Wisconsin Irrigated Potato Production Decisions During a Drought Year

- **February**: Wind erosion is a concern if cover crops did not overwinter.
- **March**: Prune trees, Inspect wells & irrigation nozzles. Plan ahead to repair as needed, especially if water demand is going to be high. Sprout development.
- **April**: Hot & dry conditions during emergence may damage plants. Alternating periods of wet & dry increase risk of early blight. Weed control.
- **May**: Dry conditions increase leathery blight & Sun scald outbreaks, increasing risk of seed. Begin fertilizing & pest control.
- **June**: Dry conditions may affect potato plants. Irrigate to keep plants healthy. Begin seedling planting & pest control.
- **July**: Dry conditions may affect potato plants. Irrigate to keep plants healthy. Begin seedling planting & pest control.
- **August**: High daily ET rates may exceed capacity of irrigation system decreasing yield. Dry soil increases risk of Verticillium wilt. Monitor irrigation & pest control.
- **September**: Least moisture demand by crop. End irrigation for total potato production & pest control.
- **October**: End irrigation for total potato production & pest control.
- **November**: Moisture is necessary for cover crop establishment & survival into the winter. Plant cover crops.
- **December**: Moisture in this region recharges quickly with adequate winter snow. Where it does not, short droughts are not too concerning to producers. Lower lake & river levels & affects those who are dependent on surface water supplies.

**Legend**:
- **Brown**: Outcome Observed
- **Blue**: Drought Concerns
- **Gray**: Management Decisions
- **Green**: Crop Phenology