

C.M. Stripling Irrigation Research Park

Monthly Newsletter

August 2021



Cotton blooms....



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College of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

From the Superintendent

Calvin Perry

In 2021, it is becoming a challenge for our scientists to conduct successful irrigation research in cotton, peanut and soybean crops as we continue to receive regular rain events here at the Park. During July, we received 6.91 inches over 17 days with measurable amounts. We never went more than 3 days without rain. Our high temps ranged from 96 to 81F and our lows ranged from 76 to 69F. Our long term average for July shows us at 5.72 inches of rain over 12 rainy days with a high temp of 92F and low of 71F. Heat index values at the end of July exceeded 110F.

While irrigation may be limited, our scientists that are looking at disease (or nutrient management) are in a much better situation. With the hot and humid conditions, pathogens are doing well. If we can enter the plots with our tractors and sprayers, this important research will produce vital data.

The Stripling Park staff was very busy in July with (limited) irrigation on crop plots – corn, cotton, peanut, soybean and vegetables, applying fertilizer (fertigation as well as tractor-applied) to cotton; spraying fungicides (chemigation and tractor applied), herbicides and insecticides; applying gypsum to peanuts; prepping and planting cotton, pumpkin and southern peas for Dr. Riley and grad student Jermaine; spraying

peanut plot alleys; prepping for SWVT's "ultra" late soybean planting; and mowing the grass in our non-cropped areas around the Park (a daily task). We also had to repair a hydraulic cylinder on our JD 6700 sprayer, finish installation and testing of research booms on our "Spider" sprayer, and install a new VRI component on our "Newton" lateral irrigation system.

I had lengthy discussions on linear-move irrigation systems and VRI with Chris Tyson, superintendent of the UGA Vidalia Onion and Vegetable Research Center as well as with Dr. Jonathan Aguilar, Associate Professor at Kansas State.

Visitors to the Park in July included Dr. Henry Sintim & crew, Dr. Bob Kemerait & crew, Dr. George Vellidis' crew, Dr. Wes Porter's crew, grad students Shelby Sangster, Giannis Gallios, Devendra Chalise and Laxmi Pandey, and Brian Hayes (Mitchell Co. ANR agent). We were pleased to host local farmer Adam McLendon along with his assistant Kelsey and summer intern Chase.

I'm pleased to report that our new 2-tower Reinke lateral-move irrigation system has been fully assembled and electronics have been installed. Our dealer, Irrigation Plus (Cuthbert), worked with Reinke corporate to complete the installation and check-out of the system travel

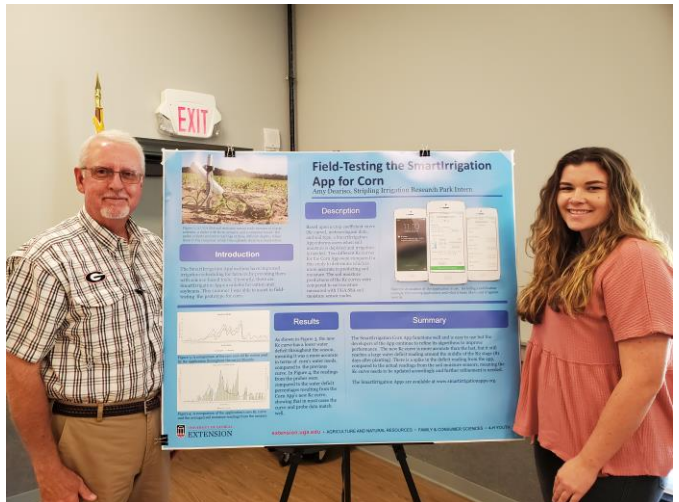
into and back out of the field. Soon, the power and water supply to the lateral will be completed and then the VRI system will be configured and tested.

We had two of our "main events" in July. On July 13, we hosted the annual **4-H2O Day Camp** at the Park. Six counties attended with their **73** 4-H members and chaperones. The presenters this year included Dr. Steve Golladay, Chloe Eggert, Ben Webster, Cale Cloud, Sylvia Davis, Kasey Bozeman, Jordan Parker, Preet Virk and Joshua Lee. The goal of the 4-H2O camp is to educate youth about the importance of water to the SW Ga region and the need for water conservation.

