

Stripling Irrigation Research Park

September 2019



Great view of the Newton Lateral field from
our new drone.

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UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

College of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences

C.M. STRIPLING IRRIGATION
RESEARCH PARK

From the Superintendent

August continued the hot temps and minimal rainfall pattern. Our UGA weather station recorded high temps of 85 to 100F and low temps of 77 to 67F. Our long term average high is 92F and low is 71F – so our conditions are in that range. We had 10 rainy days for a total of 4.77 inches – very similar to our long term average of 11 rainy days and 4.92 inches. Once again, we are getting our rain in a few large events. August had a 1.48 inch rain event and a 1.63 inch event, so the two events provided 65% of the month’s precip. Last month we had a 3.65 inch rain event.

The SIRP crew was busy last month with irrigation, spraying plots (cotton, peanuts), working on VRI and other irrigation system hiccups, pulling up pigweed (Palmer Amaranth) escapes, mowing grass, and harvesting corn studies. We also sprayed Dr. Kemerait’s cotton PGR study using our 6-row “Spider” self-propelled plot sprayer. (He sprayed his fungicide study with a backpack sprayer). As many of you did, we did some storm prep just ahead of Hurricane Dorian as early forecasts showed potential to come through our area.

Visitors to the Park included numerous Tifton faculty, technicians and grad students as well as our friends from the Flint River Soil & Water Conservation District.

We finally picked up our “new” 4-row Monosem planter unit from Specialty Sales in Sumner, Ga. They took 4 used individual planter row units, refurbished them, and assembled with new additional components into basically a new planter. This will greatly enhance our capabilities at planting time.

As a past award winner, I was pleased to serve with 2 other previous winners as the committee to select this year’s DW Brooks Award for Excellence in Extension. You’ll be hearing about this year’s award recipients in the near future from Dean Pardue. I enjoyed presenting to the Lions Club of Donalsonville (GA) on water resources in Georgia and the “water wars”. I also had an interesting discussion with Haisten Willis, freelance journalist based in Atlanta, working on a story for a pair of outlets called Southerly and Scalawag about the ongoing water dispute between Georgia and Florida. We discussed effects the water dispute is having/could have on southwest Georgia farmers and the many good things farmers are doing to increase their water use efficiency.

BJ, Kyle and I ventured over to Moultrie to R.B. Wright Elementary School to do a bit of drip irrigation system modification. SIRP has been working with the school since 2012 on their raised vegetable beds and drip system irrigating their plants. This year the school is installing nice, new bed frames and we’ll be putting in revamped irrigation hardware once the soil is in place.

That’s all for this month. Hope you have a good harvest!

