

C.M. Stripling Irrigation Research Park

Monthly Newsletter

April 2022



New pine seedlings planted in the area recently harvested.



In This Issue

- ▶ From the Superintendent
- ▶ Drought Conditions
- ▶ Water Resources
- ▶ Past & Upcoming Events
- ▶ In The News
- ▶ At the Park
- ▶ Trivia
- ▶ More Trivia
- ▶ SIRP Weather
- ▶ Contact Information



From the Superintendent

Calvin Perry

I noted in our last newsletter that we were quite dry early in March. Conditions improved some during March as we did receive 4.59 inches of rain over 12 rainy days. Plus we have received 2.11 inches so far in April with more expected this week. March high temps ranged from 84-59F and lows ranged from 65-27F. Long term averages are high of 72.5F, low of 47.3F and 5.62 inches of rain over 8 rainy days. But as you'll see on the next page, Georgia is still experiencing very dry conditions in 54.21% of the state, with 28% experiencing moderate drought conditions – reaching us here at the Park.

Most of our April rain came on Tuesday (5th) and Wednesday (6th). Unfortunately, these 2 days brought 5+ tornadoes to south Ga, including one that passed over I-75 at Cordele as my wife and I were traveling to Atlanta. (Not a fun trip). Here's a link to a storm chaser video:

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1511808817016840198>. The UGA weather station here at SIRP recorded a 59.6 MPH max wind at 3:59pm on April 5th but that was pale in comparison to the 129.3 MPH wind at 3:26pm on the 5th recorded by the UGA station at Byromville after it took a near-direct hit by a tornado there. Here's a news story: <https://www.fox5atlanta.com/weather/georgia-weather-station-records-129-mph-gust-near-apparent-tornado>.

The staff at the Park has been busy with a number of activities, including meeting with researchers and grad students to go over '22 research plans, flushing SDI drip zones, rebuilding JD Gator ATV engine, etc. We also laid off plots and alleys, applied pre-plant granular fertilizer, strip-tilled and planted corn studies for Drs. Sintim and Porter. Finally got our JD 6330 tractor and JD backhoe repairs completed.

Visitors to the Park included Dr. Bob Kemerait, Brian Hayes (Mitchell Co Extension), the Flint River Soil & Water Conservation District (monthly meeting), Judie Dozier (SWREC), Wilson Faircloth and Max DeMott (Syngenta), and Mike Mills (Reinke). Mike came by to install and train us on the use of Reinke's VRI software for use with our new Reinke lateral system.

I was pleased to spend a few minutes on a Zoom call with Natasha Rankin, new CEO of the Irrigation Association. Mrs. Rankin had heard of Stripling Park from some other members of the IA and wanted to see what we do and who we work with and how our work impacts irrigators in GA and the SE. It was a great conversation.

As I've done for several years, I participated in the UGA Extension ANR Foundations training in Tifton. Dr. Wes Porter and I do a session on "Water Issues and Water Use".

We learned in early March that our

Mandy Brown may have to leave us as early as mid April as her husband was taking a promotion with GA DNR that would require relocating to Lincoln Co., GA. That date got moved up and Mandy's last day (officially) with UGA and SIRP was April 1. We wish Mandy and her family the best as they make this move and she starts a new job.

