

# C.M. Stripling Irrigation Research Park

Newsletter

Oct – Dec 2025



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# From our Team

By Amilcar Vargas – *Superintendent*

I hope all you had a wonderful holiday season! Our team has successfully completed the 2025 growing season at the Park. Cover crop is established and growing. It is dry and cold outside, and we have started on our winter projects as well as servicing all our equipment. SIRP team: thank you!

October (0.43"), November (0.38") and December (3.55") turned to be dry, and allowed us to harvest our crops. However, we all know that we need rain to replenish our aquifer system.

We assisted 15 graduate students with their research projects. Their research topics were irrigation scheduling, plant growth regulators, soil fertility, disease management, plant physiology, nitrogen management, and peanut breeding. These projects were led by our UGA scientists Dr. Porter, Dr. Vellidis, Dr. Snider, Dr. Sintim, Dr. Kemerait, Dr. Pilon, Dr. Lacerda, and Dr. Nino Brown.

Meetings, outreach activities, and tours at the Park (2025): last year we started with an informative session with EPD and Harvey Drilling about the Flint River Basin Opening for new wells, the UGA Master Irrigator Program, UGA Field Program in Ecology Solving with the participation of our friend Mr. Murray Campbell, Flint River Soil Water Conservation District, 4H2O camp, our Field Day, the Institute for Georgia Environmental Leadership (IGEL), Romanian Scholars, and Mr. Daniel Eberz-Eder CEO of KTBL Germany toured our facility. This season also brought a lot of irrigation and equipment failures. However, with the assistance of J&B Irrigation, Harvey Drilling, and Flint Ag & Turf our team managed the situations very well to keep the research going.

On behalf of our team, we hope you enjoyed the holiday season!



# From our Team

By B.J. Washington – ***Farm Manager***

Our 2025 harvest season is in the books! Harvest weather was exceptional with only a few delays for peanuts and very few weather delays for cotton. I will also mention that equipment breakdowns were minimal as well, which takes a little bit of stress out of the process

Peanut harvest began in mid-September and was completed on All Hallows' Eve, just in time for Trick-or-Treating with the kids! Overall, the peanut yields were pretty high this year, with some of Dr. Browns' trials going well above 7,000 lbs.!

Cotton Harvest began in October and ran almost to Thanksgiving. A personal goal of mine is to be done with cotton before thanksgiving, and we were successful in accomplishing that again this year. Cotton yields, like peanuts, were exceptionally high this year, with consistent 3-4 bale averages. The only issue is that the price for the commodity is so low.

After harvest was completed we were able to spread and disk in most of our wheat cover crop. We did experience a few delays in this process due to a few rainy days later in November and early December.

Overall, the 2025 harvest season was a great success. I would like to thank Daryl and Kyle for all of their hard work throughout the process, as well as all of the researchers, grad-students, technicians, and student workers. It takes all of us to make these projects successful and I greatly appreciate each of you.

Happy Christmas and a Merry New Year!!



# In The News!

To learn more, click on:

## <https://irrigationtoday.org/features/public-outreach-amplifying-the-value-of-irrigation/>

The use of agricultural irrigation is becoming increasingly more important as the changing climate ushers in longer growing seasons, higher temperatures and less natural rainfall, and as increasing policies regulate water usage. “What works for a vegetable grower in California might not apply to a peanut farmer in Georgia or a soybean producer in Nebraska,” he says. “Crops, climates and growing conditions vary wildly, and policies must be flexible enough to recognize those differences. Tailored regional approaches are necessary to support both productive farms and long-term water conservation across the country.”

## Field to fabric: How UGA's Cotton Team supports Georgia's growers

Imagine a plant so valuable it helped shape the course of human civilization — a plant that has stitched together empires, economies and entire ways of life. That plant is cotton.

Long before industrialization, societies in the Indus Valley, ancient Egypt and pre-Columbian Peru cultivated cotton for its durable fiber. In North America, Indigenous peoples had been growing and using cotton for centuries before European contact. Archaeological discoveries — including roasted cottonseed fragments in Arizona dating back 1,400 years — reveal cotton’s role in Native cultures.

## <https://fieldreport.caes.uga.edu/news/uga-climatologist-explains-climate-impacts-on-life-agriculture-in-georgia/>

**Weather patterns are changing, but not evenly:** While polar regions are getting much warmer, equatorial areas are not seeing as much change. **The U.S. has a severe infrastructure problem:** The country’s infrastructure was not designed with climate change or severe weather events in mind, and what was a 1 in 100-year storm then is more like a 1 in 10-year storm now. **Decembers are getting warmer:** With data from every December since 1895, there is an upward trend in temperature for December overall. Recognizing this trend allows forecasters to predict likely temperature ranges.



