During a Drought Year

Wisconsin Cranberry Production Decisions during a Drought Year

Drought Concerns
Management Decisions
Bud swell
Irrigate for frost protection, weed management, young vine establishment
Bud & leaf growth
Short flood for insect control
Flowering
Seed for insects, Prune in late columns

January
Death of plants.
Bleed vine to assist with translocation.

February
Vine stress. 
Pest and disease damage.

March
Seal Prune and establish vines.

April
Soil moisture determines the size of berries.

June
Irrigation to water & to protect vines from leaf stress.

July

August
Prolonged drought may decrease water available for flood harvest

September
Harvest (mid-September through November). Speed & timing (day/night)

October
Yield and quality reduction.
During drought, warmer water temperatures can stress vines.

November
Flood water reserves for winter flood & supports non-irrigated vines.

December
Water reserve availability for harvest.

Outcomes Observed
Drought Concerns
Management Decisions
Crop Phenology