

Stripling Irrigation Research Park

January 2019



Picture perfect... frosty, cold, foggy morning across the VRI field.

View more of Stripling's photos at...

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

This Month

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From the Superintendent

Happy New Year to all our administrators, scientists, friends and supporters! I hope your 2019 has started off well after enjoying a joyous and restful holiday break. All of us here at SIRP certainly enjoyed our break. But, like the entire Bulldog Nation, we were heartbroken with the loss in the Sugar Bowl. We all look forward to the 2019 season! Go Dawgs!

Many of us are now in the report writing, proposal writing, and meeting attending time of year. Our local Mitchell County Extension office is hosting a number of farmer-oriented production meetings and there will be larger corn, cotton, and peanut meetings in Tifton later this month. Make plans to attend meetings in your county and/or the meetings in Tifton.

The SIRP crew has been busy with winter maintenance on our equipment, doing some checks and tweaks of VRI zone definitions related to research plots in two of our linear-move system fields, and have been fertilizing/irrigating rye cover crop for Dr. George Vellidis. Wet conditions have prevented us from doing much else in the field.

The Park received 9.73 inches of rain in December (and 1.16 inches this month). For 2018, the Park received **73.8 inches** of rain which is the highest recorded amount by our weather station, dating back to 2003. Next highest from our weather station would be 2009 (65.55 inches). According to Pam Knox with UGA Weather Network, “the NWS observer at Camilla 3SE (that is 3 miles SE of downtown Camilla) reported 64.06 inches for 2018. That was the 7th wettest since 1889. The wettest at that spot was 68.43 in 1991. So clearly there is some variability across the county.” As such, the updated drought index map for Georgia and the Southeast (later in this newsletter) essentially shows no drought conditions. I tried to include NOAA “National Climate Report” data for county-level information on precip and temps – but you guessed it – the federal shutdown has the website down.

I was pleased to visit with Will Bentley, new President of the GA Agribusiness Council, along with Marty McLendon and Casey Cox of the Flint River Soil & Water Conservation District. Will was in SW Ga to learn more about the water/irrigation issues. I also hosted Hal Jacobs and Gordon Rogers (Flint Riverkeeper) to shoot video related to SIRP’s inclusion in the Clean13 report.

In early December, I ventured out to Long Beach CA to attend the ‘18 Irrigation Association Irrigation Show and Education Conference. This event is always a great opportunity to learn what’s new in irrigation and hear from other researchers.

Speaking of water, you’ll remember that last fall the Supreme Court changed ‘special masters’ and appointed Paul Kelly, Jr. to serve as Master “on remand” for the FL vs GA case. In November, the new Special Master ruled that he did not need to re-hear oral arguments from the attorneys for Florida and Georgia. Instead he found that the case records are adequate to resolve the case. Let’s hope that this happens sooner rather than later.

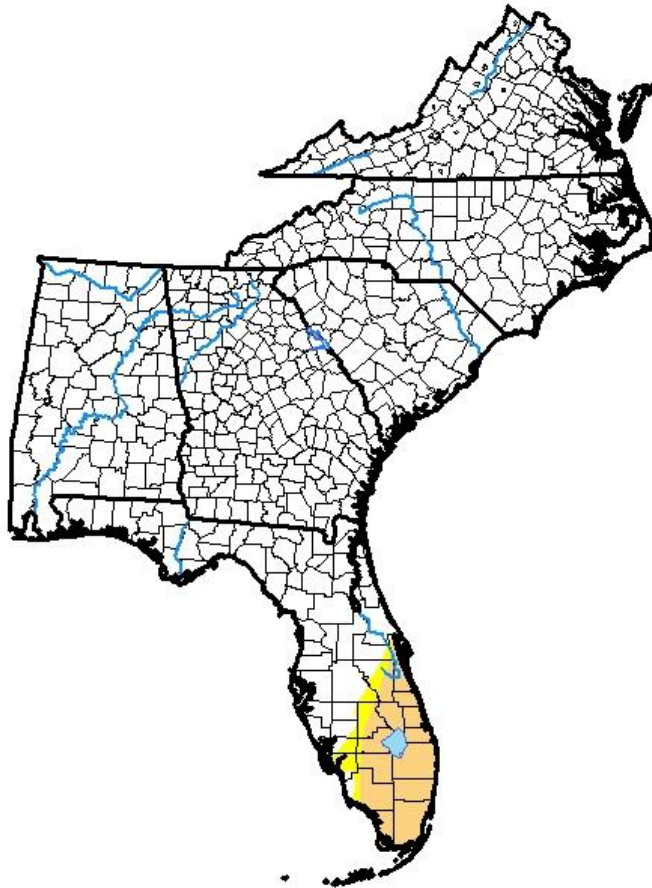


Calvin Perry

Drought Conditions

U.S. Drought Monitor Southeast

January 8, 2019
(Released Thursday, Jan. 10, 2019)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



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:

Brad Pugh
CPC/NOAA



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

Drought Monitor map for SE/Georgia as of January 8th. Currently, all of GA is out of drought conditions. Good news!