# Consider this...

Practical guides for farm operations. More guides can be found at the [Extension Precision Ag and Irrigation Blog](#)

Click on:

[Post-Harvest Considerations for Yield Monitors and Data Management](#)

[Precision Soil Sampling: Grid Size Efficacy Vs. Cost Considerations](#)

[Winterizing your irrigation system](#)

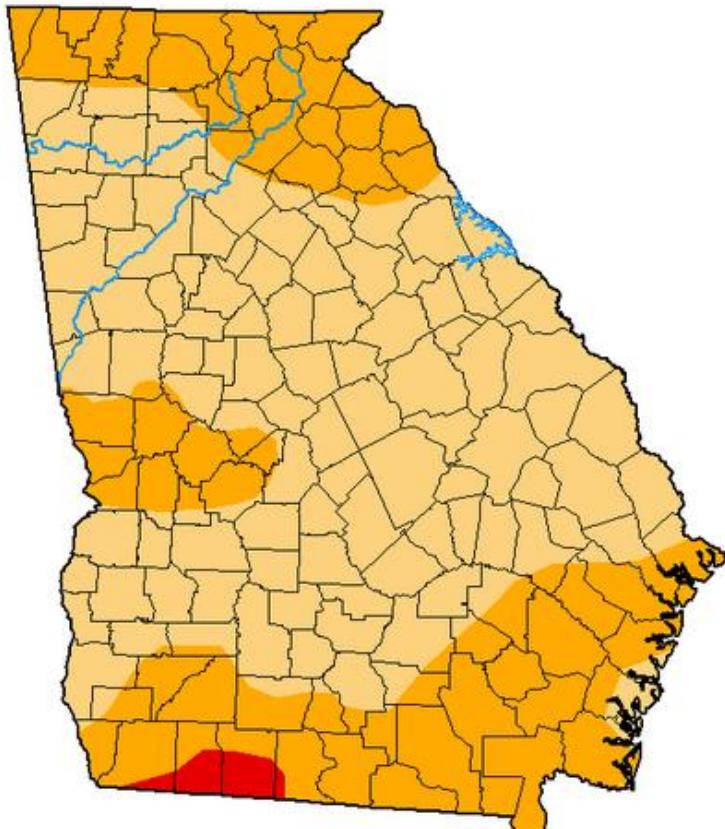
[Spring center pivot and lateral irrigation system preparation](#)

[Evaluating and interpreting application uniformity of center pivot irrigation systems](#)



# Drought Conditions

## U.S. Drought Monitor Georgia



January 6, 2026  
(Released Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	37.96	1.21	0.00
Last Week 12-30-2025	0.00	100.00	99.63	27.29	1.21	0.00
3 Months Ago 10-07-2025	2.66	97.34	58.72	18.28	1.25	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-06-2026	0.00	100.00	100.00	37.96	1.21	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	1.82	98.18	52.78	11.27	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 01-07-2025	56.32	43.68	11.40	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:

Brian Fuchs  
National Drought Mitigation Center

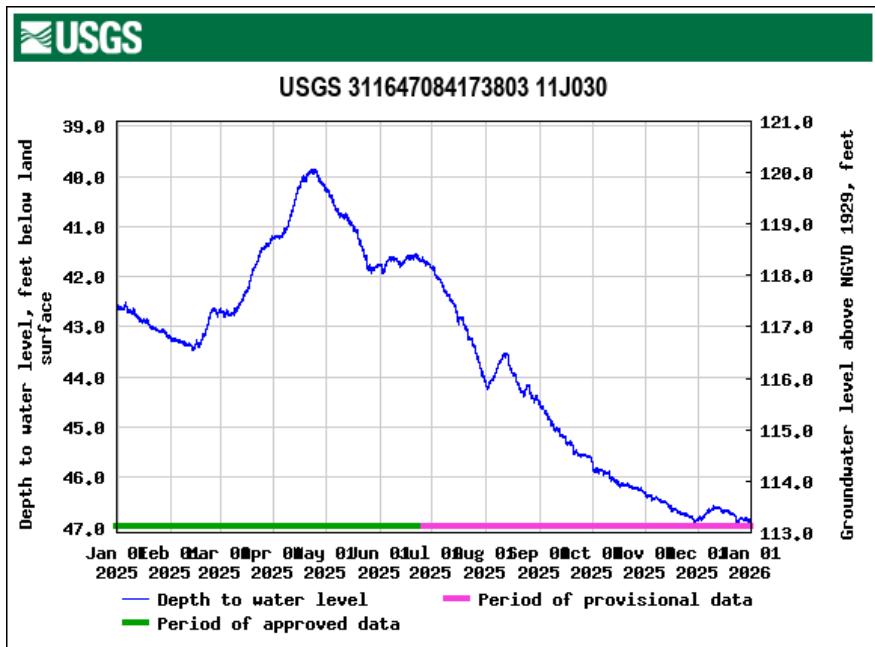


Drought Monitor map for Georgia as of January 6, 2026. Abnormally dry conditions are high across the state, ample soil moisture conditions.

