

# Stripling Irrigation Research Park

July 2019

Stripling  
Irrigation  
Field Day

July 18, 2019

8:30 am - noon

## This Month

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UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**

College of Agricultural &  
Environmental Sciences

C.M. STRIPLING IRRIGATION  
RESEARCH PARK

# From the Superintendent

For the first time since we started the monthly SIRP newsletter, we were not able to put together the June edition. We were simply so busy in early June that we weren't able to put it together. Hopefully we won't let that happen again.

Since we missed the June edition, I'd like to mention the extreme temps we experienced from May 17<sup>th</sup> through the end of May – 15 straight days with highs above 90F (and only 0.47 inches of rain). On May 26, the high was 101F! In total, May at SIRP had 19 days with highs above 90F and only 3.42 inches of rain. The long-term averages for May in Camilla are 86.5F high and 3.58 inches of rain. These extreme temps were tough on our corn that was tasseling and on newly planted cotton, peanuts and soybeans. We actually had to re-plant a few studies. Only now has several of our studies 'recovered' from the tough conditions.

The SIRP crew has been very busy lately re-planting plots, irrigating plots, applying additional nitrogen to cotton plots (traditional and fertigation), applying herbicides, insecticides and fungicides, applying gypsum, repairing equipment, and repairing irrigation systems. With recent rain, we've been mowing grass almost daily.

Visitors to the Park (May – June) included CropMetrics, Lindsay Irrigation, Valley Irrigation, Omya Inc., and NRCS. We hosted a meeting with UGA/CAES Ag & Applied Economics as well as a workshop for Georgia Farm Bureau young farmers. I participated in a planning meeting for UGA/CAES exhibit at Sunbelt Expo as water will be a theme this year. Cale Cloud, extension water agent, Perri Campis, project manager with Flint River Soil & Water Conservation District, and I ventured down to Live Oak, FL, to visit with our friends at the Suwannee River Water Management District to learn how they quantify ag irrigation pumping.

Our 'big event' for the month was the annual 4-H2O Day Camp. We hosted 177 4-H campers at the Park (240 folks total) on day 2 of the camp. We had 6 great presenters that included Kasey Bozeman, Cale Cloud, Sylvia Davis, David Hall, Julie Shutters, and John Snider. Day 1 was held at the Blackshank picnic area on the UGA Tifton campus. Day 3 was at Wild Adventures theme park near Valdosta. You can find photos from 4-H2O camp later in this newsletter.

Currently, we are in the final planning phase of this year's Field Day event which will be held on July 18<sup>th</sup>. Registration starts at 8:30a with first field tour starting at 9:10a. We will have a free catered lunch to end the event. Please RSVP if you plan to attend.

Our Field Day highlights research projects taking place here at the Park and we have our scientists speak on the field tours about their projects. In addition, our keynote speakers will be my boss, Dr. Bob Stougaard, UGA CAES Assistant Dean for Research and Dr. Mark McCann, UGA CAES Assistant Dean for Extension. Please join us!

Reminder – July is Smart Irrigation Month!!



Calvin Perry

# Smart Irrigation Month

Georgia Governor Brian Kemp has officially declared July 2019 as Smart Irrigation Month. Smart Irrigation Month serves as the showcase month to promote the social, economic, and environmental benefits of and farmers' commitment to the adoption of efficient irrigation technologies, and leading-edge products and services in agriculture, landscape, and turf irrigation. Smart Irrigation Month is an Irrigation Association initiative.

You can learn much more about Smart Irrigation in Georgia by going to this website: <https://www.smartirrigationgeorgia.com>. By going to the "Features" page, you can view the video in which Gov. Kemp made his irrigation proclamation.

Stripling Park is part of the SmartIrrigationGeorgia Team and we will be sending out more information on irrigation innovations throughout July.

Other team members include

- + Flint River Soil & Water Conservation District
- + USDA-NRCS, USDA-ARS
- + Georgia Farm Bureau
- + Southwest Georgia Water Stewards
- + Georgia Department of Agriculture
- + Georgia Agribusiness Council
- + The Georgia Chamber of Commerce
- + Metro North Georgia Water Planning District
- + Urban Ag Council





# Smart Irrigation Month

June 27, 2019

Press Release

## **GOVERNOR BRIAN KEMP DECLARES JULY AS SMART IRRIGATION MONTH**

Atlanta, Georgia — Governor Brian Kemp has declared July 2019 as Smart Irrigation Month in Georgia. Smart Irrigation Month serves as the showcase month to promote the social, economic, and environmental benefits of and farmers' commitment to the adoption of efficient irrigation technologies, and leading-edge products and services in agriculture, landscape, and turf irrigation.

