

# Stripling Irrigation Research Park

March 2018



Applying burn-down chemicals on Newton lateral field.

View more of Stripling's photos at...

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ugasirp>

## This Month

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# From the Superintendent

As I look back over February here at the Park, it's obvious the weather was on the variable side. We had 6.65 inches of rain in 7 events during the month with one event of 3.39 inches. The high temps ranged from 58F to 84F and the low temps ranged from 64F to 30F.

The SIRP staff was busy during the month spraying, fertilizing and irrigating Dr. Coolong's Vidalia onion plots. We sprayed burn-down herbicides on Dr. Vellidis' corn plot area under the "Newton" lateral. We disked and deep turned some of our field areas and ran the rototiller through some of last years' peanut plots to bury the hay. We also wrapped up the install of our Telone application hardware to our new strip-till implement. Dr. Vellidis and his technician John installed runoff flumes in the bermed plots in the corn area to quantify any irrigation and/or rainfall runoff.

We contracted with a local vendor to run their skid-steer mounted mulching tool through one of our pine areas to remove volunteer underbrush. This will allow us to run our rotary mower through the area in the future. The site looks much better now.

We were pleased that our local Valley Irrigation dealer, J&B Irrigation, worked with us to get an ICON10 panel for our Valley 4-tower center pivot. This smart panel along with an integrated AgSense unit will give us enhanced remote access and control options for this pivot.

Our friends with USGS worked it out to install sensors and a data recorder to do continuous monitoring of static water tables in the Floridan aquifer and Claiborne aquifer monitoring wells at the Park. We'll have the data live soon.

I was pleased to be invited over to the South Carolina Soil & Water Conservation Society annual meeting in Columbia. I did a presentation on dynamic VRI. I enjoyed visiting with several old friends – Phil Bauer, Ken Stone and Matt Smith. (BTW – it's a long haul from SW GA to Columbia and back in a day.)

As most of you know, crops will be planted soon – which means irrigation is just around the corner. As you fire up your irrigation system this year, be sure to check out our UGA Extension publication – "Spring Center Pivot and Lateral Irrigation System Preparation." You can find it at this link:

[https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201452\\_1.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201452_1.PDF)

Finally, take a look at this GFB Farm Monitor episode featuring the UGA Extension AgWET project that I've been involved in. The AgWET segment of the video starts at the 18:55 point. Here's the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVUubuoJkU>

Best of luck on your 2018 crop year!