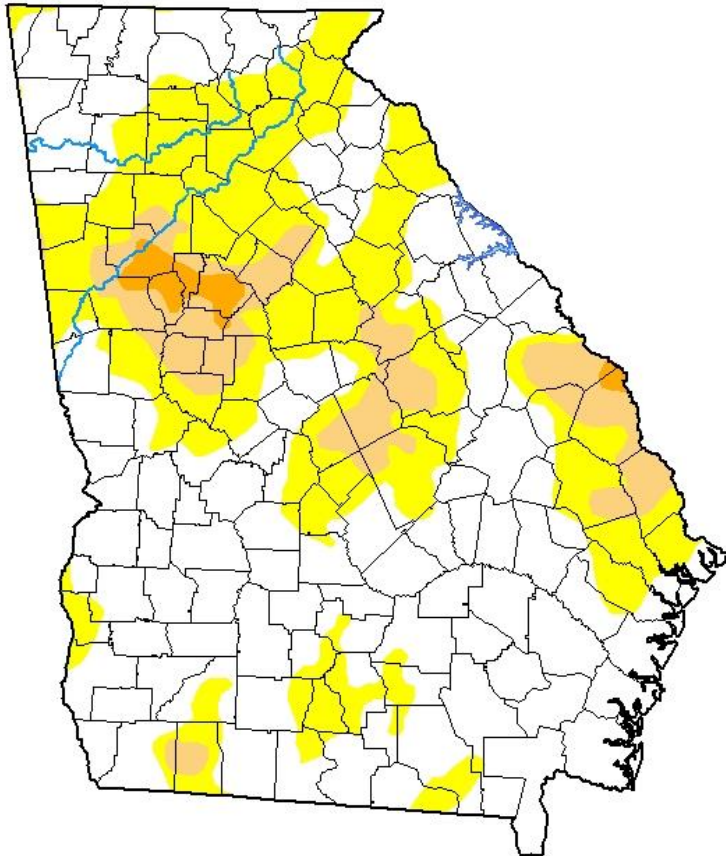


Calvin Perry

Drought Conditions

U.S. Drought Monitor Georgia

September 10, 2019
(Released Thursday, Sep. 12, 2019)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	59.56	40.44	10.33	1.33	0.00	0.00
Last Week <small>09-03-2019</small>	72.08	27.92	7.27	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago <small>06-11-2019</small>	28.40	71.60	47.13	3.33	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <small>01-01-2019</small>	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <small>09-25-2018</small>	70.95	29.05	6.72	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago <small>09-11-2018</small>	93.01	6.99	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:

David Miskus
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Drought Monitor map for Georgia as of September 10th. Currently, about 40% of GA is in the abnormally dry or moderate drought condition category. The driest is around Atlanta. Last month we were at 24% abnormally dry or moderate drought.

For more info:

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

At the Park



Above: Nice drone shot of the “Front Four North” soybean study.
Bottom: A covey of quail that call SIRP home.



At the Park



Above & Below: Harvesting corn in Pine SDI field.



At the Park



Above: Cotton bolls opening up.

Below: B.J., Kyle, Brian Hayes (Ext. Agent) with Dr. Kemerait and Caleb, spraying VRI-S cotton fungicide study.



At the Park



Above: Corn plots awaiting SWVT combine.
Bottom: Cale troubleshooting AgWET soil moisture station.



At the Park



Above: Irrigating the VRI field.
Below: Our new 4 row Monosem planter...



At the Park



Left
: Inverting
Peanut
Transition
Zones in
Newton
lateral field.

Below: Pics
from the 4-H
Forestry Field
Day at SIRP.



Events

Past events

Sept 2	Labor Day
Sept 9	SW Dist. Forestry Field Day

Upcoming events

Sept 26	Lee Co. Middle School visit & tour
Oct 10 – 11	REC's Admin. Assoc. meeting (Athens)
Nov 28 – 29	Thanksgiving Holidays
Dec 25 – 31	Christmas Holidays
Jan 1, 2020	New Year's Holiday

In the News

[Valley Irrigation Unveils Industry -First "Over-The-Air" Updates for Smart Panels](#)

[Farms turn to technology amid water warnings](#)

[Agrivoltaics proves mutually beneficial across food, water, energy nexus](#)

[West Texas farmers fight drought, heat with regenerative agriculture](#)

[Are drones the future for Georgia's farmers?](#)

[Valley Irrigation to Launch 365 Crop Management Platform in Early 2020](#)

[As climate change hits Florida agriculture, could the future be 'carbon farming'?](#)

[The West Is Trading Water for Cash. The Water Is Running Out](#)

[Farmers Don't Need to Read the Science. We Are Living It.](#)

[Mapping the strain on our water](#)

[Scientists say farmers could grow their way out of the climate crisis](#)

[17 Countries, Home to One-Quarter of the World's Population, Face Extremely High Water Stress](#)

[Researcher Develops Camera System to Detect Crop Temperatures](#)

[Irrigation Malfunctions a Concern during Hot, Dry Summer](#)

In the News

[Exciting New Study Says That Crops Thrive Underneath Solar Panels—and the Panels Produce More Energy](#)

[Georgia Field Reports: Corn Harvest Winding Down](#)

[Georgia Pecans: Mites And Weevils Remain A Concern In September](#)

[Gap growing between irrigated, rain-fed crop yields](#)

[Court: EPA Must Consider Environmental Impact When Setting Ethanol Mandate](#)

[Disaster Aid Details Released](#)

[USDA Opens ARC-PLC Enrollment](#)

[Invisible cotton pest steals 1 million bales](#)

