

C.M. Stripling Irrigation Research Park

Monthly Newsletter

April - June 2024



Cotton in bloom...



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College of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

From the Sr. Agriculture Specialist

B. J. Washington

It seems like forever since we last spoke. We at SIRP hope that all is well for you and yours. The 2024 crop season has, so far, been a busy one at the park. We of course must go back in time to catch everyone up. April was busy with corn planting for Dr. Kemerait, Dr. Porter, Dr. Sintim, Dr. Virk, and Dr. Lacerda. The Sweet Corn trial for Dr. Vellidis and Emily Bedwell received several fertigation events through April and May. In the later part of April, we were able to plant cotton trials for Dr. Vellidis and Dr. Porter.

We hosted the ACF Water Council tour with Mr. Calvin and I speaking to the group about VRI, Aquifers, Wells, Pumps, and Sprinklers. Emily Bedwell was also able to share with the group information pertaining to her Sweet Corn project. On the 27th of April, SIRP hosted the Agri Ability Tractor Driving Class with Dr. Glen Raines, Mason Dean and 10 attendees. This is a great outreach program for UGA which is focused on promoting independence for members of the agricultural community who have disabilities, both acquired and developmental.

Peanuts were planted in early May for Dr. Vellidis, Dr. Virk, Dr. Porter, and Dr. Kemerait. Fertigation events continued in Dr. Vellidis' sweet corn trial as well as the beginning of insecticide applications.

On the 28th of May, SIRP hosted ecology students from UGA Athens. This is an annual visit and the students have an opportunity to learn about agriculture water use. Mr. Calvin and I were able to share some of the work that UGA has done over the years to promote Ag water conservation. Miller Hayes was also able to share with the group a little about his research here at SIRP. Local farmer Mr. Murray Campbell shared with the group the value of agriculture irrigation from a producer's perspective.

Rainfall in May was rather high with four larger rain events and several small ones. Then, there was June! HOT and DRY!! The average high temperature for the month was a humid 93 degrees. Rainfall total for the month was 2.16 inches, however, 1.68 inches of the 2.16" fell in the last 3 days of the month.



From the Sr. Agriculture Specialist

B. J. Washington

Needless to say, June was full of irrigation events. We also started our peanut fungicide program, applied fertilizer to our cotton and, of course, continued fertigation and insecticide applications on sweet corn.

The big event for June of course was our annual 4-H2O day camp, Sponsored by SIRP and Mitchell County 4-H. We hosted 134 4th-12th graders representing 15 counties. Students spent the first morning at the Flint River boat ramp in western Mitchell County learning about a variety of topics from freshwater mussels and fishing licensures, to watersheds and amphibians. They were also able to participate in a little magnet fishing. The afternoon provided different learning activities from pivot irrigation to soil health and plenty of water games.

Day two was held at the Mitchell County Extension office and Ag Center. Topics included Water and Electricity Conservation, Plant Water Use, Floods and Hurricanes vs Crop Production, Food Desert, Water for Livestock, Water Fighting Fires, and Wetlands.

The third day the campers attended Rigby's Water World in Warner Robins for a fun day in the sun! This is a huge outreach event for Stripling and for UGA and we are VERY thankful for all of the presenters, volunteers, staff members and sponsors for their time and effort. This event would not be possible without your help. A special thank you to Candace Seabolt Mitchell County 4-H agent and Candace Gray SIRP Admin Assoc for all of their work on coordinating this event.

Looking into July we had several events and tours at the Park, but I will leave you in suspense until next time. As always, thank you all for your support of Stripling and UGA!!