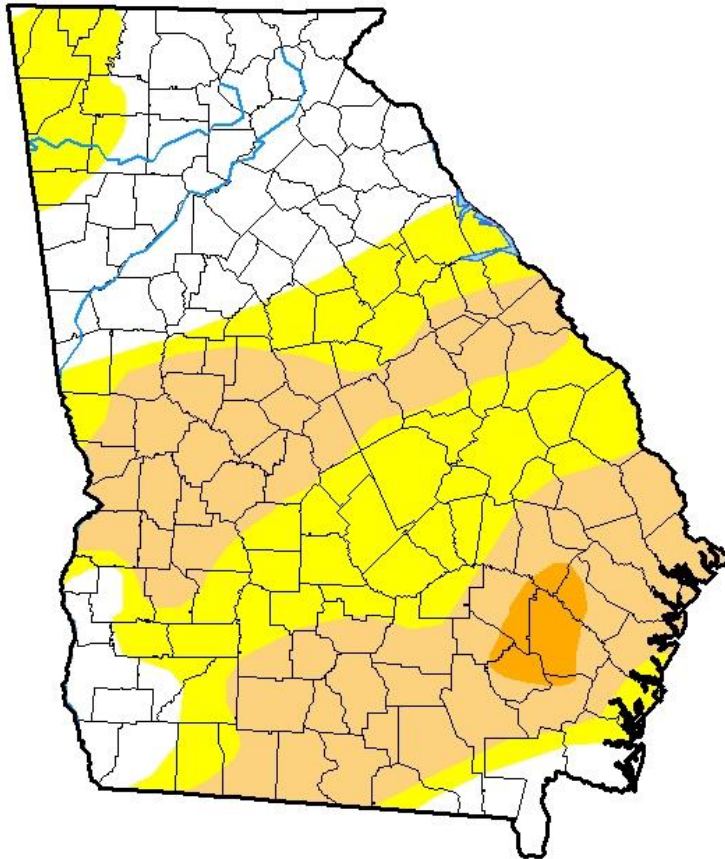


Calvin Perry

# Drought Conditions

## U.S. Drought Monitor Georgia

**March 6, 2018**  
(Released Thursday, Mar. 8, 2018)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	29.66	70.34	37.36	2.07	0.00	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> <i>02-27-2018</i>	31.83	68.17	26.88	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> <i>12-05-2017</i>	24.91	75.09	44.68	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> <i>01-02-2018</i>	12.14	87.86	40.66	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> <i>09-26-2017</i>	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> <i>03-07-2017</i>	66.26	33.74	27.56	19.39	8.69	0.00

Intensity:

- 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. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.*

Author:

Richard Tinker  
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



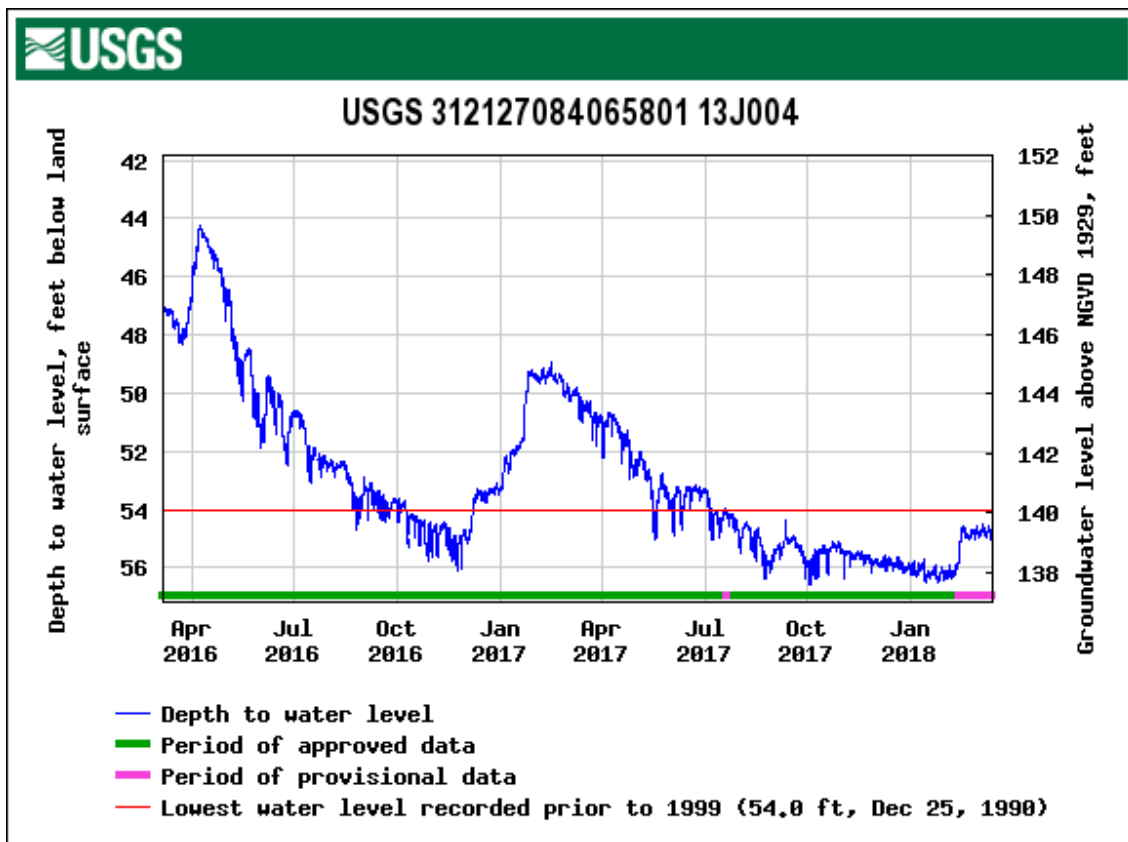
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Drought Monitor map for Georgia as of March 6<sup>th</sup>. Currently, conditions have improved such that 30% of the state is not classified as a drought condition. Southwest GA has improved quite a bit. But, in general, most of south GA is still in the “Abnormally Dry” or “Moderate Drought” category.