For more info:

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

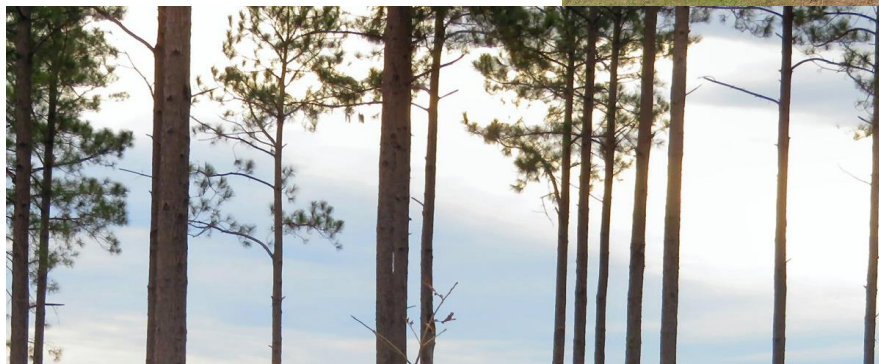
At the Park



All: Strong hurricane winds do a lot of damage to the solar panels, drop hoses, weather station & large doors on shop.



At the Park



Above and below: Slowly cleaning up SIRP's damage during hurricane Michael.



At the Park



Left: Cale pulling soil samples.

Below: Mandy removing impact sprinklers.



Events

Past events

December 3-7	Irrigation Assoc. Show & Conf. (Long Beach CA)
December 11	FRSWCD District Meeting
January 8-10	Beltwide Cotton Conf. (New Orleans)
January 15	Westminster Schools student tour

Upcoming events

January 16	Disease Mgmt. Update (Mitchell Ag Ctr.)
January 17	Ga Peanut Conf. (Tifton)
January 22-23	Auburn Irrigation Conferences
January 24	Corn Short Course (Tifton)
January 28	Peanut Production Update (Mitchell Ag Ctr)
January 30	Ga Cotton Conf. (Tifton)
January 31	Ag Forecast - Bainbridge
January 31	Young Farmers mtg.
February 1	Ag Forecast - Tifton
February 5	Pecan Production Update (Mitchell Ag Ctr)
February 7	Young Farmers mtg.
February 14	Young Farmers mtg.
February 21	Young Farmers mtg.
February 26	Cotton & Market Update (Mitchell Ag Ctr)

In the News

[Agri-business based in Brazil bringing jobs to Moultrie](#)

[More Ga. Electric Co-Ops May Begin To Offer Internet Service](#)

[THE YEAR FOR GEORGIA FARMERS: 'MAN, IT WAS GUT WRENCHING'](#)

[Closing the Digital Divide](#)

[Georgia Developmental Authority to administer loan program to farmers affected by Hurricane Michael](#)

[Georgia pecan farmers face more than one hurricane's worth of pain](#)

[While metro economies thrive, rural Georgia not keeping pace](#)

[Smart drone used to study effects of variable rate irrigation in cotton](#)

[Can We Grow More Food on Less Land? We'll Have To, a New Study Finds](#)

