

# MSU Fruit Team Apple Maturity Report Northwest Region Reports - 2008

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NW Michigan Pome Fruit Code-a-phone/Apple Maturity Line (231) 947-3063

## **NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #1** **September 10, 2008**

**General Comments** - This year the NWMHRS will be testing apples for maturity. Results will be sent via fax and email to past apple maturity list subscribers and results will be put on the pome fruit section of the code-a-phone (947-3063). The maturity newsletter and code-a-phone will be updated weekly on Wednesdays. If you have not received this information in the past and wish to subscribe to the list, please contact the NWMHRS (946-1510 or [nwmihort@msu.edu](mailto:nwmihort@msu.edu)).

If you are interested in having your fruit tested, drop off a 10 to 12 apple sample at the NW Station on Mondays, if possible. The fruit should be picked randomly from the outside portion of the trees and should be large in size and free of blemishes with the stem attached.

During the past week we received about 1 inch of much needed rainfall across the region, which should help with fruit size. Some hail was reported on Sunday. There is a lot of variability in the region in both crop load and quality.

**Gingergold** - Mature (1 sample). Firmness at 19.4 lbs, but Gingergold tends to soften quickly even before ripening. Starch level is 2.3 with brix level at 12.5. Harvest has begun in the area. Background color should just be starting to turn yellowish at the time of harvest. Fruit that ripens to the point of full yellow will not hold up well in storage.

**McIntosh** - Immature (3 samples). Firmness at about 17.3 lbs. Starch index at 2.0. Brix level at 11.6. Color is at 67%. Some drop has been noted as the fruit sizes and tend to crowd each other off the limb.

**HoneyCrisp** - Immature (3 samples). Firmness at about 18.5 lbs. Starch index at 1.3. Brix level at 12.7. Color is at 57%. This variety needs multiple pickings over several weeks for premium quality fruit. Watch for first 2 to 3 apples per tree to color for the first picking.

**Gala** - Immature (1 samples). Firmness at 21.3 lbs. Starch index is at 1.0 and brix levels are at 11.2. Color is at 78%.

## STATEWIDE REPORTS

**Southwest** - Gala is moving quickly, some cracking. Empire is nearly finished for the taffy apple market. Jonathan is next to be picked. Jonagold is approaching mature. Good finish on Golden Delicious. Region received 2" - 3" of rain during the past week. Labor supply is adequate.

**Southeast** - Gala - mature, size small, good firmness. Mac - mature. HoneyCrisp - spot picking. Jonagold - good blush and nice finish.

**Ridge / Clarksville** - Gala is being harvested. HoneyCrisp and Mac are being color picked. Lots of rainfall over the past week, up to 4" in some spots.

**Mason / Oceana / Manistee** - No report this week

## NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #2

### September 17, 2008

**General Comments** - This year the NWMHRS will be testing apples for maturity. Results will be sent via fax and email to past apple maturity list subscribers and results will be put on the pome fruit section of the code-a-phone (947-3063). The maturity newsletter and code-a-phone will be updated weekly on Wednesdays. If you have not received this information in the past and wish to subscribe to the list, please contact the NWMHRS (946-1510 or [nwmihort@msu.edu](mailto:nwmihort@msu.edu)).

if you are interested in having your fruit tested, drop off a 10 to 12 apple sample at the NW Station on Mondays, if possible. The fruit should be picked randomly from the outside portion of the trees and should be large in size and free of blemishes with the stem attached.

During the past week we received about 0.75 inches of rain. Gingergold harvest is underway. Growers are anxious to move into McIntosh, but they are still eating "green". HoneyCrisp is getting close with some spot picking in early blocks.

**Gingergold** - Mature (none tested). Harvest has begun in the area. Background color should just be starting to turn yellowish at the time of harvest. Fruit that ripens to the point of full yellow will not hold up well in storage.

**McIntosh** - Approaching mature (4 samples). Firmness at 16.0 lbs. down from 17.3 last week. Starch index at 3.1. Brix level at 11.9. Color is at 81%. Some drop has been noted as the fruit sizes and tend to crowd each other off the limb.

**HoneyCrisp** - Approaching mature (4 samples). Firmness at 16.0 lbs. down from 18.5 last week. Starch index at 2.3. Brix level at 12.2. Color is at 72%. This variety needs multiple pickings over several weeks for premium quality fruit. Watch for first 2 to 3 apples per tree to color for the first picking. Some spot picking is taking place.