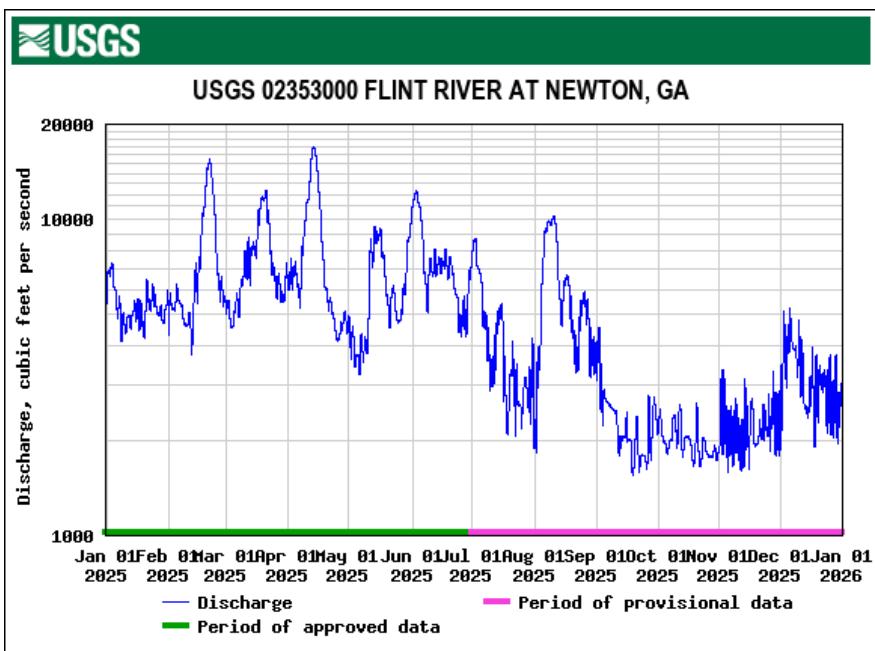
Currently, 100% of GA is abnormally dry, 100% moderate, and 37.98% for severe, and 1.21% for extreme drought. For more info:

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

# Water Resources



USGS data from Jan to December 2025. Above – Groundwater level here at the Park in the Floridan aquifer. Below - Stream gage on the Flint River at Newton, GA (3 miles from the Park).



# Events

## Past events

October 8	Romanian Faculty Tour
October 10	Daniel Eberz-Eder CEO of KTBL visit
October 28	EPD Training
November 11	FRSWCD Meeting

## Upcoming events

Jan 15	Peanut Farm Show (TCCC)
Jan 20	Corn Short Course (TCCC)
Jan 27	Peanut Update (TCCC)
Jan 28	Georgia Cotton Commission's Meeting (TCCC)
Feb 17	Weed Management (Mitchell Co)
March 5	Cotton Update (Mitchell Co)
March 12	Pecan Update (Mitchell Co)