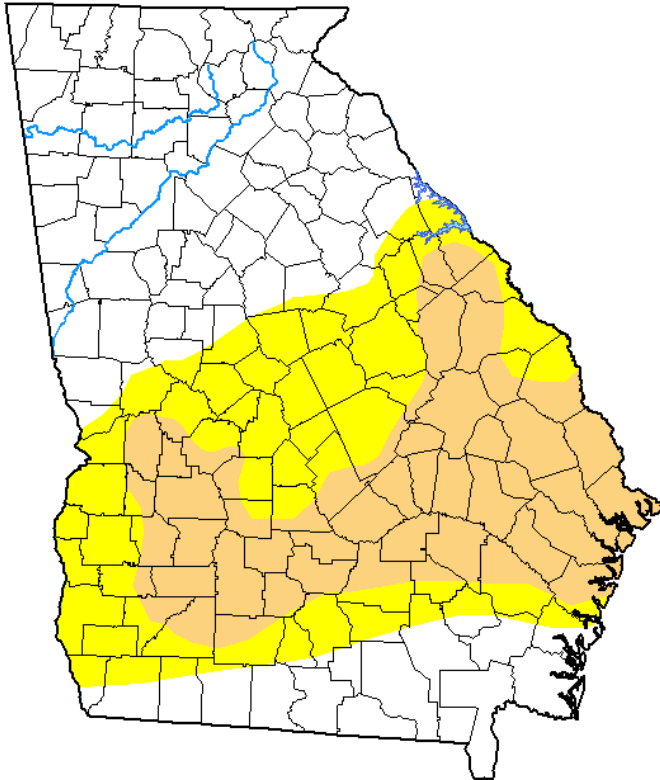
On a personal note, I'm super pleased to announce that my wife, Suellen, and I are now grandparents! Little miss Mary Holland Perry arrived March 23rd at 6:38p weighing 7lb1oz and measuring 20.5 in long. Our son Cole and daughter-in-law Daniela are the proud parents. All are doing well. (Now you know why we drove through storms to get to ATL last week).



Drought Conditions

U.S. Drought Monitor Georgia

April 5, 2022
(Released Thursday, Apr. 7, 2022)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	45.79	54.21	28.13	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 03-29-2022	43.84	56.16	32.14	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 01-04-2022	97.01	2.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-04-2022	97.01	2.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-28-2021	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 04-06-2021	92.27	7.73	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>

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National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

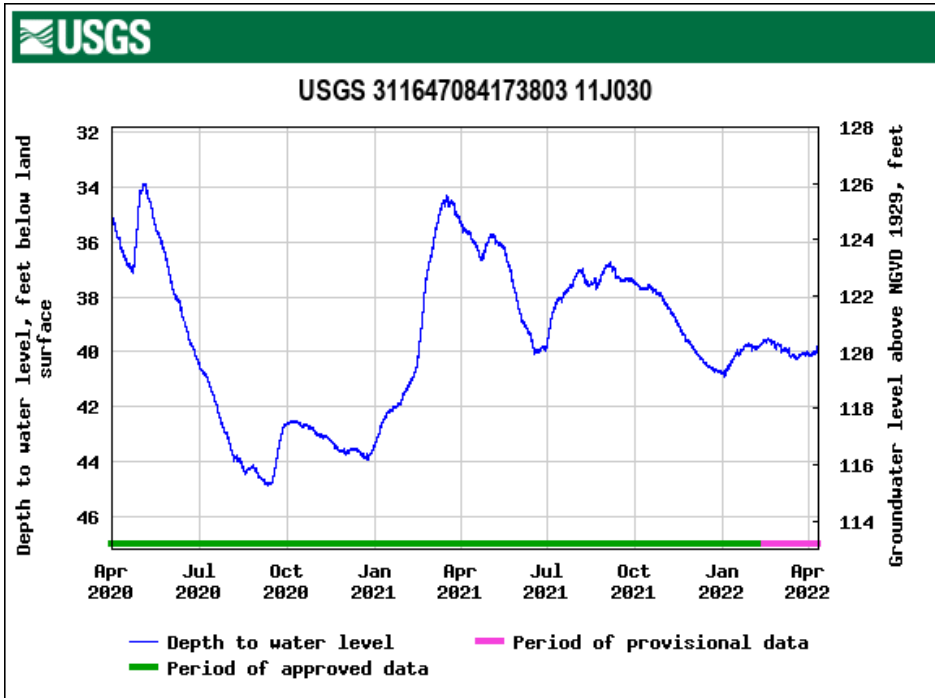
Drought Monitor map for Georgia as of April 5. As of that date, 54% of Georgia was 'abnormally dry' with 28% rated as in 'moderate drought'.