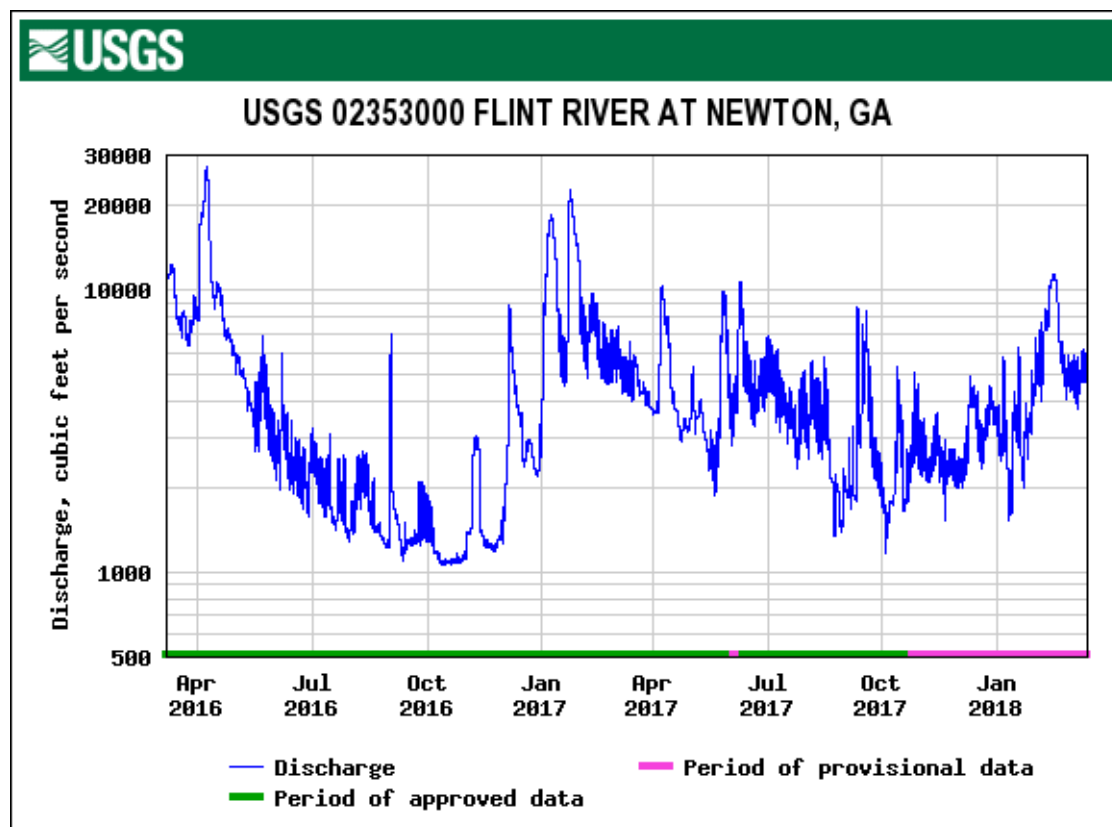
For more info:

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

# Water Resources



Above and below - USGS data for past 2 years for a groundwater monitoring well in northern Mitchell County and stream gage on the Flint River at Newton.



# At the Park



Above: Installation of Trellis' Davis Instrument rain gauge (left) adjacent to our weather station.

Below: B.J. spreading fertilizer to Dr. Coolong's onion plots.



# At the Park



Above: Vasileios Liakos (a.k.a. Bill) mapping GPS coordinates in center of Dr. Vellidis' corn plot areas.

Below: Runoff collection flume in Vellidis' plots in Newton lateral.



# At the Park



Above: Processing Dr. Vellidis' core samples from Newton lateral corn plots.  
Below: USGS installed sensors and logger to monitor the Claiborne and Floridan wells.



# At the Park



Above: Superintendents' meeting at Griffin campus. That's "UGA" in the center, not a superintendent.

Below: John and Matt (Vellidis' crew) installing Atmos weather station.





# Events

## Past events

February 2	Ga. Ag Forecast, Tifton
February 6	Corn Short Course, Tifton
February 9	Cotton & Market Update (Mitchell Co. Extension)
February 20	Peanut Prod. Update (Mitchell Co. Extension)
February 22	Young Farmers mtg.
March 1	Young Farmers mtg.
March 6	Golden Triangle (Better Backroads Workshop)
March 8	Young Farmers mtg.

