

Stripling Irrigation Research Park

May 2018



Huge moth outside our door last week.
Can anyone identify it?

View more of Stripling's photos at...

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

This Month

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From the Superintendent

April was a VERY busy month at Stripling Park as it was for most of our neighboring farmer friends. Field work at the Park included spreading pre-plant fertilizer, strip-till'ing to apply nematicide fumigant and prepare seedbed in numerous plots, planting corn, soybean and peanut plots, spraying herbicide, and irrigating plots. We also assisted Dr. Coolong in harvesting his 16 Vidalia onion plots. I must say we helped him grow some impressive onions!

Unfortunately, when we planted some of our corn plots, our Monosem planter was not configured optimally and it planted too many seed per foot of row. I made the decision that we would "thin" the seedlings in the corn plots to achieve the proper plant populations. This involved 5 days of the tedious work of removing plants – often on hands and knees. We've since determined the problems and (hopefully) remedied the issues.

Our field work was hindered very little by weather as we received only 5.06 inches of rain over 5 events, with the April 22nd event dumping over 2.5 inches on the Park. Temps were still on the cool side as we had a low of 38F one day. On the 23rd, we had additional rain, but more importantly, the Park experienced a freak episode of straight-line winds in excess of 50 MPH. While the wind tossed around some light things (trash cans etc.), the main damage was a very large oak tree that fell on our property line and took down a small section of fence. The tree was likely over 100 years old.

Speaking of weather, just days before the rain and wind hit, the Park was fortunate to have Wayne Smalley of Rivers Associates (Chapin SC) arrange to have an EnviroMonitor unit from Davis Instruments installed near our AEMN weather station. This unit has a basic weather station as well as expansion capabilities including wireless modules that can connect various sensors remotely back to the main unit. We will be evaluating and comparing this unit over this season.

While on the subject of equipment, we received our much-anticipated Marksman Injection System from SureFire Ag (Atwood KS). Our local dealer, Rick Heard (Dothan AL) configured it and did some training for BJ, principal operator at SIRP. We actually used the Marksman unit yesterday to 'fertigate' corn plots for Dr. Vellidis and it work very well. This will enable SIRP to more accurately chemigate and fertigate research plots. Thanks to Drs. Vellidis, Kemerait, and Toews for helping us purchase the unit.

UGA Extension is once again continuing the AgWET project. This year we have replaced 3 of the 11 county agents that will be working with soil moisture sensors in farmer cotton fields along with UGA's Smart Irrigation App to better schedule irrigation.



Calvin Perry

From the Superintendent

If you will indulge me a moment with a point of personal pride, I'd like to mention that our daughter, Heather, just graduated from the University of Georgia with her Specialist in Education degree at the grad school commencement in Athens last weekend. She is now a double Dawg as she got her BSEd at UGA back in 2011. (MSEd is from Ga Southern.) I guess you can tell, her mom and dad are very proud!