Governor Kemp stated, "We are proud to recognize our farmers for their efforts in utilizing Smart Irrigation. Using the right amount of water in the right place at the right time enhances the productivity and quality of our Georgia Grown crops and preserves a precious resource for generations to come."

Water is critically important to citizens and industries across the state of Georgia. New technologies have advanced irrigation methods to optimize water use. A dynamic collaboration of entities in Georgia has teamed up to spotlight Smart Irrigation tools, management practices and the social and economic benefits derived from irrigated agriculture throughout the month of July, to share the message of Georgia's commitment to water stewardship.

Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Gary W. Black shared, "Georgia has been blessed with an abundance of natural resources that combine to make us Nature's Favorite State, and our farmers know that keen conservation of these resources is vital to the continued success of our industry and economy as a whole. We applaud our farmers for staying ahead of the curve of environmental stewardship with their proactive implementation of smart irrigation methods."

Georgia is nationally and internationally recognized leader for the efficient irrigation technologies developed by irrigation and precision agriculture scientists and researchers that have been tested, refined and adopted industry-wide.

Georgia's farmers are utilizing water resources to produce high quality, safe, affordable and nutritious fresh food to meet our domestic and global market demands.

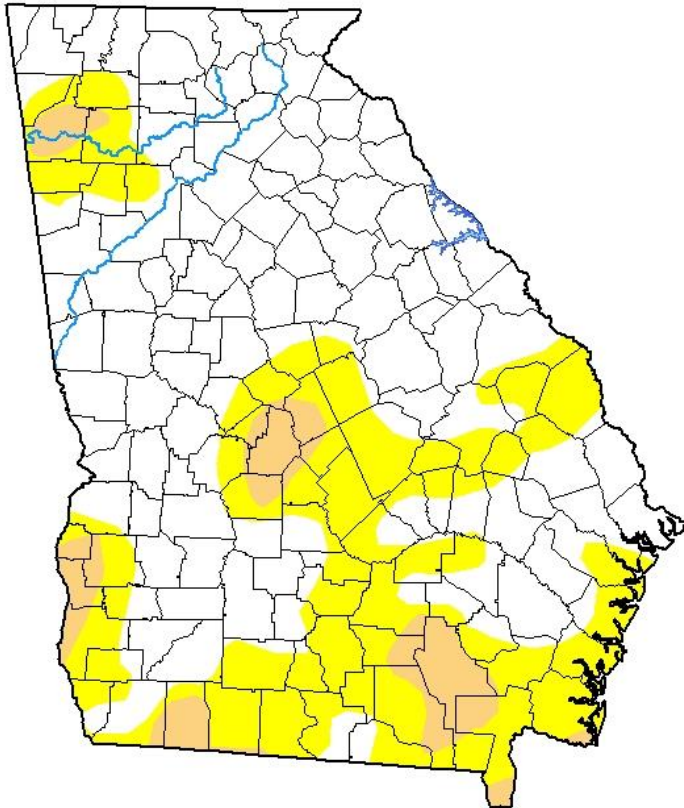
Smart Irrigation Month will celebrate our industry's achievements and commitment to the sustainable use of available water resources.

For more information, visit [smartirrigationgeorgia.com](http://smartirrigationgeorgia.com). Smart Irrigation Month is an Irrigation Association initiative.

# Drought Conditions

## U.S. Drought Monitor Georgia

**July 2, 2019**  
(Released Wednesday, Jul. 3, 2019)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	63.35	36.65	6.89	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 06-25-2019	56.68	43.32	6.12	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 04-02-2019	20.88	79.12	12.95	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-01-2019	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-25-2018	70.95	29.05	6.72	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 07-03-2018	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- 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