Our other "main event" was our 2021 **Virtual Field Day**, premiered on July 21. In this video format, our researchers, extension specialists, extension agents and grad students discussed their projects here at the Park. Here's the link to the video: <https://youtu.be/3-16YpRAv8k>



Summer Intern



We were glad to have Amy Deariso intern with us this summer!



July is Smart Irrigation Month

AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY Improving irrigation efficiency

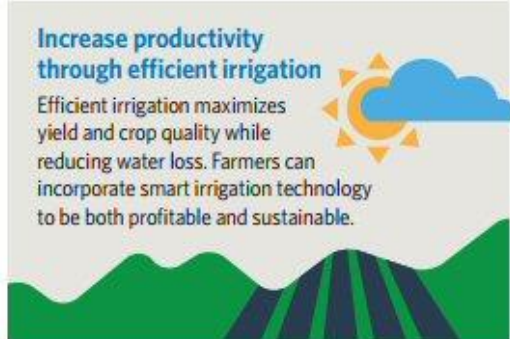
Minimize runoff & waste

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



Increase productivity through efficient irrigation

Efficient irrigation maximizes yield and crop quality while reducing water loss. Farmers can incorporate smart irrigation technology to be both profitable and sustainable.



Practice good soil management

Proper soil management can be key to conserving water by improving infiltration and reducing runoff. Know your soil and explore options to increase water-use efficiency on your farm.



Improve irrigation scheduling

Improved scheduling allows farmers to more precisely irrigate, preventing stress on crops.



Take advantage of cost-share programs

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program — a USDA cost-share program — enables farmers to upgrade to more efficient irrigation solutions. Check to see if you're eligible.



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.org

The Irrigation Association is a membership organization dedicated to promoting efficient irrigation. www.irrigation.org



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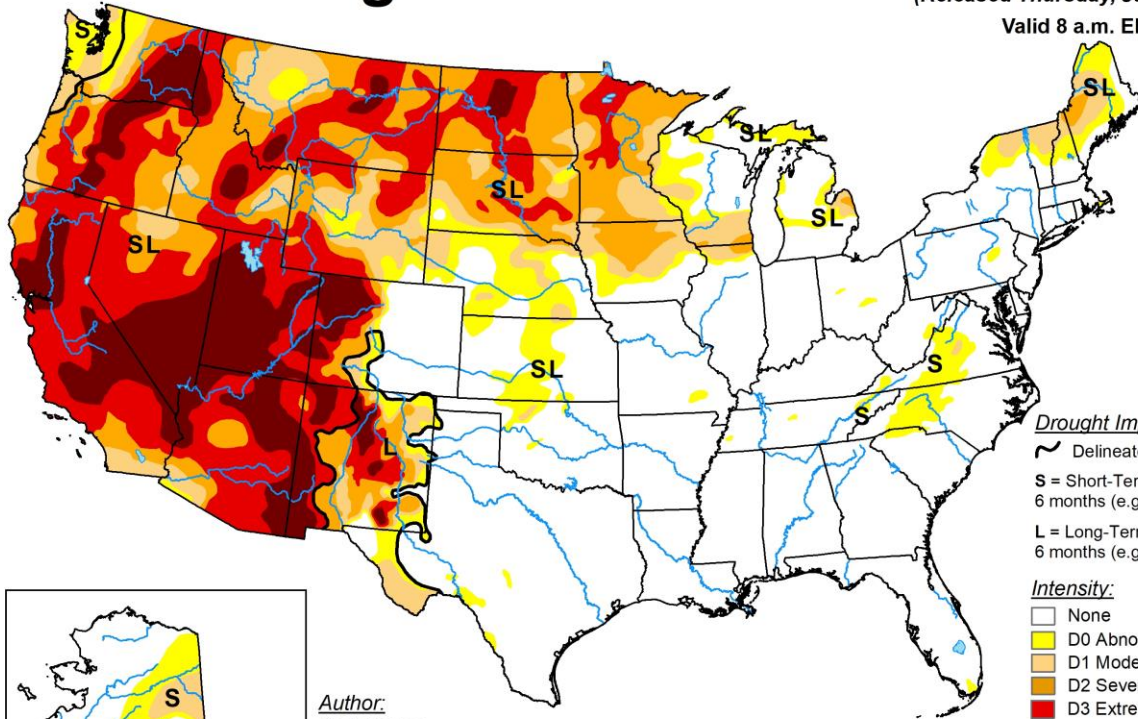
Drought Conditions