For more info:

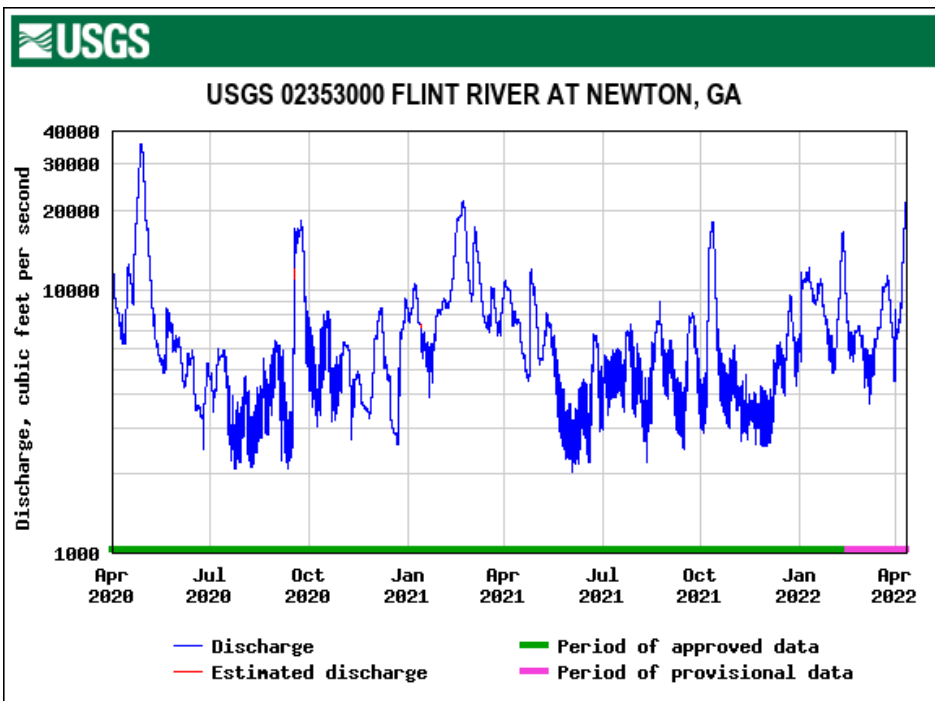
<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?GA>



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

March 8	Pecan Prod. Mtg. (Mitchell Co. Ext) 12pm
March 8	FRSWCD meeting
March 29	<u>Precision Ag Technology Workshops</u> (Statesboro)
March 31	<u>Precision Ag Technology Workshops</u> (Albany)
April 12	FRSWCD meeting

Upcoming events

April 14	Lower Flint Ocklocknee Water Council mtg. (Albany)
May 10	FRSWCD meeting
May 12	Lower Flint Ocklocknee Water Council mtg. (Albany)
June 21-23	4H2O Camp



In The News

[Georgia Corn: Should You Use Plant Analysis as a Decision Making Tool?](#)

[A Good Reason to Know Corn Physiology](#)

[Are There Enough Chemicals and Fertilizer to Plant This Year's Crop? An Inside Look at What's in Jeopardy](#)

[Joint Venture Brings 'Smart Spraying Solution' To Farmers](#)

[In the U.S., Manure is 'Hot Commodity' Amid Commercial Fertilizer Shortage](#)

[April is Invasive Plant Pest and Disease Awareness Month](#)

[The right to repair just got easier](#)

[Southwest Georgia awarded \\$49.8 million for deep water wells](#)

[Production costs outpacing commodity prices](#)

[Plant peanuts for a standing good start. Dodge the replant](#)

[Best use of glyphosate and alternate herbicide options](#)

[Using AI in agriculture could boost global food security – but we need to anticipate the risks](#)

[Railway Supply Chain Issues Impacting Agriculture](#)

[Peanut Industry Leaders: Tips for Producers Ahead of Planting Season](#)

[Soil Carbon: Food for the Soil](#)



At the Park

Right:
Repairing broken flush
riser pipes in Access SDI.



Below:
B.J. putting out dry
fertilizer in Dr. Sintim's
corn plots.



At the Park

Right:
New disconnect panel
to the Access field
lateral.



Below:
B.J. & Kyle working on
the new Reinke lateral
in the Access field.



At the Park

Right & Below:
B.J. & Kyle strip-
tilling & planting
Dr. Porter's corn
in the Camilla
lateral field.