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

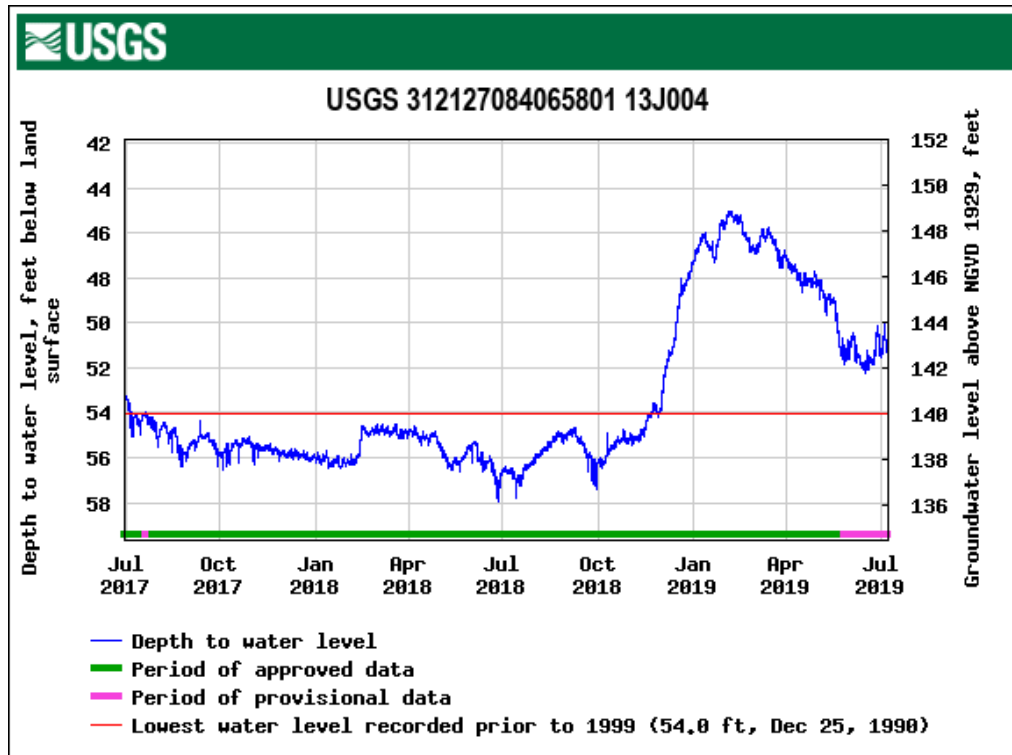
Drought Monitor map for Georgia as of July 2nd. Currently, about 37% of GA is in the abnormally dry or moderate drought condition category.

For more info:

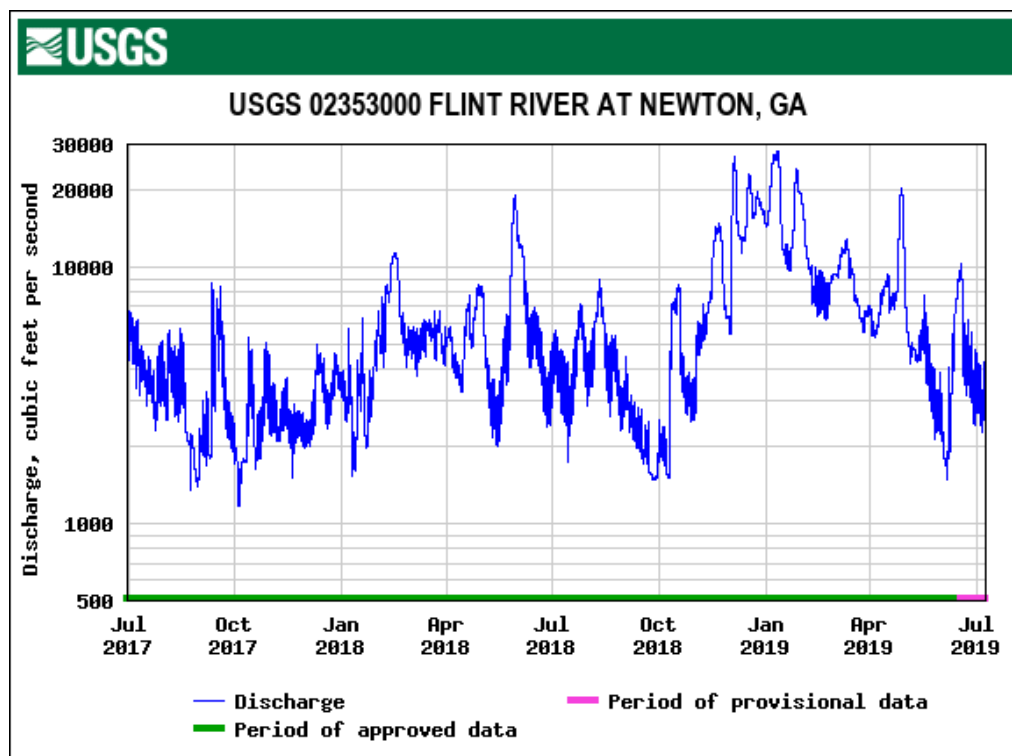
[https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?GA)

[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



Top: Drone captures planting of cotton in Camilla lateral.  
Bottom: Drone captures irrigating of “Newton lateral” corn.