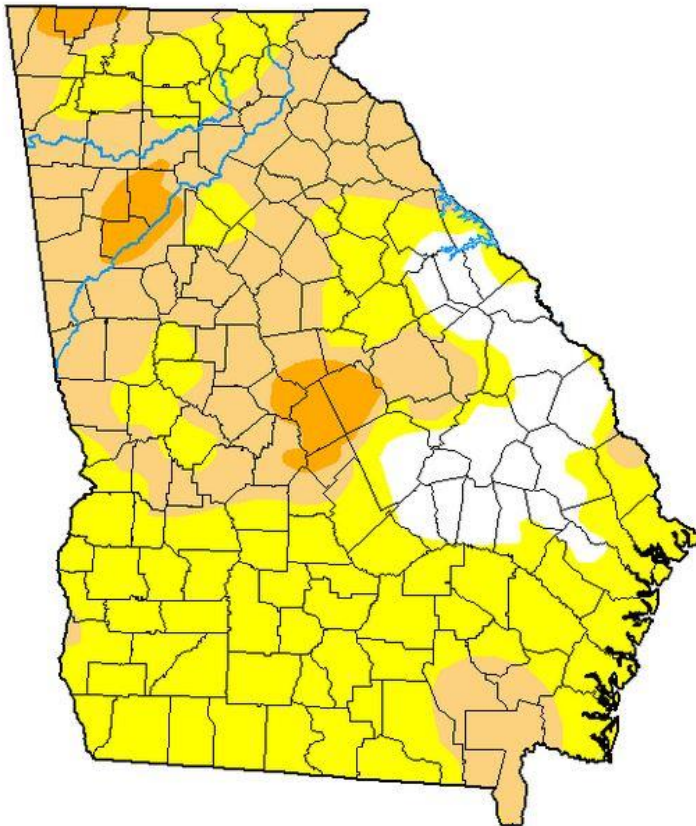
B. J.



Drought Conditions

U.S. Drought Monitor Georgia

July 9, 2024
(Released Thursday, Jul. 11, 2024)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	10.70	89.30	39.34	4.21	0.00	0.00
Last Week <small>07-02-2024</small>	4.39	95.61	49.36	3.66	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago <small>04-09-2024</small>	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <small>01-02-2024</small>	46.66	53.34	28.92	11.91	0.07	0.00
Start of Water Year <small>09-26-2023</small>	78.43	21.57	4.17	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago <small>07-11-2023</small>	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:

Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Drought Monitor map for Georgia as of July 9, 2024. Abnormally dry conditions are high across the state, with only 10.7% ample soil moisture conditions.

Currently, 89.3% of GA is abnormally dry, 39.34% moderate, 4.21% severe, and 0.0% extreme drought. For more info:

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Maps/MapArchive.aspx>



Events

Past events

April 23	ACF Water Council tour
April 27	Agri Ability Tractor Driving Class
May 14	FRSWCD mtg.
June 25 – 27	4H2O Camp
July 9	FRSWCD mtg.
July 18	IGEL Class of 2024

Upcoming events

August 1	Attapulugus Field Day
August 7	Southeast REC Field Day (Midville) **Cancelled due to weather**
August 13	FRSWCD mtg.
August 15	Southwest REC Field Day (Plains) Register
September 2	Labor Day Holiday
September 10	FRSWCD mtg.
October 8	FRSWCD mtg.



In The News

[UGA-Tifton demonstration lab to fuel innovation in precision agriculture](#)

[Groups urge NRCS: Keep climate-smart irrigation](#)

[Lindsay inks MENA irrigation supply agreement](#)

[Researchers create cotton quality model to aid farmers](#)

[UGA Extension Advises Cotton Growers About Aphid Management](#)

[Plant sensors could act as an early warning system for farmers](#)

[The Era of Extreme Heat Is Here: Federal and State Governments Roll Out Strategies to Cope](#)

[Multidrug-resistant fungi found in commercial soil, compost, flower bulbs](#)

[Minerals play newly discovered role in Earth's phosphorus cycle](#)

[Dry conditions spread over much of Georgia](#)

[USDA to Gather Farm Conservation Data from Southeast Farmers](#)

[New Habitat Conservation Plan aims to benefit freshwater mussels and local agriculture](#)

Video / Podcast / Radio:

[EPD's Proposed Water Plan for Southwest Georgia](#)

[Farmers Dealing with Heat, Drought and Storms](#)



At the Park

Right:
Fertigating Sweet
Corn in NLN field.



Below:
B.J. planting corn in
FF-Valley West field.



At the Park

Right:
Daryl verifying
plots in the FF
Valley West.



Below:
B.J., Calvin &
Emily presenting
to the ACF water
council during a
tour of the park.



