

Stripling Irrigation Research Park

April 2019



Disking the VRI, getting the field ready to plant Dr. Kemerait's cotton.

This Month

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UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

College of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences

**C.M. STRIPLING IRRIGATION
RESEARCH PARK**

From the Superintendent

March, as usual, is the month we really get things going in the plots here at the Park. With no rain over the last half of the month, we've been able to make progress with our field work. As you'll see later in the newsletter, we received only 3.31 inches of rain over just a few events.

Early in the month, we began disking in several of our fields where the studies will be planted using conventional tillage. Later in the month, we deep turned our "Front-4 North" field (in conservation tillage since 2010) and "Camilla Lateral North" field followed by some additional disking. We spread pre-plant dry blend fertilizer in plots for Drs. Harris, Kemeraït, Porter and Vellidis and then strip-tilled and applied nematicide fumigant. We planted corn in these plots March 26-28. After planting, we applied standard herbicides and irrigated over the plots to aid in germination and chemical activation. We terminated remaining rye cover crop in several plot areas in preparation for planting cotton and peanuts.

Other field work involved doing uniformity tests on our two of our pivots and two of our linear-move systems. We do this each year to make sure we're applying the amounts of irrigation our researchers need on their plots.

We hosted several visitors at the Park last month, including Sheldon Alt and Lee Addams with Cropmetrics; Dan Burgard and Hunter Brannon with CES/Valley Irrigation; Marty Saylor and Andy Murdock with Lindsay Irrigation; Rad Yager with Certified Ag; Wilson Faircloth with Syngenta; Wayne Smalley with Rivers Associates; Gary Holloway with USGS; and James Burgess and Mary Blomgren with Trellis. Abby Davis with the Flint River Soil & Water Conservation District 'borrowed' one of our center pivot systems to train her co-workers on the how-to's of doing a pivot uniformity test. Our BJ and Mandy assisted her. We were pleased to host a couple meetings at the Park, including the Golden Triangle RC&D Soil Health workshop and the last spring meeting of Mitchell Co. Young Farmers.

Several other meetings took place last month. I attended the annual CAES Superintendents and Farm Managers meeting in Tifton hosted by Andy Carter and Dr. Joe West. BJ, Mandy and I attended the UGA Extension AgWET workshop "Increasing Yield and Profitability in Peanut and Cotton Production Through Irrigation Efficiency" held in Tifton. I also attended the annual UGA Extension ANR Agents and Specialists workshop in Tifton. I presented at the UGA Extension Agent Foundations training in Tifton and at the Upper Flint Regional Water Council meeting in Reynolds. I also helped coordinate a meeting of AgWET project agents in Perry.

I'm very pleased to note that Stripling Park received two awards last month. The Mitchell County 4-H and Stripling Park were jointly recognized as the Georgia ProjectWET Organization of the Year for our work with the 4-H2O Summer Camp. We received this award in Albany. The Park also received the Georgia Water Coalition Clean13 Award at a gala in Atlanta. It is very gratifying for the Park to receive such recognition.



Calvin Perry

Drought Conditions

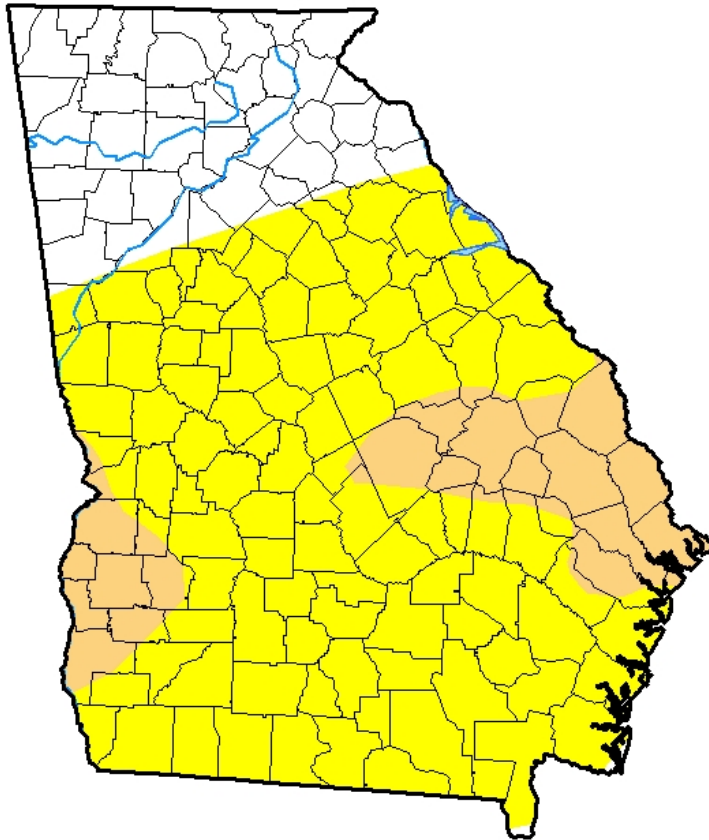
U.S. Drought Monitor Georgia

April 9, 2019

(Released Thursday, Apr. 11, 2019)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)