# At the Park

**Kyle spreading cover crop seeds**



**Cover crop Jan 20th**



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# At the Park

## Last peanut and cotton trials 2026



**We did great with our few cotton acres this year!  
4 on the ground, 1 in the builder!**



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# At the Park

## Our Christmas tree!



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# Trivia

**What is the name of the first permanent English settlement in North America?** Jamestown

**How old was Queen Elizabeth II when she was crowned the Queen of England?** 27

**What inspired the creation of Google images?** Jennifer Lopez's dress at the 2000 Grammys

**Which U.S. President was a law professor?** Bill Clinton

**How many floors does the Eiffel Tower have?** Three

**Actor Nicolas Cage is the nephew of what famous director?** Francis Ford Coppola

**What occasion corresponds with the longest day of the year?** The summer solstice

**Which three zodiac signs are water signs?** Cancer, Pisces and Scorpio

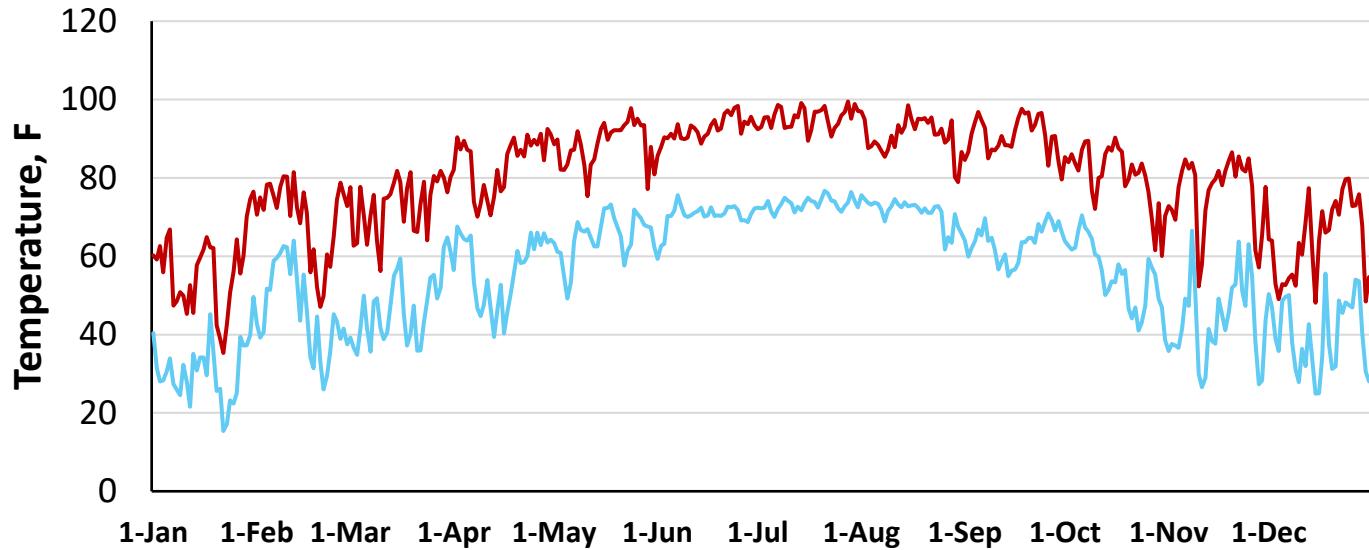
**What name is singer-actor Stefani Germanotta better known by?** Lady Gaga

**What year did the comedy sketch TV show, "Saturday Night Live," debut?** 1975

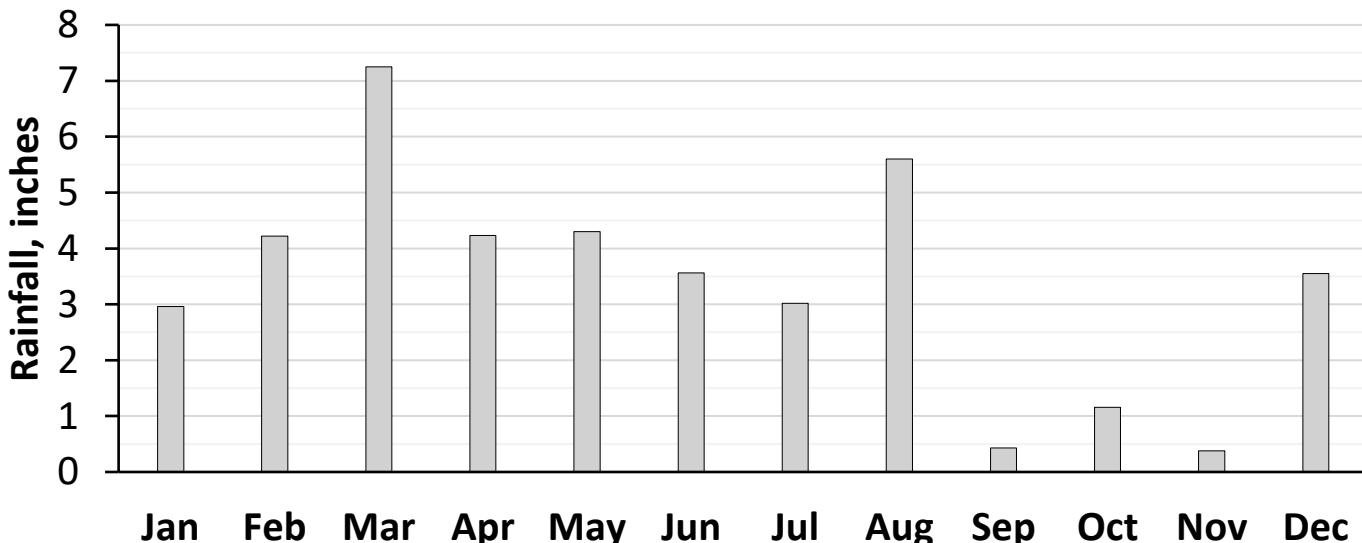


# SIRP Weather 2025

## Max and Min Temperatures



## Rainfall amount



# Contact us

**Stop by**

8207 Highway 37 West, Camilla, GA 31730

**Give us a call** to 229 522-3623

**Visit our website & watch our live camera!**

[www.striplingpark.caes.uga.edu](http://www.striplingpark.caes.uga.edu)

**Or send us an email**

Amilcar Vargas (Superintendent): amilcar.vargas@uga.edu

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**C.M. Stripling Irrigation  
Research Park**  
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**Commit to Groundbreaking Research**

Ag research keeps Georgia agriculture on the leading edge of the industry.



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