U.S. Drought Monitor

July 20, 2021

(Released Thursday, Jul. 22, 2021)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

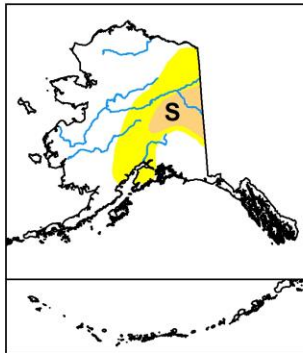


Drought Impact Types:

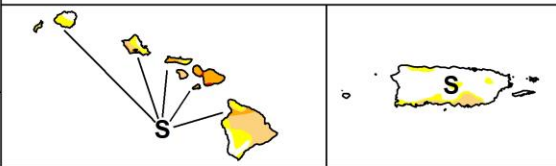
- ~ Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

Intensity:

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



Author:
Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture



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>



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

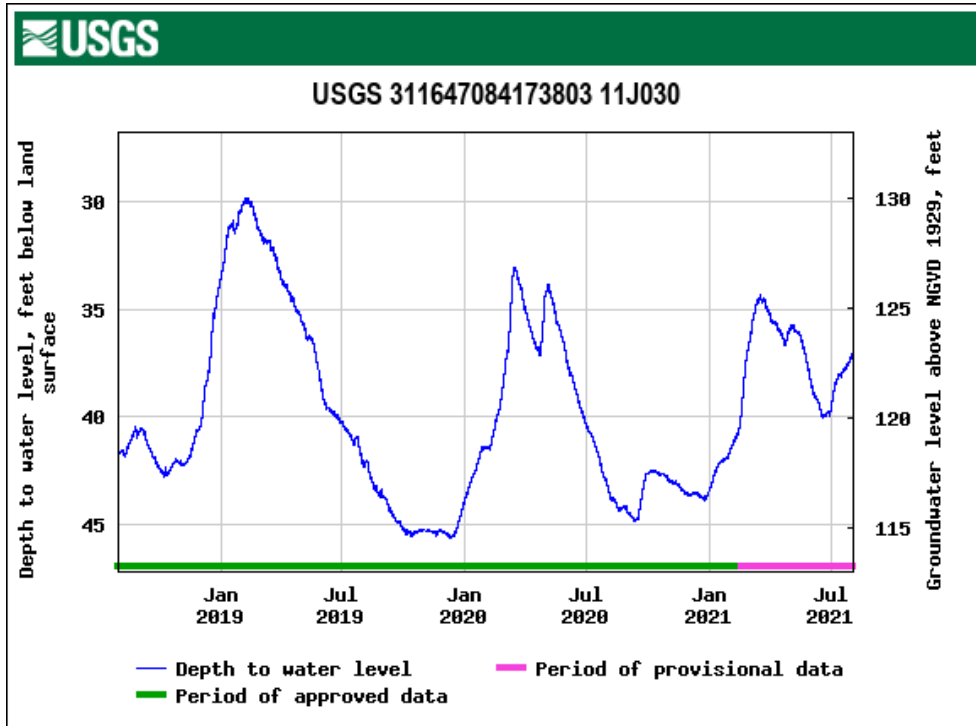
Drought Monitor map for the entire U.S. as of July 20. Currently, Georgia has NO areas of “Abnormally Dry” conditions. In the western U.S., the drought conditions are severe.

