Midwest Apple
Production Decisions
During a Drought Year

Outcome Observed
Drought Concerns
Management Decisions
Crop Phenology

DECEMBER
Order new trees (or earlier).

FEBRUARY
Order new trees (or earlier).

MARCH
Plant new trees. Bee colonies brought in to assist with pollination.

APRIL
First pesticide application. Warm & dry conditions are good for pollination.

MAY
Fertilization, irrigation, mulch to maintain soil moisture. Begin planting for the next year.

JUNE
Drought during first 30 days of fruit development is most detrimental to current crop fruit growth.

JULY
Drought during last two months before harvest affects bloom & quality of fruit.

AUGUST
Prolonged drought in late summer may affect next year’s fruit crop. Fruit growth; next year’s buds develop.

SEPTEMBER
Tree trunk enlargement; root growth; fruit growth; next year’s buds develop.

OCTOBER
Prepare for next year’s tree planting. - tillage, nutrient/pH management, seed grass.

NOVEMBER
Begin to prune. Prune young trees.

DECEMBER
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Warm & dry conditions are good for pollination.

Death of young trees.

Product disease damage.

Yield and quality reduction.

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Tree death/death.

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