Trivia

What is the most common letter in the English alphabet? E

Chimpanzees and gorillas have human-like fingerprints and so do what other non-human animal? Koalas

A tick bite can make you allergic to what food? Red meat

What animal is constitutionally protected in Florida? Pigs

An Apgar score is given to what? Health of newborns

Facts, Briefs, Destiny and Chance were early names for what publication? Time Magazine

In its first year, 330 of them were sold. What are they? VW Beetle

Where are the Blue Mountains located? Jamaica

Which ocean is home to Christmas Island? Indian Ocean

The Aurora Borealis is also known as what? The Northern Lights

There's a red food coloring called carmine, where is it extracted from? Beetles

In the case of a medical emergency, coconut water can be used as what? Blood plasma

The Blue Ribbon Burger changed its name and is now referred to as what? Big Mac

What song did Lady Gaga derive her name from? Radio Ga Ga

What artist was called the biggest threat to American children since Polio' by President George W. Bush? Eminem

What famous band was involved in an incident known as the Redlands drug bust? The Rolling Stones



More Trivia...

From the list of foods which cause allergies in humans, which particular food product is at the top of the list? Nuts

They grow in clusters and range in color from pale green to black. What are they? Grapes

What vegetable in the mustard family is named for a European capital city? Brussels Sprouts

True or false: White wine is made from white grapes, while red wine is made from red grapes. False: Red wine is made by including the skin of the red grapes. White wine can come from grapes of any color.

What river forms most of the border between Oregon and Washington? Columbia

What is the most popular vegetable in America, in terms of number eaten? Potatoes... followed by lettuce, onions, tomatoes

Why do icebergs float? They are made of fresh water, less dense (therefore lighter) than sea water

History records that for 5,000 years people have been eating this vegetable, although most people would consider it a fruit. The largest one ever grown weighed 262 pounds. What is it? Watermelon

An oyster requires about how many years to produce a perfect, cultivated pearl: closer to 1, 5, or 10? 5: (3-6 years)