	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	20.88	79.12	14.47	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 04-02-2019	20.88	79.12	12.95	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 01-08-2019	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2019	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-25-2018	70.95	29.05	6.72	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 04-10-2018	23.69	76.31	56.92	17.72	0.00	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:

Deborah Bathke
National Drought Mitigation Center



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

Drought Monitor map for Georgia of April 9th. We see a big change from last month. Currently, about 79% of GA is in the abnormally dry or moderate drought conditions.

For more info:

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

At the Park



Top: Visitors from CropMetrics.

Bottom: Abby with Flint River Soil & Water Conservation District doing a training on conducting pivot uniformity tests.



At the Park



Above: Dan and Hunter installing Valley soil moisture sensor in Rye in our “Newton” linear-move field.

Below: Golden Triangle workshop on soil health.



At the Park



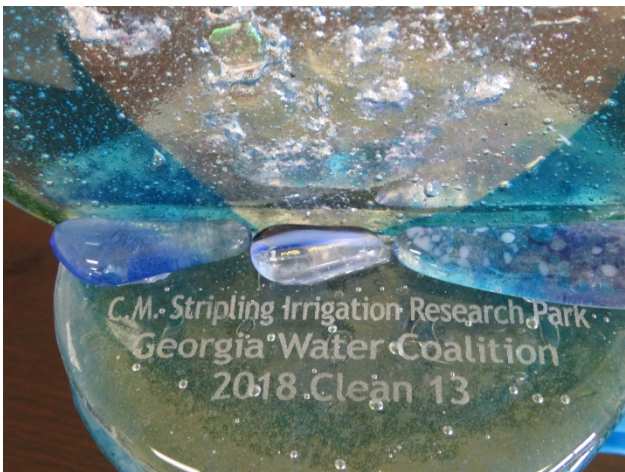
Left: Mandy teaches 4th graders about irrigation at the Mitchell Co. Ag Awareness Day.

Below: B.J. planting Dr. Vellidis' corn in the Newton Lateral field.



Awards

Stripling Irrigation Research Park was awarded the 2018 Clean 13 Award by Georgia Water Coalition. We were nominated by “friend of the Park” Gordon Rogers, Flint Riverkeeper. Calvin and Dean Pardue accepted the award on behalf of the Park.



Awards

Mitchell Co. 4-H and Stripling Irrigation Research Park were awarded the 2019 Georgia ProjectWET Organization of the Year for our joint 4-H2O Summer Camp.



Events

Past events

March 7	Young Farmers mtg.
March 14	Golden Triangle – Soils workshop
March 18	Using Pesticides Wisely (Mitchell Ag Ctr)
March 19	Young Farmers mtg.
April 10	ABAC's Dr. Erin Porter's class visit & tour

Upcoming events

May 27	Memorial Day
June 11 - 13	4H2O Camp
July 4	Independence Day
July 18	Field Day
Sept 2	Labor Day
Sept 9	SW Dist. Forestry Field Day

In the News

[Pecan Growers Should Use New Varieties When Replanting Groves](#)

[How can US adapt to threat of water shortages?](#)

[Georgia's Pecan Industry at Crossroads](#)

[There's an App for That](#)

[New, more efficient way to reduce water use and improve plant growth](#)

[Central Texas Drinking Water Crisis](#)

[How To Transform 60,000 Irrigation Pivots Into Autonomous Growing Machines](#)

[Exploring Ag Robotics' Potential – and Challenges](#)

[Georgia Peanuts: When Should We Start Planting?](#)

[Georgia Cotton: Planting Techniques to Ensure a Successful Stand](#)

[Peanut growers encouraged to be patient about contracting](#)

[Picking, playing the 'brackets' for spring planting madness](#)

[Nitrogen-fixing corn is farming's holy grail. But when?](#)

[Start thinking about soybean seed treatment](#)

