

Stripling Irrigation Research Park

May 2019



Irrigating 3 zones in the Newton lateral field.

This Month

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**UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA**

College of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences

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

From the Superintendent

April is a very busy month at Stripling Park. With corn emerging in some plots and rapidly growing in other plots, we irrigated and also applied side-dress fertilizer to corn research plots for Drs. Harris, Porter and Vellidis. The 'side-dress' fertilizer was applied by conventional on-surface method and by fertigation (injection) method. We ran the disk harrow and field cultivator quite a bit to prepare plots for planting soybean sentinel plots and for planting cotton research plots. We applied pre-plant fertilizer and ran the strip-till implement to apply nematicide fumigant and subsoil through the hard pan layer ahead of cotton planting. We even had to repair a couple leaks in our subsurface drip irrigation system.

Yes, you read that right – we had to irrigate corn last month. We received only 4.25 inches of liquid sunshine over 8 events. Our max temps ranged from 61.9F to a balmy 90.8F with low temps from 44F to 69F – quite a range. We also irrigated plots ahead of planting cotton for an optimal seedbed.

I had several meetings taking place last month. Early in the month, Casey Cox, Cale Cloud, Dr. George Vellidis, Dr. Chris Butts and I were involved in county agent trainings for our 2019 SW Ga AgWET irrigation scheduling project. I also attended (as member) and made a presentation dealing with AgWET at the Lower Flint – Ochlockonee Regional Water Council meeting. Mid month I ventured up to Athens to attend and present at the biennial Georgia Water Resources Conference. It was nice to get a shout-out for our work at the Park from two of the keynote speakers.

Visitors to the Park included my boss, Dr. Bob Stougaard (Assistant Dean for Research) and J Dorsey (Director of Facilities and Real Property). We also hosted Dr. Erin Porter's ABAC irrigation and drainage course for their annual visit to the Park to learn about our work with irrigation systems and technologies.

Speaking of meetings, since I've reached the magic 30 years with UGA, I took advantage of meeting with HR representatives over on the Tifton Campus to go over my status in the Teachers Retirement System. As of right now, I'm happy to be continuing in my current position.

Finally, I'm pleased to report that we have flown and captured photos and videos using our new UAV/drone – named "SIRP IV". SIRP's BJ and Mandy are much better "pilots" than I am but I can say that none of us have crashed the drone (yet). We appreciate the funding from the Stripling family to help purchase this tool. The donation was made to honor Ivey Griner, former SIRP employee – hence the name "SIRP IV".

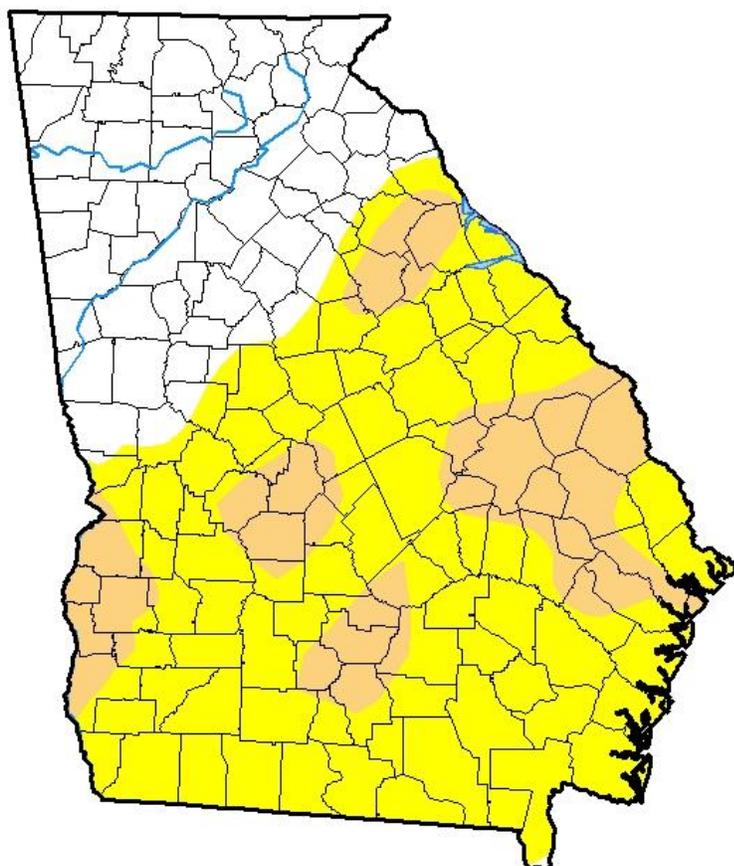


Calvin Perry

Drought Conditions

U.S. Drought Monitor Georgia

May 7, 2019
(Released Thursday, May. 9, 2019)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	29.58	70.42	18.24	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 04-30-2019	29.58	70.42	13.09	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 02-05-2019	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 05-08-2018	40.50	59.50	30.19	5.30	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:

Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center



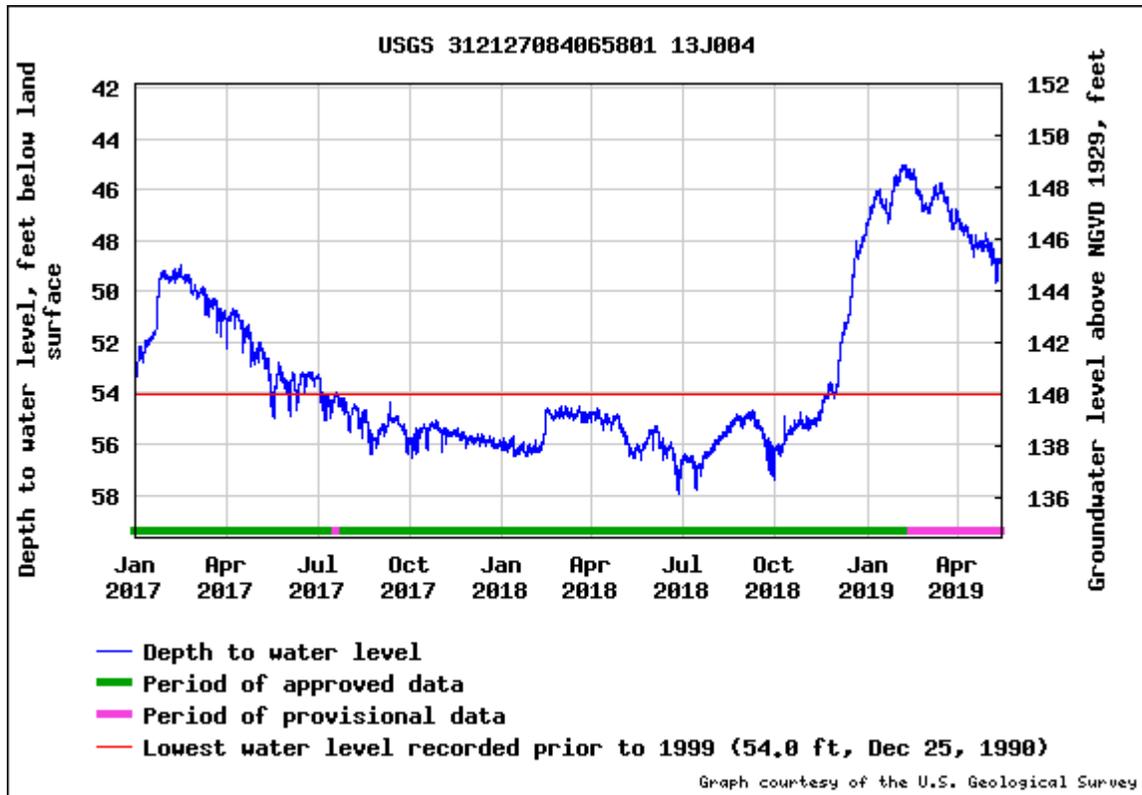
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Drought Monitor map for Georgia as of May 7th. There was slight change in the drought 'picture' for the state from last month with 9% more of the state under NO drought conditions but 4% more in the Moderate Drought condition. Currently, about 71% of GA is in the abnormally dry or moderate drought condition category. Rains last weekend may very well have changed the map.

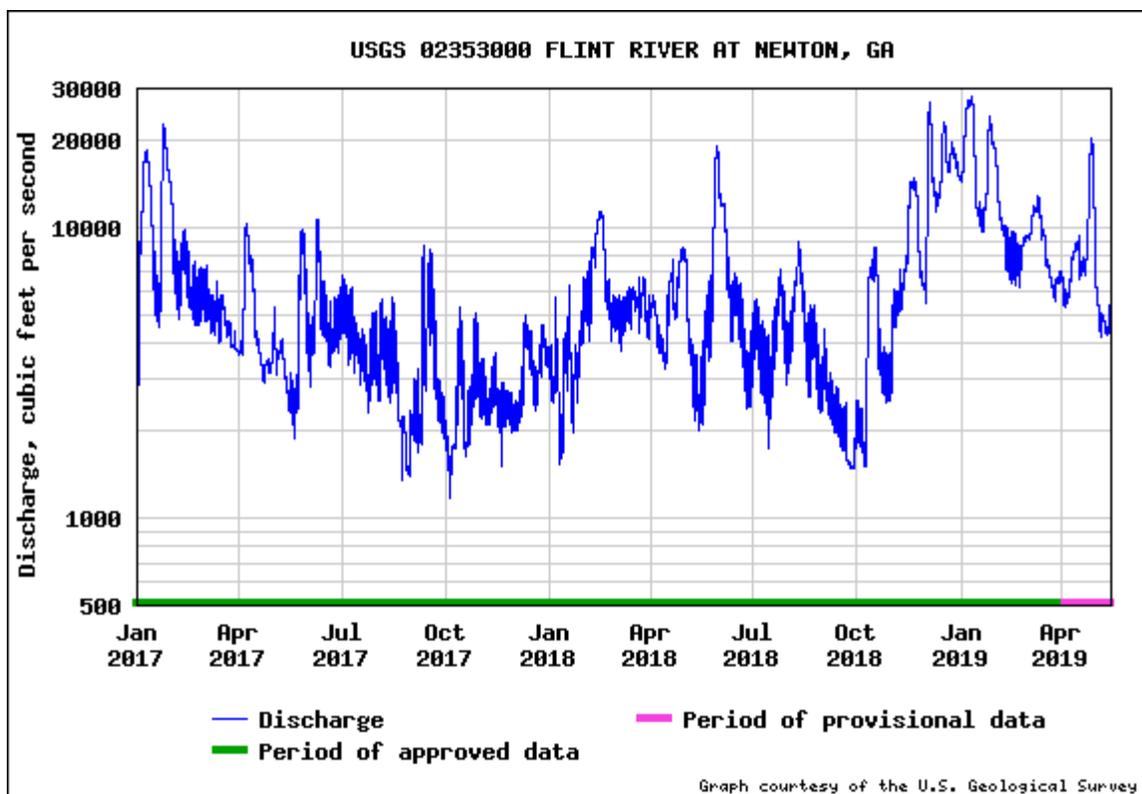
For more info:

