

# Midwest Specialty Crop Producers

## Use of Climate & Drought Information Assessment and Improving Decision-Making in a Changing Climate

*Changing climatic conditions are having a wide ranging impact on agriculture in the Midwest including changes in crop yields, season length and soil health. To support Midwest specialty crop producers work through these changes, the [Midwest Climate Hub](#), [Midwestern Regional Climate Center](#) and [National Drought Mitigation Center](#) are partnering to determine and develop additional tools, educational resources and other information for producers to better adapt to a variable and changing climate.*

### OUR GOALS

Understanding current weather and climate issues is imperative to supporting sustainable crop production in the Midwest. We have noted a lack of specific information and tools available for various specialty crop growers as well as limited reporting on drought conditions for the US Drought Monitor. Alongside producers, we hope to accomplish the following.

- We will work to support use of current and projected climate/drought information for producers, advisers and industry, and collect and supply climate/drought information usable to specialty crop producers in the region. Producer needs will drive the adaptation of/creation of tools and technologies in future endeavors.
- A combination of workshops and survey (see below) will provide a detailed set of needs for climate and drought data and information which can support better data collection on climate impacts and development of new decision-aiding tools for specialty crop producers.
- Specialty crop producers will show a change in their understanding of climate change and drought in the Midwest and potential adaptation capabilities at varying time scales (seasonal to multi-seasonal).



\*To decipher what specialty crop producers are currently using, and to facilitate the adaptation and creation of new tools and information for producers, a survey has been created to help gather information. From the results of [this survey](#), we will be inviting producers to workshops in **December, 2017**. Select the link below for more information. Scan the code to the left or visit <http://go.unl.edu/9pvi> for survey access.

**For More Information, visit**

<http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/events/SpecialtyCrop/index.html>