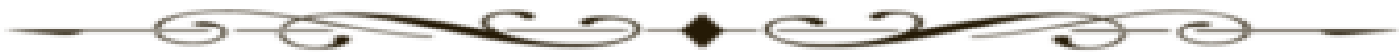
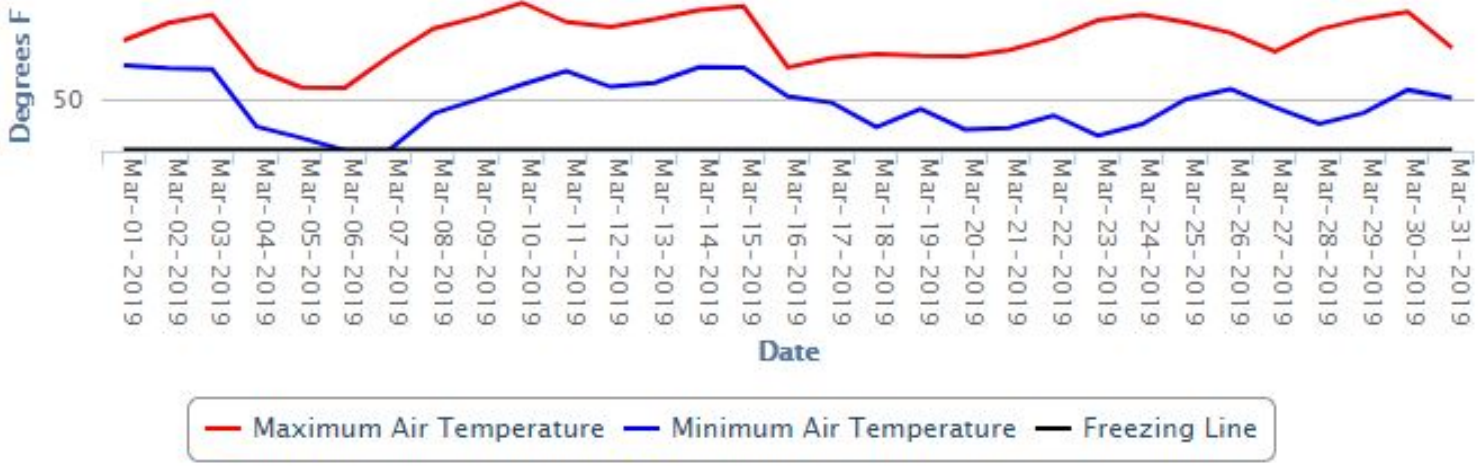
[April 15 is deadline to comment on new Clean Water Rule](#)

[Pecan growers should use new varieties when replanting groves](#)

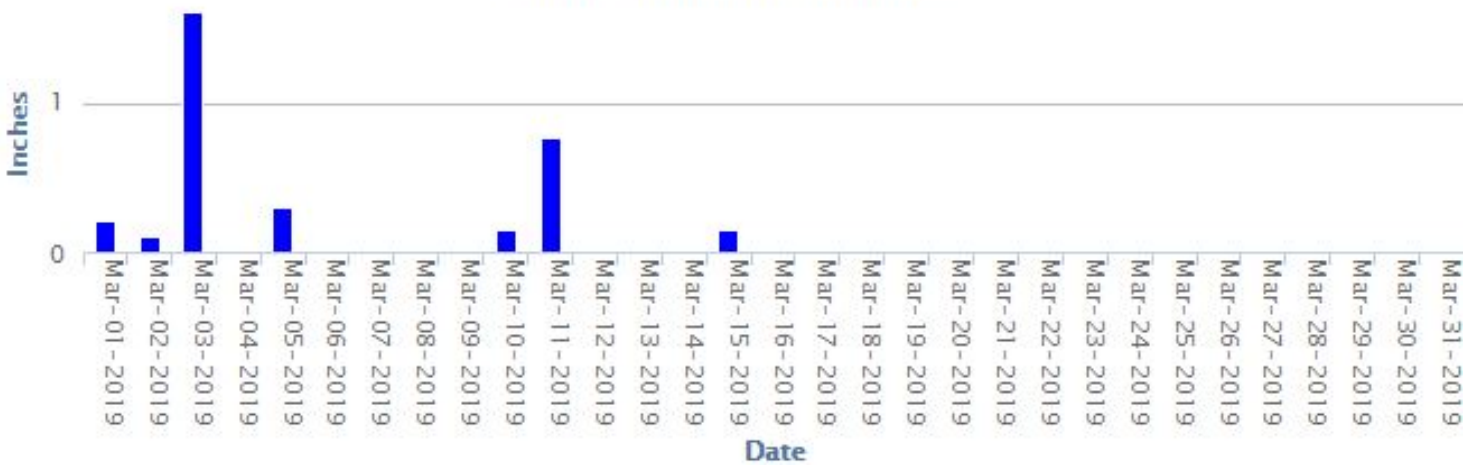
[El Nino impacts Georgia agriculture](#)

SIRP Weather

Maximum Temperature, Minimum Temperature



Daily Cumulative Rainfall



For March, SIRP had 3.31 inches of rainfall, compared to 2.67 inches in February, 4.84 inches in January and 9.73 inches in December.

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

Contact Information

CM Stripling Irrigation Research Park
8207 Highway 37 West
Camilla, GA 31730
(229) 522-3623

Calvin Perry (Superintendent): perrycd@uga.edu
Candace Gray (Admin. Associate): sirp@uga.edu



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Trivia:

What are roller coasters classified as by the U.S. Patent Office?