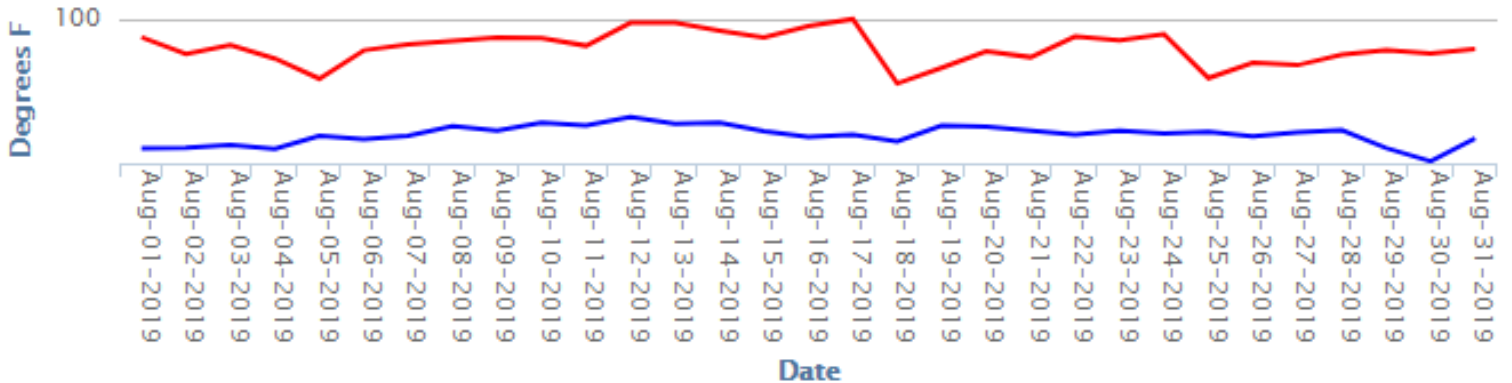
[USDA Resources Available for Farmers Hurt by 2018, 2019 Disasters](#)

[U.S. District Court blocks 2015 WOTUS rule](#)

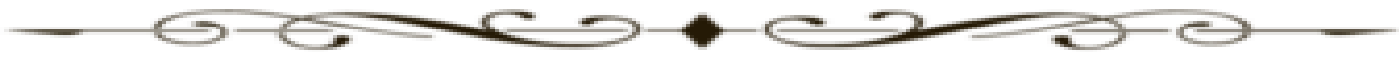
[Congressman Yoho Introduces Ag Guest Worker Bill](#)

SIRP Weather

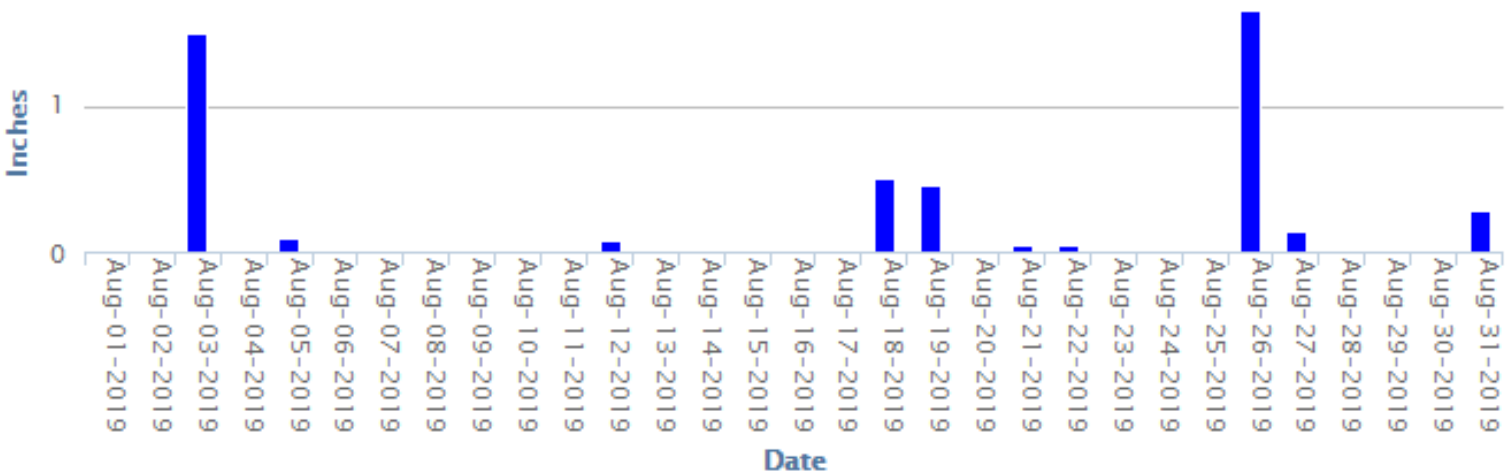
Maximum Temperature, Minimum Temperature



— Maximum Air Temperature — Minimum Air Temperature — Freezing Line



Daily Cumulative Rainfall



For August, SIRP had 4.82 inches of rainfall, compared to 6.15 inches in July, 4.77 inches in June, 3.42 inches in May, and 4.25 inches in April.

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

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Trivia:

What was Walt Disney's middle name?