# At the Park



Above: We would like to welcome our newest employee, Kyle Matthews. He is an Agricultural Specialist.

Below: B.J. and Kyle repairing lateral risers.





# At the Park



Left: Dr. Vellidis' corn coming along nicely in the "Newton Lateral" field.

Below: New GPS for Lindsay pivot.





# 4H2O at Black Shank Pavilion



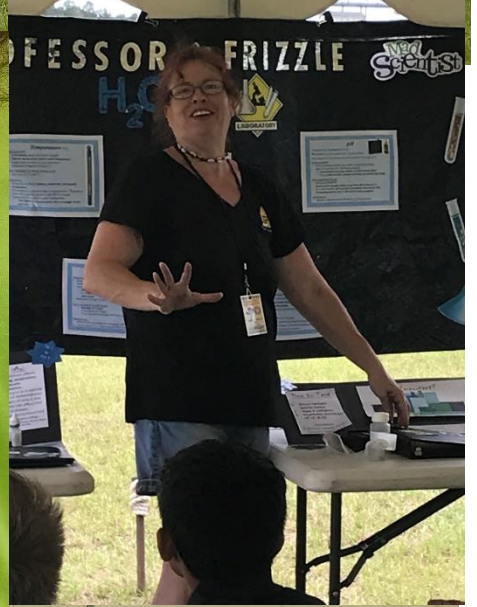
C.M. Strippling Irrigation  
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EXTENSION  
Mitchell County





# 4H2O At the Park





# Events

## Past events

June 11 - 13	4H2O Camp
July 4	Independence Day

## Upcoming events

July 11	IGEL
July 18	Field Day 2019
Sept 2	Labor Day
Sept 9	SW Dist. Forestry Field Day



# In the News

[Georgia: Cotton Aphid Management- We Need the Fungus!](#)

[Georgia Cotton: 1st Bloom is Here; Protect Your Crop, Maximize Yields](#)

[Farm Belt Howls as EPA Proposes No-Growth Biofuel Mandate for 2020](#)

[Water-logged soils won't stop SCN, might spread issues](#)

[Wet conditions may foster crop blight](#)

[U.S. beekeepers lost over 40 percent of colonies last year, highest winter losses ever recorded](#)

[Research probes mechanisms for soil health success](#)

[PTO Problems Solved](#)

[Go with Flowmeters for Efficiency and Accurate Reporting](#)

[JICYMI: A Letter to the Non Ag Community](#)

[The Impact of Irrigation](#)

[Smart irrigation: Declaring 'more crop per drop'](#)

[Cotton farmers put water entitlements on the market](#)