At the Park

Right:
Intrepid Building
Systems crew
augering support
holes for footings
for new shelter.

Below:
Raising the new
shelter.



At the Park

Right:
Daryl & Kyle
marking plots in
the FF-North &
South fields.

Below:
B.J. repairing the
Reinke pivot.



At the Park



Local farmer Murray Campbell, Grad Student Miller Hayes & B.J. speaks to UGA Athens' Ecology class during tour of Stripling Park.



At the Park

Right:
Installing GoannaAg sensors
in Dr. Snider's FF-North
cotton.



Below:
Miller Hayes & crew
measuring CLM cotton.



At the Park

Right:

Dr. Vellidis' peanuts in the NLM field are looking good.

Below:

VRI in action over CLM cotton.



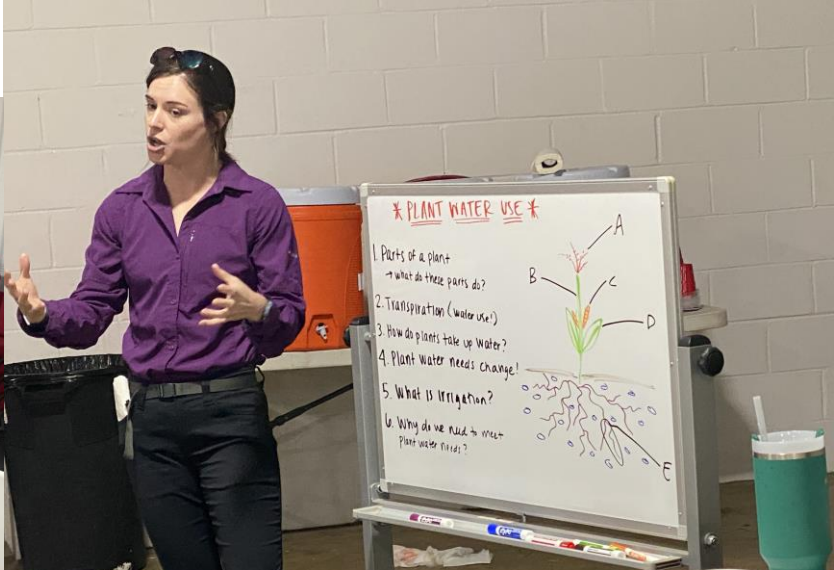
4H2O Camp



4H2O Camp



4H2O Camp



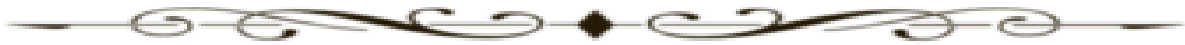
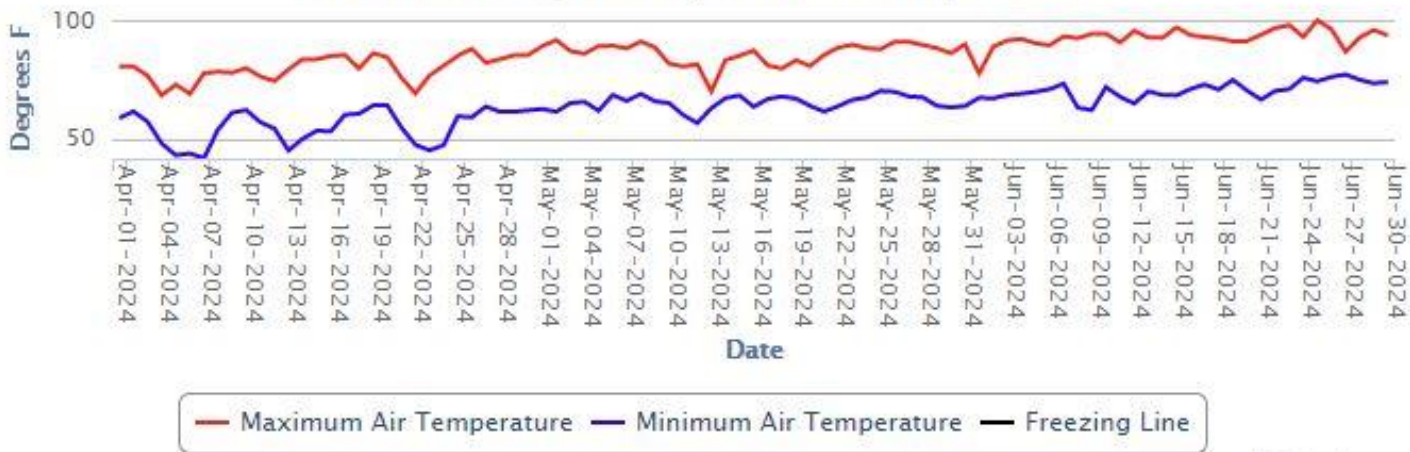
Trivia/Puns/Riddles