## Upcoming events

March 15	Young Farmers mtg.
March 16	GFB mtg. (Water Commodity Commission)
March 20	Pecan Prod. Update (Mitchell Co. Extension)
June 5 – 7	4H2O camp

# In the News

[Farm Bureau Hails Confirmation of Northey for USDA](#)

[Farmers Call for Swift Action on Emissions Reporting Bill](#)

[Ag robot tracks crops as they grow](#)

[Strategies for corn nitrogen management in Michigan](#)

[Water wars: New power dynamic expected as key U.S. senator steps down](#)

[CAES Names Robert Stouggard New Assistant Dean of Research](#)

[Perdue welcomes industry to south georgia](#)

[Center Pivots: Breaking down the machine](#)

[\\$198,000 Conservation Innovation Grant to fund UGA cover crop research](#)

[Using the 2018 farm bill to boost private investment in conservation](#)

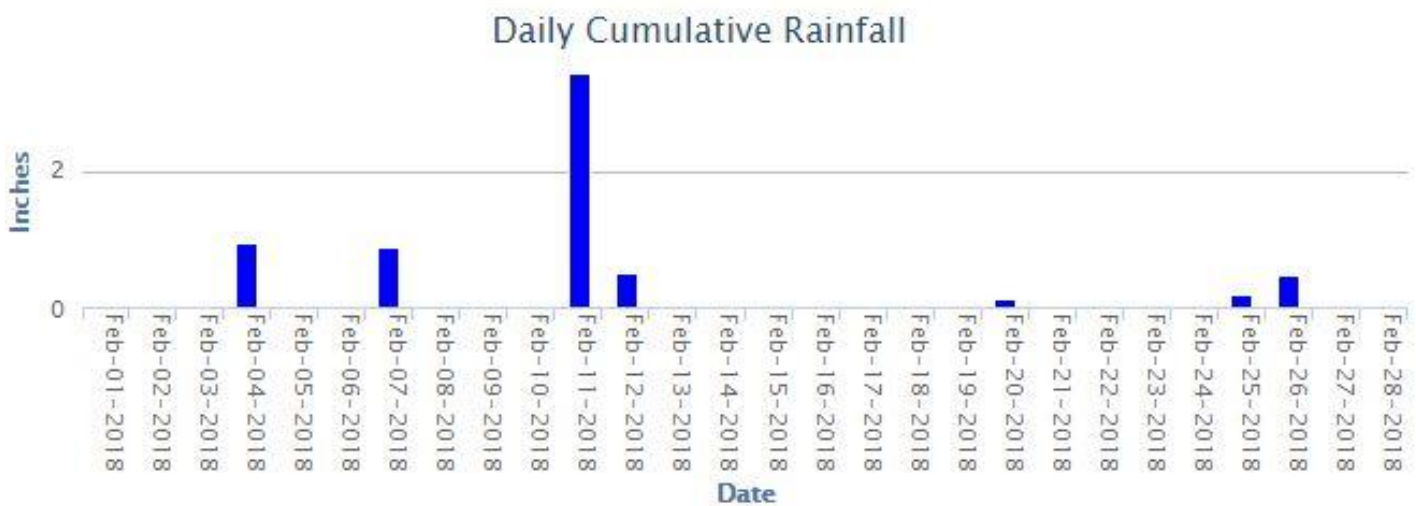
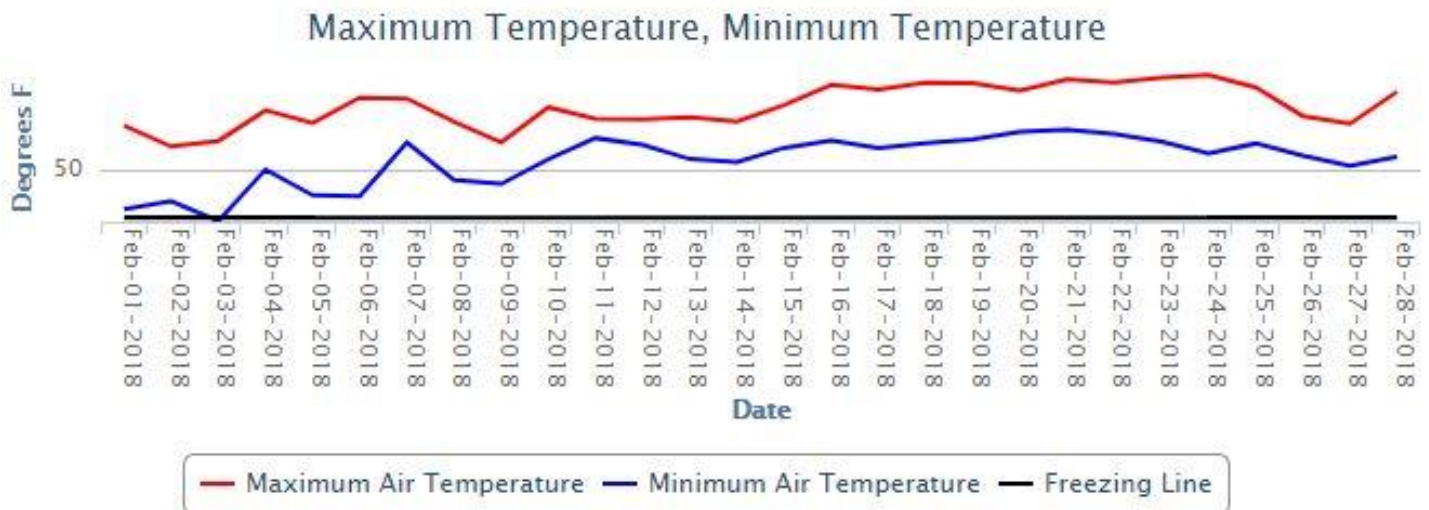
[GRAPHIC: America's digital divide, in 2 maps](#)