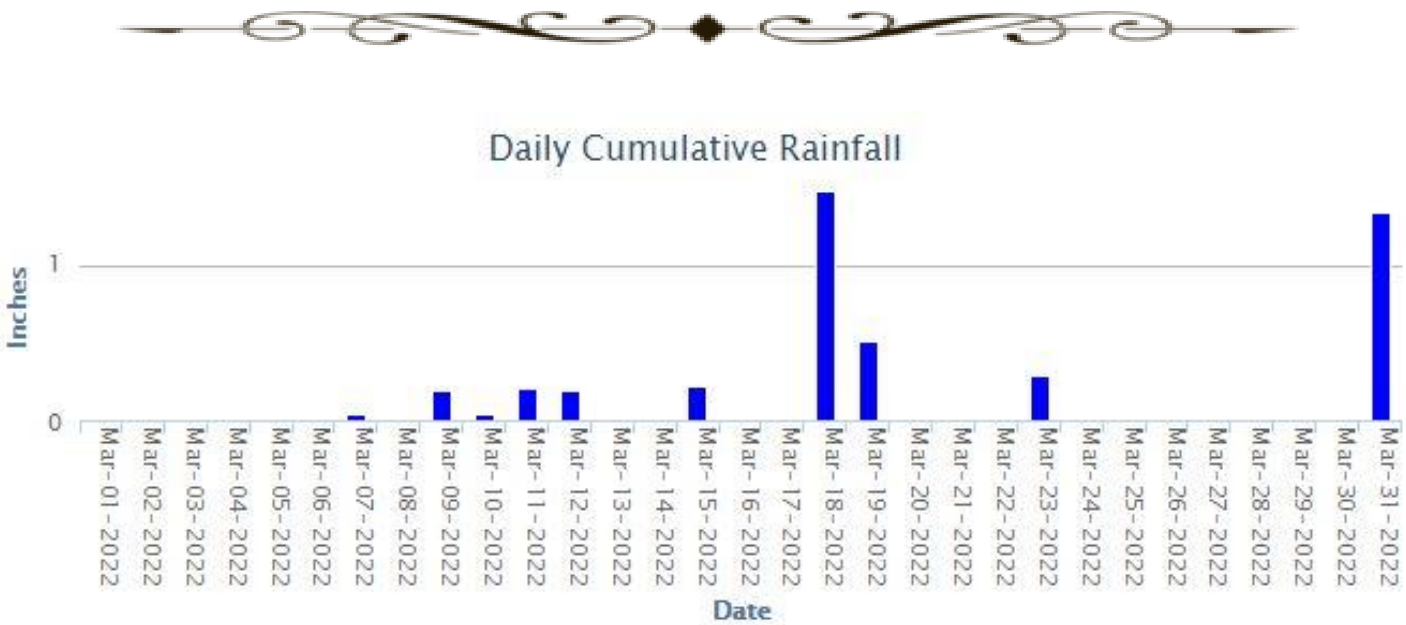
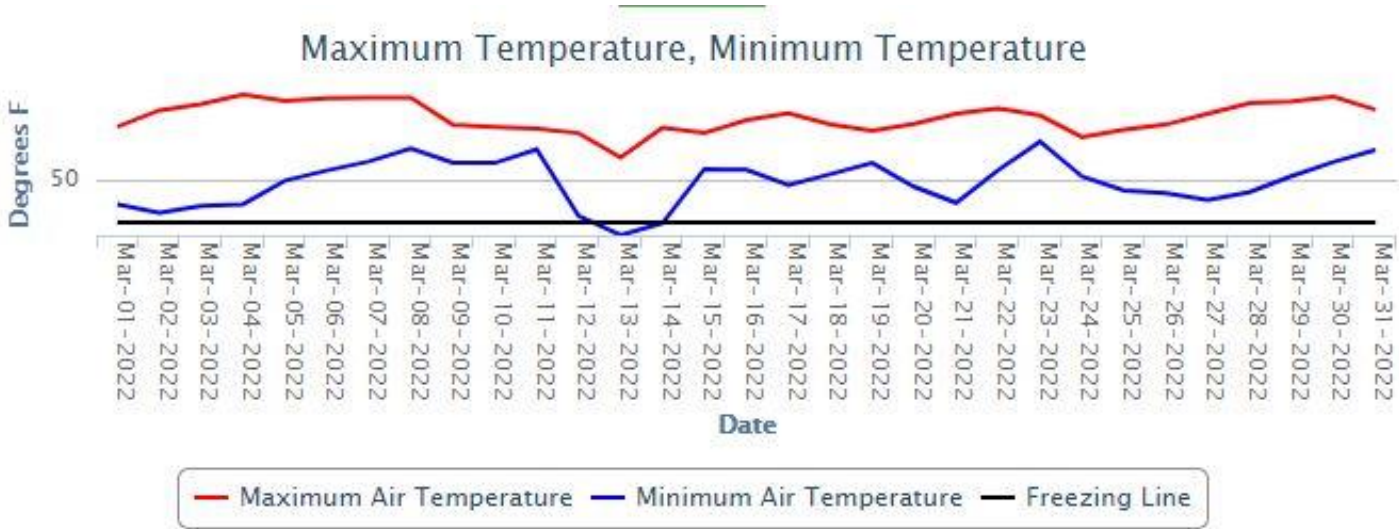
The fastest growing plant can increase up to 35 inches (or 90 cm) in one day. What is it? Bamboo

Former President Jimmy Carter had these installed at the White House, but President Ronald Reagan had them removed. What were they? Solar water heater panels, on the roof of the White House.

It's a powerful chemical reaction when hydrogen is burned - what compound is formed? Water



SIRP Weather



For March, SIRP had 4.59 inches of rainfall, compared to 1.79 inches in February, 5.05 inches in January, and 3.38 inches in December.

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



Contact Information



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Trivia / Fun Fact:

Name the scale or measurement used for each of the following:
A. Magnitude and intensity of earthquakes? B. The system devised by a British admiral which ranks wind speeds from 0 (calm) to 17 (hurricane)? C. The temperature scale in which water freezes?

Answer: a. RICHTER SCALE, b. BEAUFORT SCALE, c. KELVIN

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