Drought Conditions

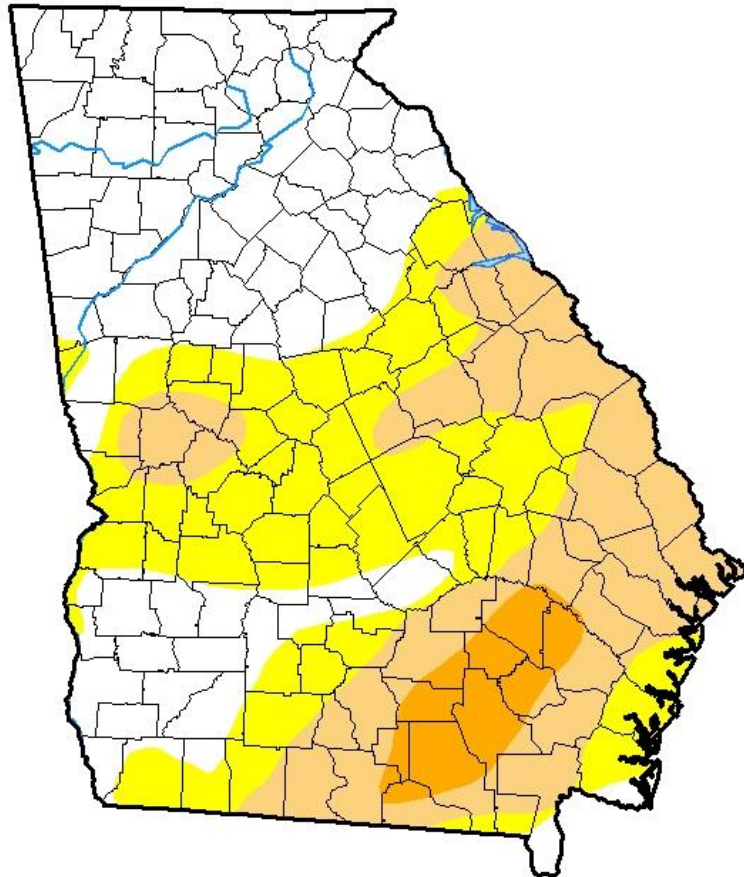
U.S. Drought Monitor Georgia

May 8, 2018

(Released Thursday, May. 10, 2018)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)



	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	40.50	59.50	30.19	5.30	0.00	0.00
Last Week <i>05-01-2018</i>	42.46	57.54	28.48	5.30	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>02-06-2018</i>	7.47	92.53	46.63	11.53	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-02-2018</i>	12.14	87.86	40.66	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>09-26-2017</i>	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago <i>05-09-2017</i>	11.87	88.13	54.20	23.47	6.24	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:

David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center



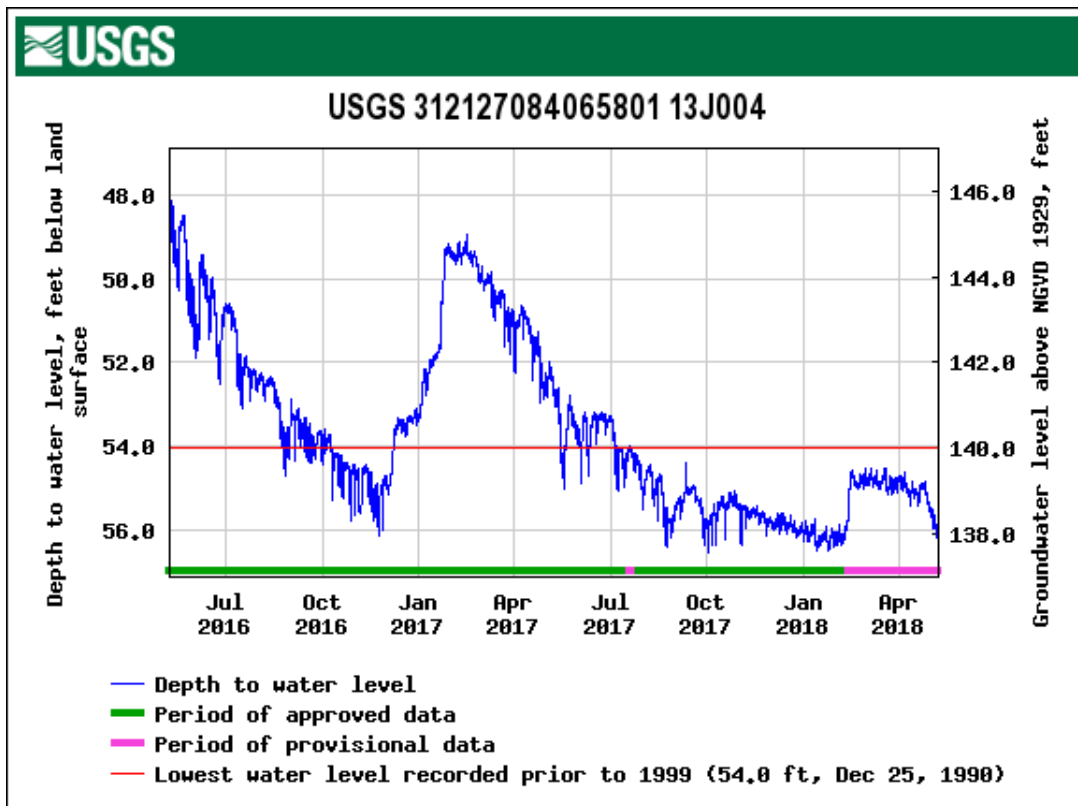
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Drought Monitor map for Georgia as of May 8th. Currently, 59.50% of GA is at least in the “Abnormally Dry” category with 5.3% rated as “Severe Drought” – and that zone is in SE Ga.

