Midwest Grape
Production Decisions
During a Drought Year

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

**Bud break**
- Plant new grapevines.
- Begin to spray fungicides & control weeds.
- Flower formation & fruit set
- Thinning clusters.

**February**
- Dry conditions during winter increases likelihood of winter injury.
- Drought can weaken trunks & cases & increase susceptibility to disease.

**March**
- Young plants are most sensitive to dry weather.
- Soil health.
- Root death.
- Winter injury.
- Spider mites. Weeds.
- Disease. Burn on grapes.
- Insect damage. Yield.
- Profitability.
- Prune.

**April**
- Dry weather decreases severity of fungal disease.
- During drought plants may need support from fruit clusters.
- Continue to spray fungicides.
- Continue to spray pesticides.

**May**
- Disease, Burn on grapes.
- Irrigation, rainfall & & humidity, growth of plants.
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**June**
- Dry conditions, disease & weed pressure may be greater.
- Cool, mild conditions may be needed.
- Continue to spray pesticides.
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**July**
- Heat & precipitation effect sugar & harvest.
- Fruit weight & harvest timing.
- Drought may cause sweet grapes to move in.
- Harvest.
- Fruit buds for next year's crop are developing.

**August**
- Weed control, Plant cover crops.
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**September**
- Mulch plants.
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**October**
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**November**
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**December**
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