For more info:

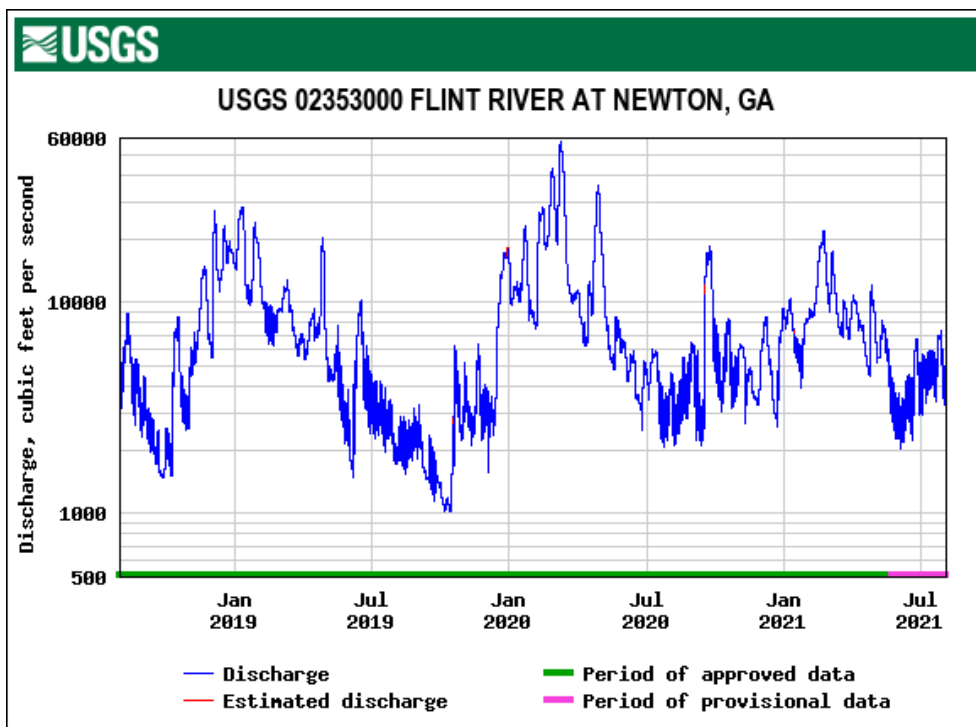
<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?GA>



Water Resources



Above - USGS data for the past 3 years for a groundwater monitoring well here at SIRP in Floridan aquifer. Below - stream gage on the Flint River at Newton for past 3 years.



Events

Past events

July 4	Independence Day
July 13	FRSWCD meeting (Mitchell Co. Ag Center)
July 13 - 14	4-H2O Camp
July 22	SIRP's Virtual Field Day

Upcoming events

August 10	FRSWCD meeting
August 28	State 4-H Land Judging
September 14	FRSWCD meeting
September 23	IGEL
October 12	FRSWCD meeting



In The News

[Sunbelt Field Day Moved to Virtual Format - Aug. 12](#)

[EPA Announces Plans to Revert Back to Pre-Obama WOTUS Rule, Public Input Meetings Set for August](#)

[EPA and Army Corps Announce Next Steps on Writing WOTUS](#)

[AFBF, Senators Concerned with Possible Water Rule Roll Back](#)

[Crop Water Use and Irrigation Timing](#)

[The Proposed Transfer Tax Can be Much Worse for Most Farmers Than the Estate Tax](#)

[Unspoken Truth About Pests: This Pest Can Cost You 15% to 50% in Yield Loss](#)

[Learning to Love G.M.O.s](#)

[Invite Good Insects into the Garden to Battle Pests](#)

[Recovering demand supporting cotton prices](#)

[Griffins hope 2021 will be 'that year.' The goal is three-bale cotton](#)

[Farmers and Ranchers Need Stepped-up Basis](#)

[Farm Bureau Supports Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation](#)

[Cotton and Peanuts Slow but Healthy](#)

[Georgia Pecans: Leaf Scorch and Fruit Thinning](#)

[UGA Co-Led Genetics Team Paves Way for Better Corn Plants](#)

[Blood Runs Deep: Farm Families Preserve American History](#)



At the Park

Right: Hunter Brannon installing Valley soil moisture probe in cotton field.

Below: Fertigating NLS field.



At the Park

Right: B.J. checking status of Dr. Porter's corn.



Below:
Kyle mowing
alleys in the
'Front 4' soybean
field.



At the Park

Right: B.J., Kyle and Ext Agent Brian harvesting green 'boiling peanuts'.



Below: Grad student Paulo helping grad student Jermaine plant collards in the VRI field.