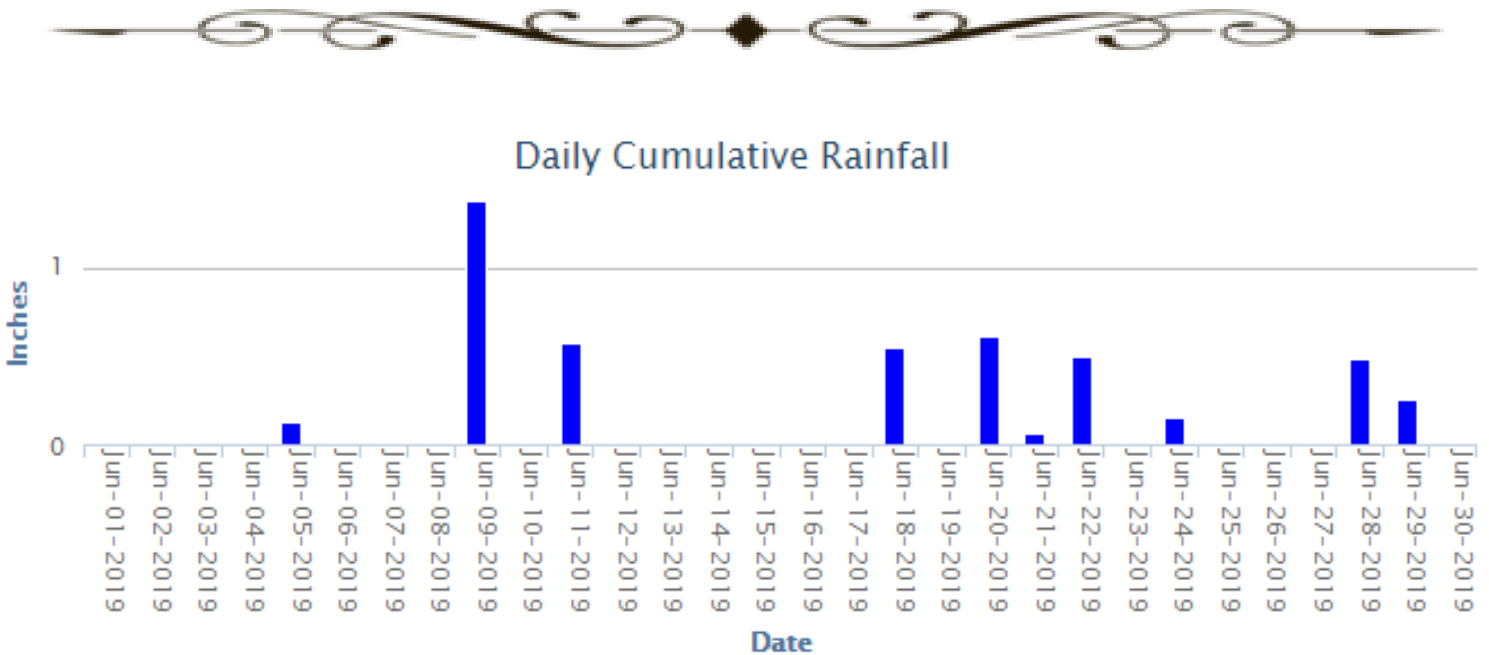
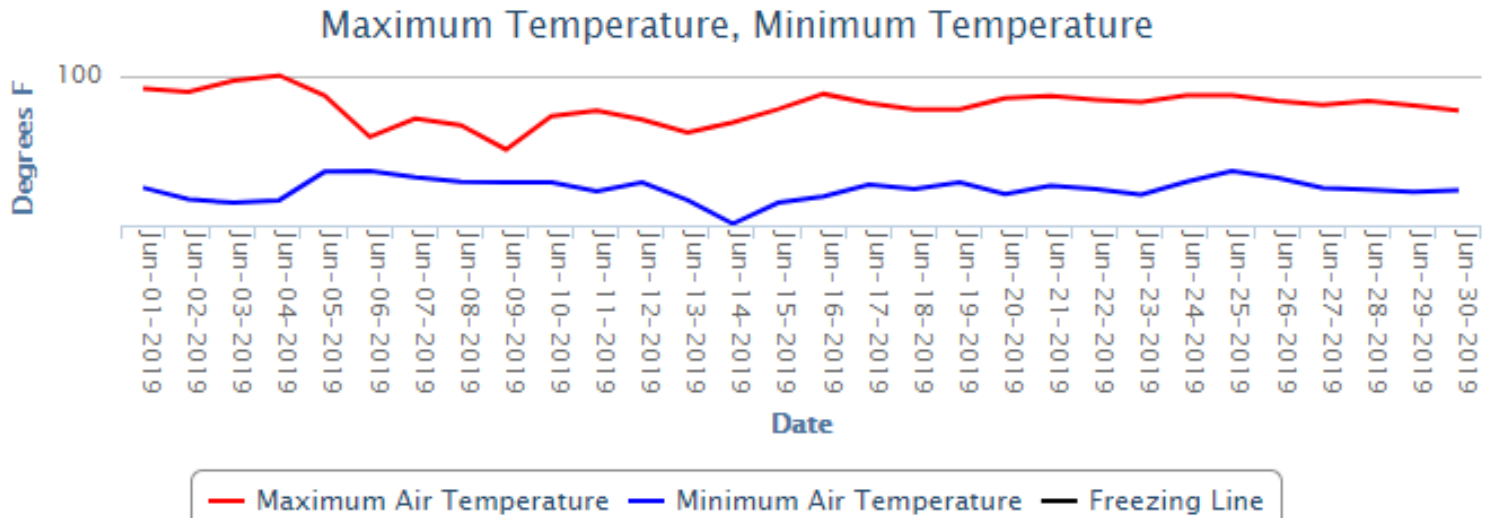
[Combination of water scarcity and inflexible demand puts world's river basins at risk](#)

[A wellspring of innovation: NMSU researchers test new water conservation practices](#)

[Senators examine intersection of agriculture and climate change](#)

[How Can I Improve Profitability?](#)

# SIRP Weather



For June, SIRP had 4.77 inches of rainfall, compared to 3.42 inches in May, 4.25 inches in April, and 3.31 inches in March.

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



# Contact Information

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## C.M. Stripling Irrigation Research Park

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**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

### Trivia:

In Massachusetts, what is it illegal to have in the bathroom?

Answer: A light switch.