Wisconsin Cranberry Production Decisions During a Drought Year

**Crop Phenology**
- **Dormancy**: Winter precipitation is consistently cold.
- **Growth**: Harvest mid-September through November. Speed & timing (day/night) of harvest depend on water temperature.
- **Fruit set**: Bud swell
- **Fruit growth**: Irrigate for frost protection, weed management, young vine establishment
- **Fruit color development/maturity**: Bud & leaf growth
- **Outcome Observed**: Short fluid for insect control
- **Drought Concerns**: Bud & leaf growth
- **Management Decisions**: Prune vines & clean ditches

**Water Concerns**
- Fall precipitation builds water reserves for winter flood & supports non-irrigated vines.
- During drought, warmer water temperatures can stress vines.
- Harvest (mid-September through November). Speed & timing (day/night) of harvest depend on water temperature.

**Weather Concerns**
- Scald (pest and disease damage)
- Vine stress
- Stream, canal, or reservoir water availability for winter flood
- Prolonged drought may decrease water available for flood harvest
- Winterflood after temperatures are consistently cold.
- Winterflood after temperature

**Irrigation**
- Irrigate for frost protection, weed management, young vine establishment
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**Management Tips**
- Prune vines & clean ditches.
- Set irrigation pipes. Reflood as needed to protect plants.
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**Facilitators**
- University of Wisconsin Extension
- Wisconsin Cranberry Growers Association
- Wisconsin Department of Agriculture
- National Institute of Food and Agriculture