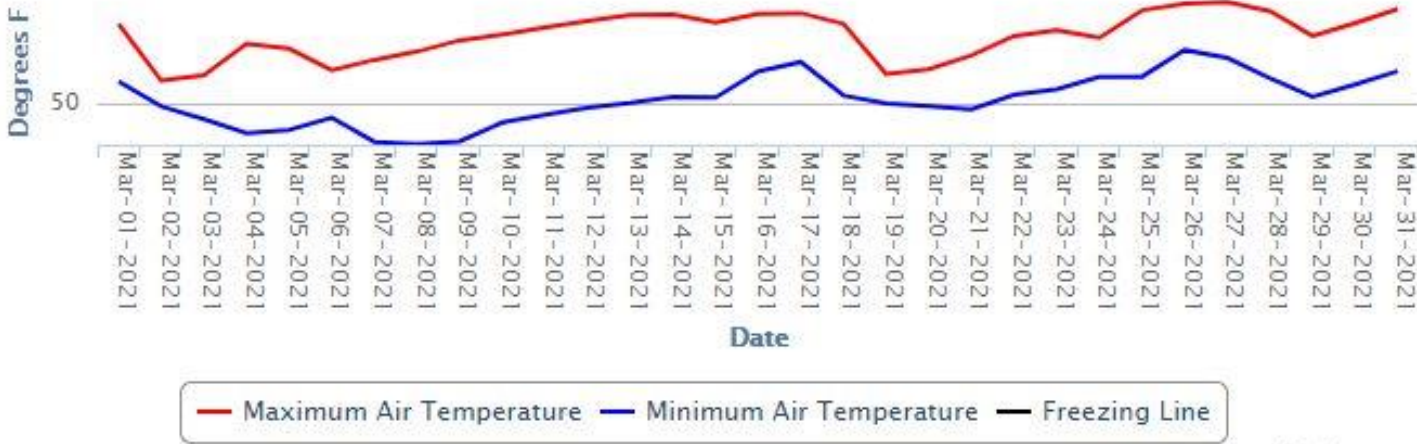
What was banned in Indonesia for "stimulating passion?"
Hula hoops

According to Russian law, a homeless person must be where after 10 pm?
At home

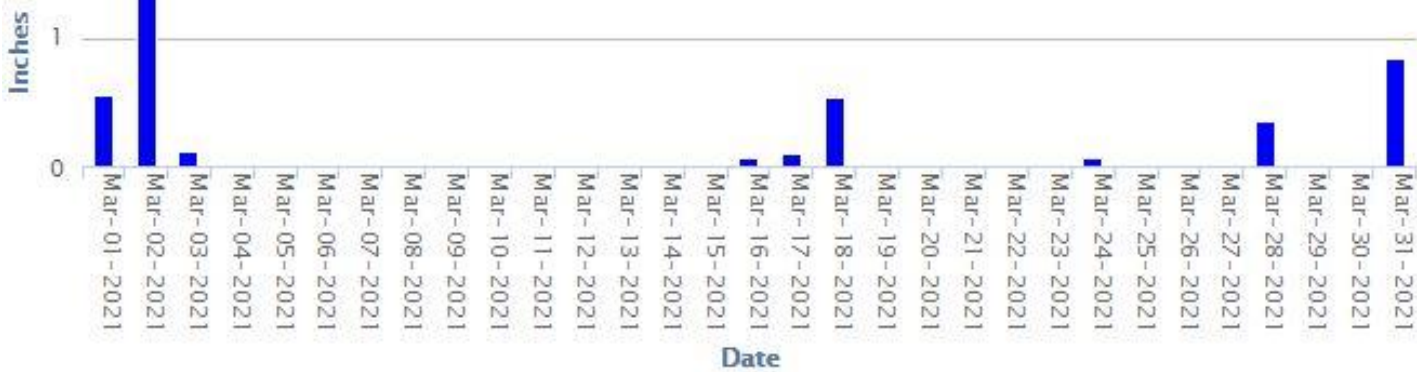


SIRP Weather

Maximum Temperature, Minimum Temperature



Daily Cumulative Rainfall



For March, SIRP had 4.45 inches of rainfall, compared to 5.59 inches in February, 6.28 inches in January, and 5.05 inches in December.

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



Contact Information



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Trivia:

What guitar company celebrated its 65th anniversary in 2011 (will be 75th anniversary this year) ?

Answer: Fender

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