- In bowling, three strikes in a row is called? A turkey
- Where is the largest bowling center located? Japan (Inazawa Grand Bowl, 116 lanes)
- How old are the horses that run in the Kentucky Derby? 3 years old
- Which country has the most Olympic medals in swimming? USA
- Which athlete has won the most Olympic medals? Michael Phelps (28 medals)
- The first sport invented was what? Wrestling
- What is the only country to have played in every single soccer World Cup? Brazil
- Since he pitched 749 games in his 22-year career (including a perfect game in 1904), which MLB player has an award for great pitchers named after him? Cy Young
- What sport were women allowed to play in the Olympics for the first time? Tennis
- Which NFL player has scored the most touchdowns? Tom Brady
- Which country originated the sport of curling? Scotland
- What is the national sport of Canada? Lacrosse
- What sporting event is held every Memorial Day? The Indy 500
- What is the signature food dish served at Wimbledon? Strawberries and cream

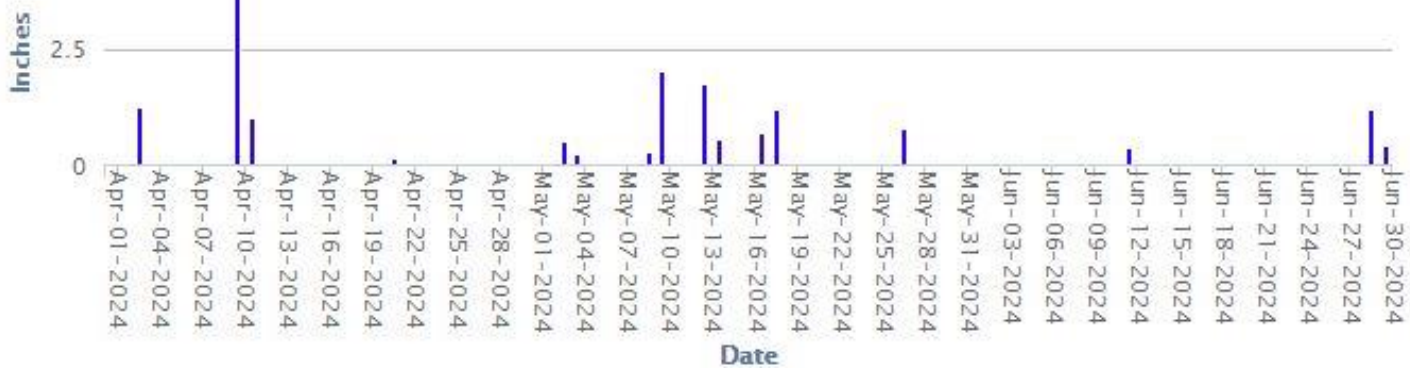


SIRP Weather

Maximum Temperature, Minimum Temperature



Daily Cumulative Rainfall



For January to March, SIRP had 12.68 inches of rainfall, compared to 9.29 inches from October to December, 2023, and 10.13 inches from July to September, 2023. For the 2023 year, SIRP received 46.47 inches of rain.

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



Contact Information



C.M. Stripling Irrigation Research Park

College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

8207 Highway 37 West
Camilla, GA 31730
(229) 522-3623

striplingpark.caes.uga.edu

B. J. Washington (Sr. Ag. Specialist): bwashing@uga.edu
Candace Gray (Admin. Associate): sirp@uga.edu

Trivia / Riddle:

What did Stevie Ray Vaughan name his most beloved guitar?

Answer: Jimbo

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