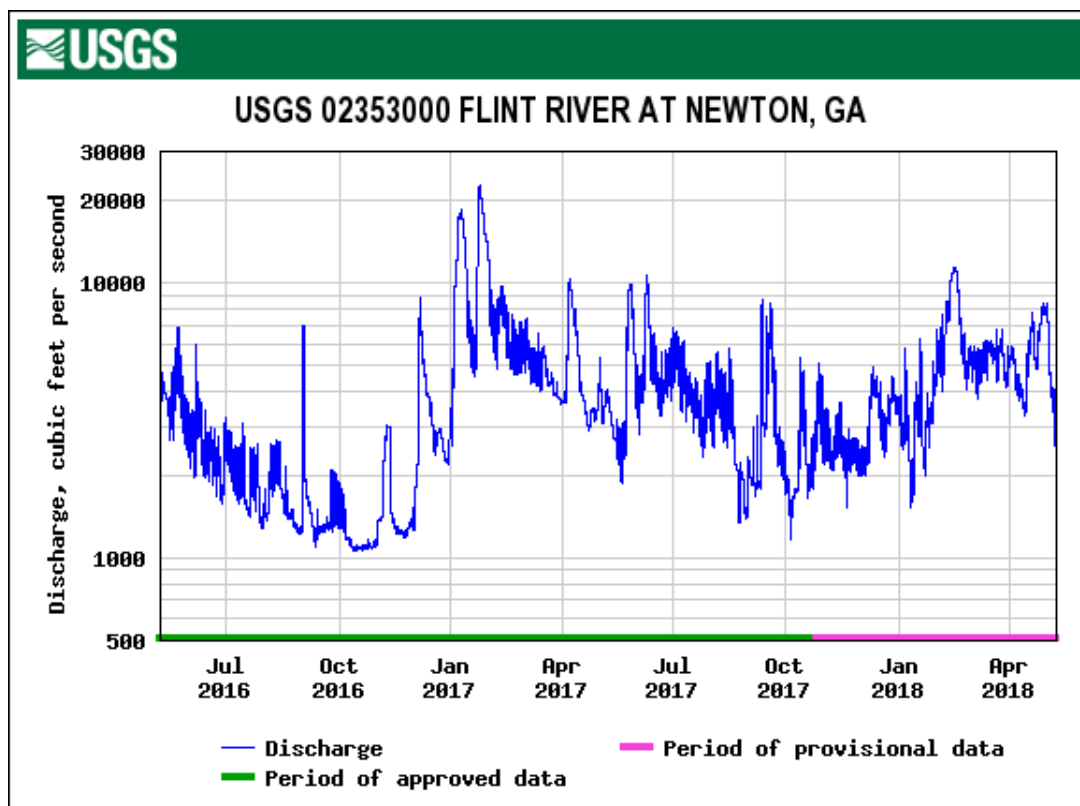
For more info:

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home/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: Ivey planting peanuts in the Newton Lateral field.
Below: Cale planting peanuts in the Camilla Lateral field.



At the Park



Above: Having to repair busted water line.

Below: Cotton emerging in the Camilla Lateral field.



At the Park



Above: Cale planting soybeans in the Front 4 South field.
Below: Dr. Snider & Stefano setting up drone in Camilla Lateral cotton.



At the Park



Above: Spraying corn in Access field.
Below: Corn in Front 4 North coming along nicely.



At the Park



Above: Applying Liquid N on corn in Front 4 North field.
Below: Spreading fertilizer in VRI field in preparation for cotton.



Events

Past events

April

Was a quiet, but very busy month!

Upcoming events

May 15

UGA Tifton Ecology class visit

June 5 – 7

4H2O camp

June 12

NRCS training

July 12

IGEL tour

August 22

AGL tour

September 10

Forestry Judging Contest

In the News

[Georgia Cotton Growers Hope to Rebound from 2017](#)

[Georgia Pecans: Keep an Eye Out for Pecan Nut Casebearer](#)

[Soil Health Minute: SHARE farm and soil health research](#)

[ALABAMA FARMERS DISCUSS FARM BILL PLANS WITH AG SECRETARY](#)

[NCC: Farm Legislation Passage Much Needed](#)

[How Industrial AI Can Maximize the Potential of Agriculture's Planting Season](#)

[National Peanut Board Launches PeanutVision.org to Leverage Key Issues](#)

['Cow Fitbits' and artificial intelligence are coming to the dairy farm. But some farmers aren't so impressed.](#)

[Brandon Batten uses drone to zero in on crop problems and answers](#)