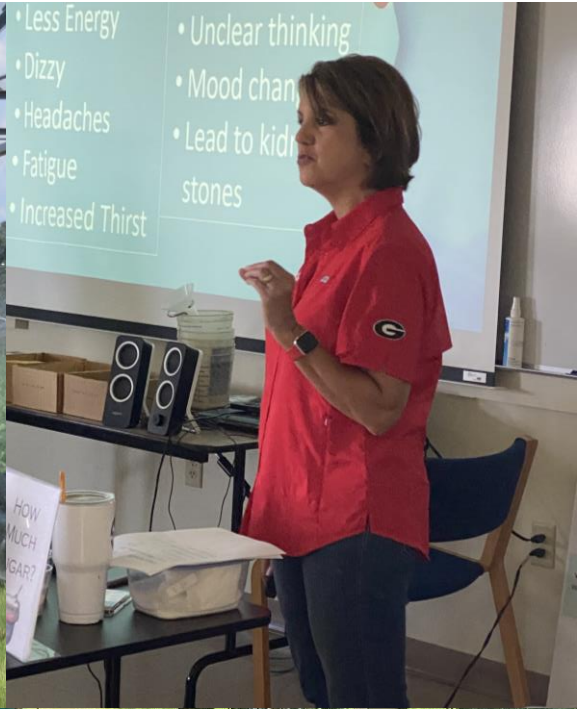
4-H2O At the Flint River



4-H2O At the Park



4-H2O At the Park



Brain Teasers...

-A lift is on the ground floor. There are four people in the lift including me. When the lift reaches first floor, one person gets out and three people get in. The lift goes up to the second floor, 2 people get out 6 people get in. It then goes up to the next floor up, no-one gets out but 12 people get in. Halfway up to the next floor up the lift cable snaps, it crashes to the floor. Everyone else dies in the lift. How did I survive?

Answer: I got out on the second floor!

-I have no voice, yet I speak to you. I tell of all things in the world that people do. I have leaves, but I am not a tree. I have pages, but I am not a bride. I have a spine, but I am not a man. I have hinges, but I am not a door. I have told you all. I cannot tell you more. What am I?

Answer: A book.

-A man pushes his car to a hotel and tells its owner that he is bankrupt. Why?

Answer: He is playing Monopoly.

-I left my campsite and hiked south for 3 miles. Then I turned east and hiked for 3 miles. I then turned north and hiked for 3 miles, at which time I came upon a bear inside my tent eating my food! What color was the bear?

Answer: White. The only place you can hike 3 miles south, then east for 3 miles, then north for 3 miles and end up back at your starting point is the North Pole. There are only polar bears in the North Pole, and they are white!

-An Arab sheik is old and must will his fortune to one of his two sons. He makes a proposition. His two sons will ride their camels in a race, and whichever camel crosses the finish line LAST will win the fortune for its owner. During the race, the two brothers wander aimlessly for days, neither willing to cross the finish line. In desperation, they ask a wise man for advice. He tells them something; then the brothers leap onto the camels and charge toward the finish line. What did the wise man say?

Answer: The rules of the race were that the owner of the camel that crosses the finish line last wins the fortune. The wise man simply told them to switch camels.

-A man is looking at a photograph of someone. His friend asks who it is. The man replies, "Brothers and sisters, I have none. But that man's father is my father's son." Who was in the photograph?

Answer: His son.

-A man left home running. He ran a ways and then turned left, ran the same distance and turned left again, ran the same distance and turned left again. When he got home, there were two masked men. Who were they?

Answer: The catcher and the umpire.

