Midwest Apple
Production Decisions
During a Drought Year

- **Outcome Observed**
- **Drought Concerns**
- **Management Decisions**
- **Crop Phenology**

**Flowering**
- First pesticide application.

**Fruit set - cell division stage**
- Fertilization, irrigate multiple times until fruit set.
- Soil moisture: Begin fertilizing for the blooming, flower, & fruit set.

**Drought during first 30 days of fruit development is most detrimental to current crop fruit growth.**
- Drought-stressed trees may require more support to be successful during dry years.
- Drought during last two months before harvest may affect fruit quality & size of fruit.

**Thin fruit - Ongoing Pest Control.**
- Summer diseases may occur. Some trees may need to be thinned.

**Call division stage ends**
- Harvest begins.

**Cell division stage begins**
- Prolonged drought in late summer may affect next year's fruit crop.

**Rotation Dates**
- **January**
  - Order new trees.

- **February**
  - Begin to prune.
  - Plant new trees.
  - Bee colonies brought in to assist with pollination.

- **March**
  - Death of young trees.
  -major damage/health.

- **April**
  - Pest and disease damage.
  - Yields and quality reduced.

- **May**
  - Harvest begins.

- **June**
  - Fruits large and ready for picking.

- **July**
  - Prune young trees.

- **August**
  - Prepare for next year's tree planting.
  - Tillage, nutrient/pH management, seed grass.

- **September**
  - Irrigate & mulch to maintain soil moisture prior to freeze.

- **October**
  - Harvest begins.

- **November**
  - Irrigate & mulch to maintain soil moisture prior to freeze.

- **December**
  - Prune young trees.

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