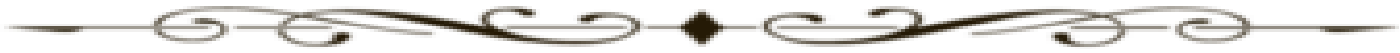
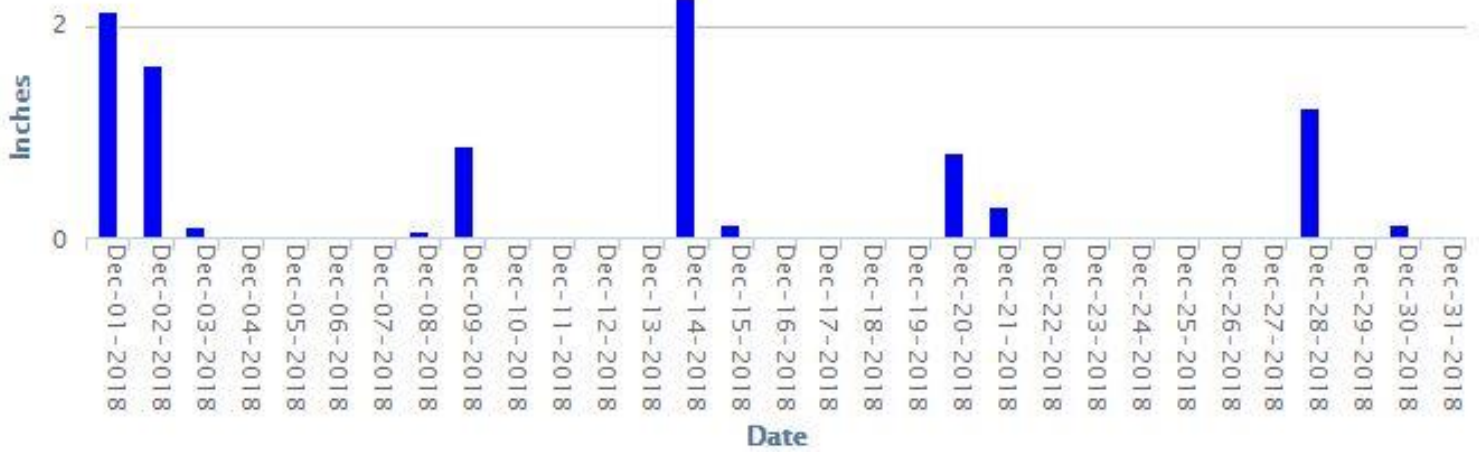
[Georgia Pecans: 'Avalon' a Quality Cultivar for Recovering Farmers](#)

[Old Sparky: Could Electricity Be Farming's New Weed Killer?](#)

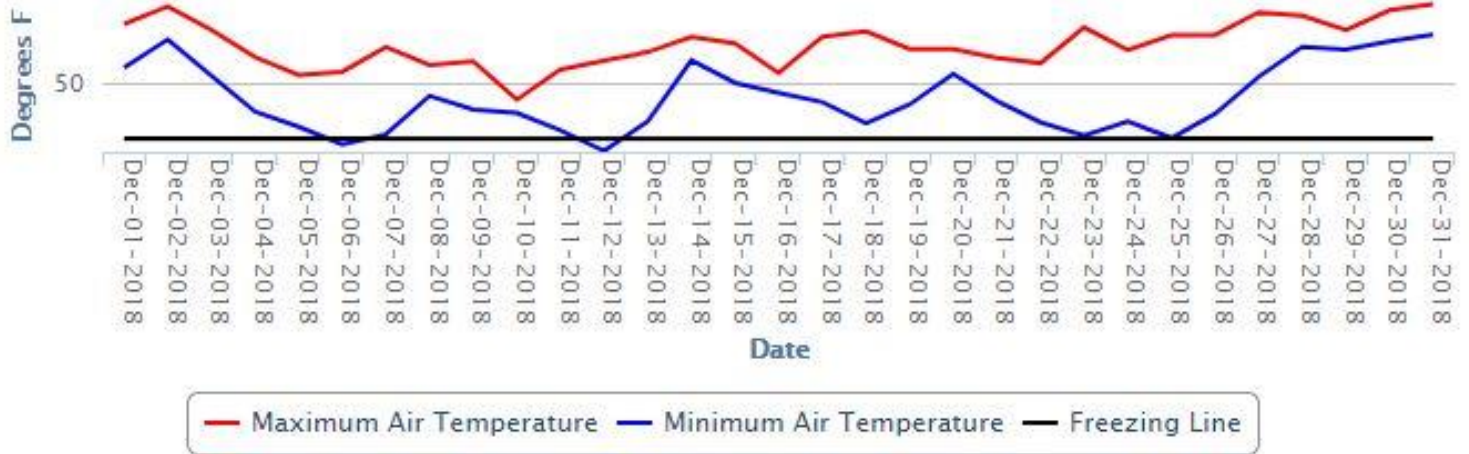
[What happened with corn weeds in 2018 can guide us today](#)

SIRP Weather

Daily Cumulative Rainfall



Maximum Temperature, Minimum Temperature



For December, SIRP had 9.73 inches of rainfall, compared to 5.48 inches in November and 6.63 inches in October.

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

Contact Information

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UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
College of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences

Trivia:

Which President was the first to be televised?