Video:

[Georgia Farm Bureau Members Take Ag Discussion to State Capitol](#)

[Georgia Peach Growers Track Chill Hours For 2018 Crop](#)

# SIRP Weather



For February, SIRP had 6.65 inches of rainfall, compared to 3.50 inches in January, 2.99 inches in December, and 0.54 inches in November.

To explore weather information, visit [www.georgiaweather.net](http://www.georgiaweather.net).

## **Flashback:** What year was it?

- Tennessee Williams' "Sweet Bird of Youth" premieres in NYC.
- "Bozo the Clown" live children's show premieres on TV.
- Plane crash kills musicians Buddy Holly, Richie Valens, and J. P. Richardson (Big Bopper).
- Alaska admitted as 49th US state and Hawaii becomes the 50th US state.
- Record company Motown is founded by Berry Gordy Jr. as Tamla Records.
- Jack Brabham won the 1959 Formula One World Championship by pushing his car over the finish line.
- First Grammy Awards: Perry Como & Ella Fitzgerald win.
- 1st transcontinental commercial jet flight (American) (LA to NY for \$301).
- Walt Disney's "Sleeping Beauty" released.
- 1st weather satellite launched, Vanguard 2.
- Groucho, Chico & Harpo Marx's final TV appearance together.
- Barbie makes her debut at the American Toy Fair in New York.
- NASA names 1st 7 astronauts for Project Mercury.
- Benjamin O Davis Jr becomes 1st black major general in US Air Force.
- Players vote Henry Aaron unanimously for the All-Star Game.
- "Pillow Talk" film starring Doris Day and Rock Hudson is first released.
- Congress passes a bill authorizing food stamps for poor Americans.
- Guggenheim Museum, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, opens in NY.
- Jack Benny (violin) & Richard Nixon (piano) play their famed duet.
- The 1st color photograph of Earth received from outer space.
- "Rawhide" with Clint Eastwood premieres on CBS TV.
- "Bonanza" premieres on NBC-TV.

**Born:** Mike Pence (current VP of US); Michael Kors (fashion designer); Linda Blair (actress "Exorcist"); Judd Nelson, Val Kilmer, and Aidan Quinn (actors).

**Deaths:** Frank Lloyd Wright (architect); Lester Dent (writer "Doc Savage"); Lou Costello (comedian); George Reeves (actor).

Minimum Wage - \$1.00 / hr.

new car - \$2,132 - \$7,401

new house - \$30,000

gallon of gas - \$0.25

loaf of bread - \$0.20

gallon of milk - \$1.01

# Contact Information

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UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**  
College of Agricultural &  
Environmental Sciences

## Did you know... ???

Smelling bananas and/or green apples (smelling, not eating) can help you lose weight!

(If that was really true, I should be skinny as a rail! Lol)