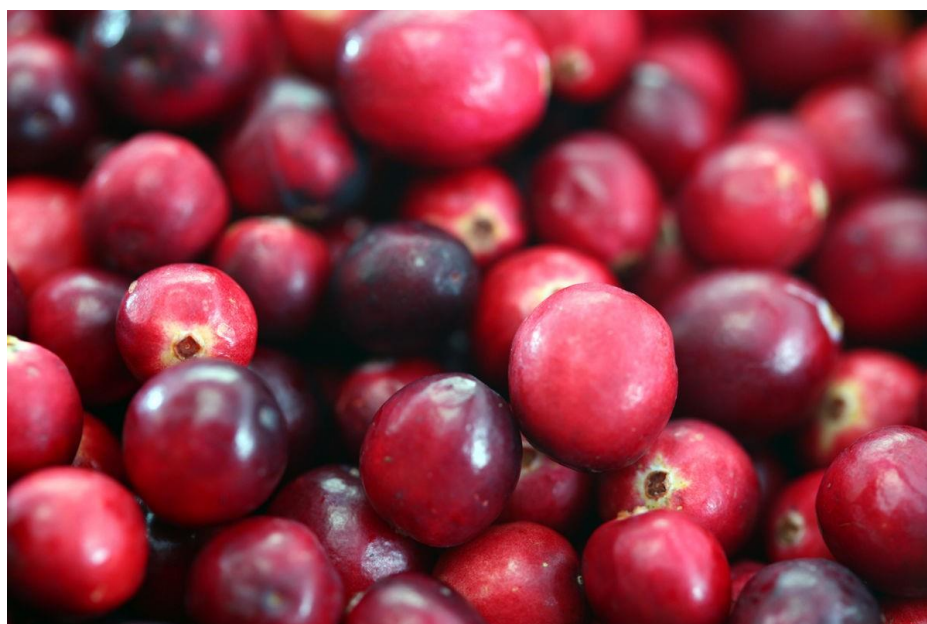




# Harvest and Post-harvest Management of Cranberries



Cranberries are harvested by two basic methods, dry harvest and water harvest. The dry harvest fruit is destined primarily for the fresh market while the water harvested fruit is processed. Growers manage cranberry plantings to facilitate these harvest methods and fruit uses. Ideally, the fruit are harvested at full maturity with good color (anthocyanin content) but prior to the fruit becoming over-ripe. Timing of harvest is important for fresh-market fruit so that the berries are sufficiently red but retain good storage quality, while fruit for the process market ideally has maximum color. Cranberry marketing companies produce 'no color added' products, so the color at harvest is of great importance in processed berries.

Following the harvest, management practices focus on minimizing harvest stress and preparing the bogs for the dormant season. To minimize disease and weed infestations, leaf litter and fallen fruit are removed from the bogs. Ideally, the fruit are harvested at full maturity with good color (anthocyanin content) but prior to the fruit becoming over-ripe. Timing of harvest is important for fresh-market fruit so that the berries are sufficiently red but retain good storage quality, while fruit for the process market ideally has maximum color. Factors that may slow color development are warm temperatures, particularly at night, and low exposure to sunlight (thick canopy).

Observe all Pre-harvest Intervals as required by law. Pre-Harvest Interval is defined as the number of days which must pass between the application of a pesticide and harvest. The



interval varies for each pesticide and formulation and is designed to allow enough time to pass for the pesticide to breakdown so that consumer exposure is minimized. Always observe proper Pre-Harvest Intervals (PHIs) for any pesticides that have been applied during the season. These intervals are listed on the pesticide labels.

Do not neglect irrigation needs in the early fall. Prior to and post-harvest, do not neglect the water requirements of the plants. Continue to monitor soil moisture and irrigate as needed. See the Irrigation BMP for further information. Dry-harvested beds. Manage the bed during the season to facilitate harvest. Dry harvested beds should be managed so that runner production and rank upright growth is minimized. Fertilizer rates should be low to moderate. Pruning may be required periodically. This can be accomplished in the early spring or during harvest or post-harvest. Dry harvest fruit is generally sold in the fresh market, therefore, keeping quality is important. Often dry harvest beds are treated with additional fungicide applications to ensure post-harvest quality.



Avoid moving weeds and disease inoculum from bed to bed. Dry harvest equipment should be cleaned of debris that might contain weed seeds prior to moving to the next bed. If a harvested bed is known to have *Phytophthora* infestation, sterilize equipment prior to harvesting any uninfested beds. Use a post-harvest flood to relieve picking stress and remove leaf litter. Dry harvest techniques are stressful to the cranberry plants. A post-harvest flood can minimize this stress and remove leaf trash at the same time. After detrashing, allow the flood to settle and release gradually over the top flume board to minimize discharge of sediments.

Limit the post-harvest use of herbicides to spot treatments of existing, defined weed populations. Post-harvest use of casoron is not recommended. Due to the high rates needed for efficacy of fall applications, post-harvest use of evital should be limited to the spot treatment of well-mapped areas of existing sensitive weeds such as nutsedge. Glyphosate products may be used post-harvest and are effective if the target weed is still actively metabolizing.

# Vocabulary:

## Harvest and Post-harvest Management of Cranberries

**Ripe:** maduro

**Bogs:** ciénagas

**Weed:** maleza/hierba

**Uninfested:** no infestado

**Maturity:** madurez

**Fertilizer:** fertilizante

**Storage:** almacenamiento

**Pruning:** poda

**Debris:** desechos

**post-harvest:** pos-cosecha

**Irrigate:** irrigar

**Berries:** bayas