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?Southeast>

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: ABAC's Dr. Erin Porter's class tours SIRP.
Bottom: Dr. Wes Porter's corn plots.



At the Park



Above: Dr. Vellidis' crew sampling in the Newton north field.
Below: Dr. Vellidis' crew putting in soil moisture sensors in the
Newton middle field.



At the Park



Left: Mandy irrigating Dr. Vellidis' corn in the Newton field.
Below: Our new drone... another tool to help watch over the crops



At the Park



Above Left: Dr. Kemerait's soybean plots coming up nicely.
Above Right: Dr. Kemerait's sentinel corn plots looking good.
Below: B. J. planting Dr. Snider's cotton in the Camilla lateral field.



Events

Past events

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

In the News

[Georgia Cotton: Nematodes – What You Do Now Affects Everything You Do Later](#)

[Georgia Cotton: Herbicides and “Dusting In” Seed – It’s Complicated](#)

[Cotton - Tips To Establish A Good, Healthy Stand](#)

[GFB leaders to Congress: farmers need disaster aid](#)

[Drip irrigation increases farm efficiency](#)

[Wrangler uses locally-sourced sustainable cotton in new collection](#)

[They identified the ‘mother of all peanuts’](#)

[House Approves Disaster Bill](#)

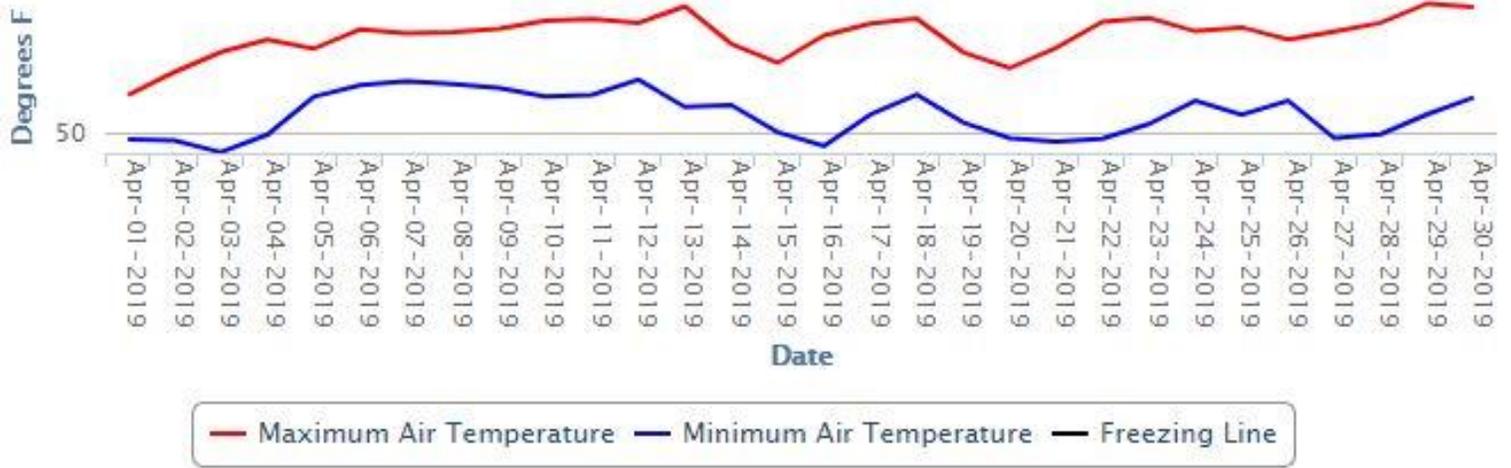
[USDA crop progress: Corn planting still sluggish](#)

[Tips To Establish A Good, Healthy Stand](#)

[How Can I Improve Profitabililty?](#)

SIRP Weather

Maximum Temperature, Minimum Temperature



Daily Cumulative Rainfall



For April, SIRP had 4.25 inches of rainfall, compared to 3.31 inches in March, 2.67 inches in February and 4.84 inches in January.

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

Contact Information

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Trivia: Which two chemical elements are most commonly used as disinfectant or antiseptic?