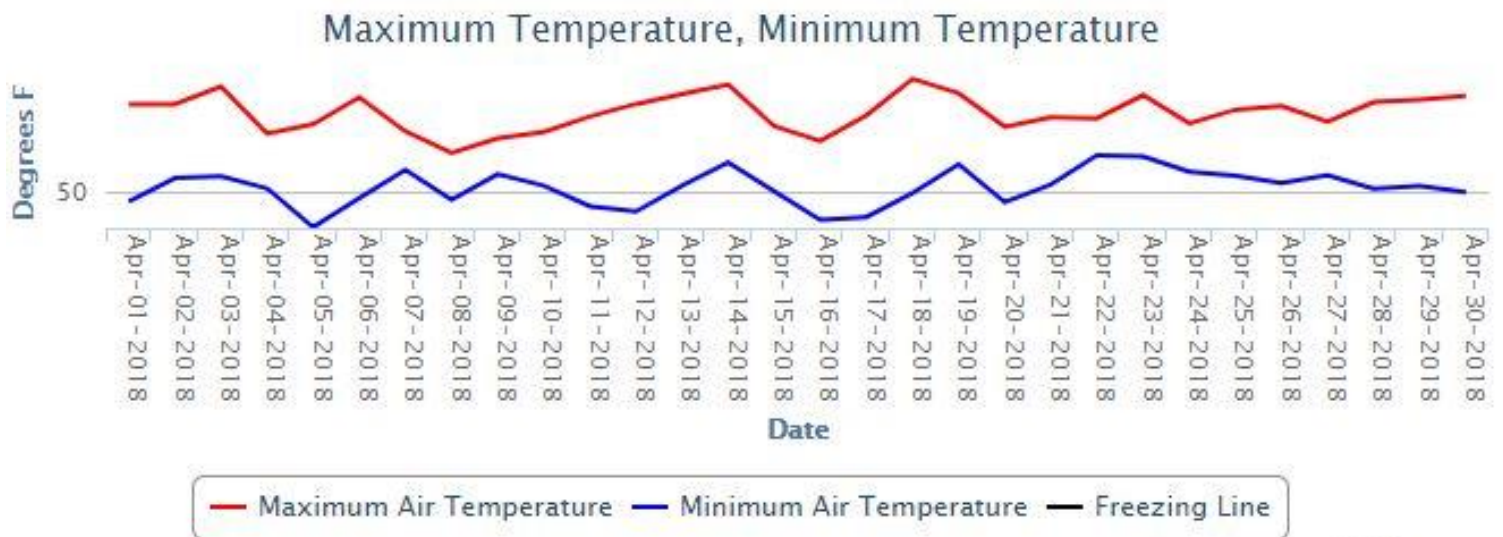
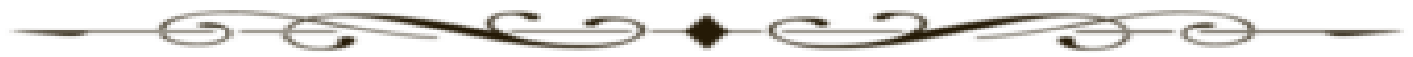
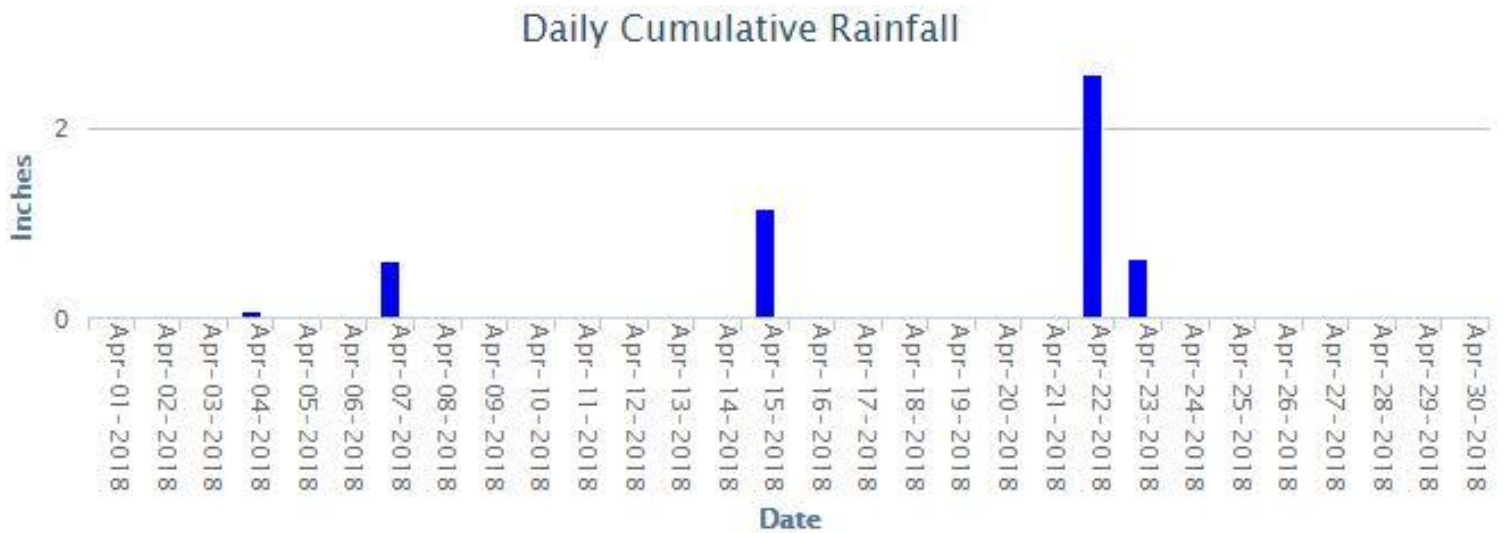
[Satellites, Supercomputers Can Now Identify Crops, Help Forecast Yields](#)