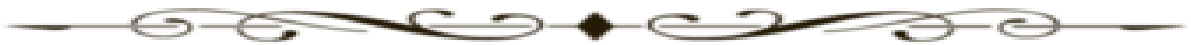
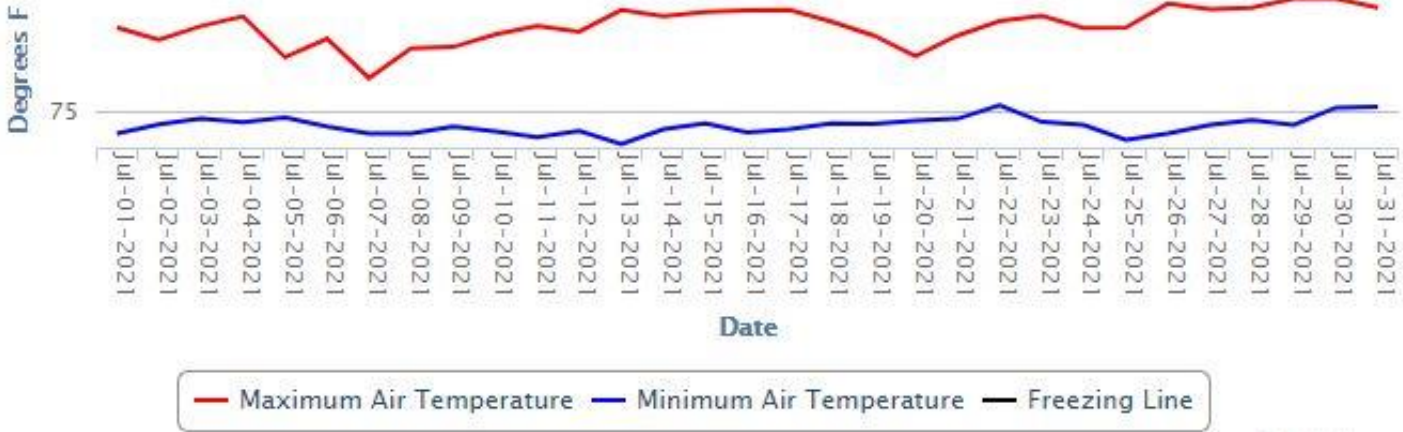
-As I was going to St. Ives, I met a man with seven wives. Each wife had seven sacks, Each sack had seven cats, Each cat had seven kits. Kits, cats, sacks and wives, How many were going to St. Ives?

Answer: One. Only I was going to St. Ives

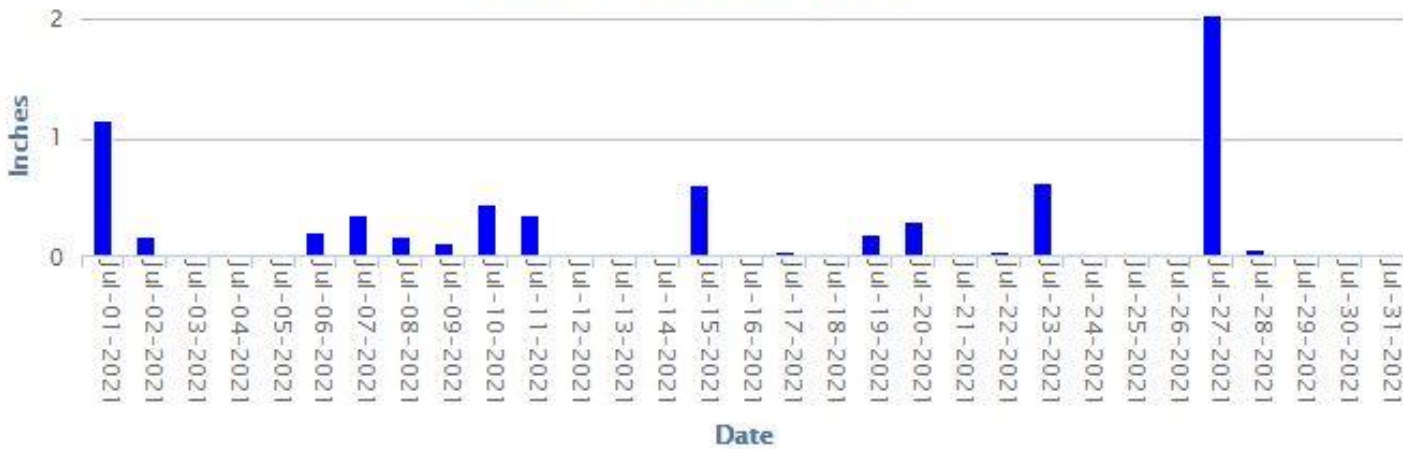


SIRP Weather

Maximum Temperature, Minimum Temperature



Daily Cumulative Rainfall



For July, SIRP had 6.91 inches of rainfall, compared to 8.77 inches in June, 2.10 inches in May, and 5.26 inches in April.

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



Contact Information



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Trivia:

Which nut is used to make dynamite?

Answer: Peanuts

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