Video:

[Iron Talk - Spring Soil Sampling](#)

[John Block: Down on the Farm – May 2018](#)

SIRP Weather



For April, SIRP had 5.06 inches of rainfall, compared to 4.09 inches in March, 6.65 inches in February, and 3.50 inches in January.

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

Flashback: What year was it?

- NASA launches the first space mission to Pluto as a rocket hurls the New Horizons spacecraft on a nine-year journey.
- NASA's Stardust mission successfully ends, the first to return dust from a comet.
- 20th Winter Olympic Games open in Turin, Italy, Luciano Pavarotti sings "Nessun dorma" in his last ever performance.
- President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad confirms that Iran has successfully produced a few grams of low-grade enriched uranium.
- The Human Genome Project publishes the last chromosome sequence, in 'Nature'.
- 72nd Sugar Bowl: #11 West Virginia beats #7 Georgia, 38-35.
- 11th Critics' Choice Movie Awards: Brokeback Mountain wins Best Film.
- Kobe Bryant scores a career-high 81 points in a victory against the Toronto Raptors, the second most in NBA history in one single game.
- Alan Greenspan retires as Chairman of the Federal Reserve.
- A powerful winter storm blankets the Northeastern United States dumping 1 to 2 feet of snow from Washington, D.C. up to Boston, Massachusetts. The storm dumped a record 26.9 inches of snow in New York City.
- Over 60 tornadoes break out, hardest hit is Tennessee with 29 people killed.
- Construction begins on the Freedom Tower for the new World Trade Center in New York City.
- Barry Bonds hits his 715th career home run, passing Babe Ruth on the MLB all-time list.
- "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest" premieres at Disneyland - becomes fastest film to gross over 1 billion.
- WikiLeaks is launched, created by internet activist Julian Assange.
- North Korea conducts its first nuclear test, with an estimated yield of between 0.4 - 2 kilotons.
- Saddam Hussein, former president of Iraq, is sentenced to death & hung, for the role in the massacre of the 148 Shi'as in 1982.
- Official naming of element 111, Roentgenium (Rg).
- Taylor Swift's very first album was released.
- Reese Witherspoon and Ryan Phillippe ended their seven year marriage.
- Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt welcome little Shiloh into the world.
- O.J. released his infamous book "If I Did It".
- The fantastic film Little Miss Sunshine came out, starring ten-year-old Abigail Breslin.
- Steve Irwin, "The Crocodile Hunter," died after a stingray stung him in the heart.

Pop songs: "Because of You" - Kelly Clarkson; "Photograph" - Nickelback; "Jesus, Take the Wheel" - Carrie Underwood

Born: Barron Trump (1st kid); Mckenna Grace, (Crash & Bernstein); Suri Cruise (daughter of Tom & Katie)

Deaths: James Brown (musician); Gerald Ford (38th President); Shelley Winters (actress); Don Knotts (actor/comedian)

Minimum Wage - \$5.15 / hr.

New Car - \$28,800 avg.

New House - \$266,000 avg.

Gallon of gas - \$3.03

Loaf of bread - \$0.97

Gallon of milk - \$3.23

Contact Information

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UNIVERSITY OF
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Trivia / Interesting facts:

A 'jiffy' is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second!