**Gala** - Immature (5 samples). Firmness at 20.5 lbs. Starch index is at 1.2 and brix levels are at 11.9. Color is at 80%.

## STATEWIDE REPORTS

**Southwest** - No report this week.

**Southeast** - Growers are keeping busy with many varieties entering the harvest window. There is concern with problems arising from last weekend's large rainfall and fruit bruising.

**Ridge / Clarksville** - Apples that were not hit by hail look great. Color is particularly good with recent cool night temperatures. Jonathans are showing some color bleeding into the flesh and are eating well.

**Mason / Oceana / Manistee** - Varieties are moving fast. 1" of rainfall occurred over the weekend. A drop in firmness was noted over this past week. HoneyCrisp is nearing mature and eating well. Color is good on everything with the exception of McIntosh.

## NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #3 September 24, 2008

This year the NWMHRS will be testing apples for maturity. Results will be sent via fax and email to past apple maturity list subscribers and results will be put on the pome fruit section of the code-a-phone (947-3063). The maturity newsletter and code-a-phone will be updated weekly on Wednesdays. If you have not received this information in the past and wish to subscribe to the list, please contact the NWMHRS (946-1510 or [nwmihort@msu.edu](mailto:nwmihort@msu.edu)).

If you are interested in having your fruit tested, drop off a 10 to 12 apple sample at the NW Station on Mondays, if possible. The fruit should be picked randomly from the outside portion of the trees and should be large in size and free of blemishes with the stem attached.

**General Comments** - No rainfall occurred this week. **Growers should be prepared to harvest as the warm, sunny days and warm nights helped hasten maturity.** Lots of drop has been noted in mature varieties.

**Gingergold** - Mature (none tested). Harvest has wrapped up.

**McIntosh** - Mature (3 samples). Firmness at 16.2 lbs., ranging from 17.7 to 14.2. Starch index at 4.1 up from 3.1 last week. Brix level at 12.6. Color is excellent at 94%. Mac's are ready in most blocks. Some drop has been noted.

**HoneyCrisp** - Mature (4 samples). Firmness at 15.3 lbs., down from 16.0 last week. Starch index at 6.1, up from 2.3 last week. Brix level at 13.2. Color is at 88%. This variety needs multiple pickings over several weeks for premium quality fruit. Watch for first 2 to 3 apples per tree to color for the first picking. First picking is underway on HoneyCrisp. Color ranges from good to excellent.

**Gala** - Approaching mature (5 samples). Firmness at 19.8 lbs., down from 20.5 last week. Starch index is at 2.0 up from 1.2 and brix levels are at 12.8. Color has increased to over 90%. Harvest is expected to begin next week.

**Golden Delicious** - Immature (2 samples). Firmness is at 18.5 lbs. Starch index is a 1.6. Brix levels are 13.4. Slight blush covering less than 20% of the fruit. Harvest is expected to begin the week of October 6<sup>th</sup>.

## STATEWIDE REPORTS

**Southwest** - Gala and Empire - finished. Most Jonathans have been harvested. Red Delicious is mature.

**Southeast** - Jonathans and Red Cort are being harvested. Some early Jonagold harvest is taking place. Red delicious picked easy this week. Bitterpit and Blister Spot seen in Mutsu (Crispin)

**Ridge / Clarksville** - Most Gala harvested. HoneyCrisp began to drop in the past 3 days. A few Empire are still hanging and Macs are winding down. Jonathan - mature, but waiting for size. Red Delicious will be in full swing next week.

**Mason / Oceana / Manistee** - McIntosh - harvest wrapping up. Gala - ready for harvest. HoneyCrisp - harvest underway. Jonathan - ready next week. Golden Delicious - 10 - 14 days out. Red Delicious - 7 - 10 days out.

**NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #4****October 1, 2008**

This year the NWMHRS will be testing apples for maturity. Results will be sent via fax and email to past apple maturity list subscribers and results will be put on the pome fruit section of the code-a-phone (947-3063). The maturity newsletter and code-a-phone will be updated weekly on Wednesdays. If you have not received this information in the past and wish to subscribe to the list, please contact the NWMHRS (946-1510 or [nwmihort@msu.edu](mailto:nwmihort@msu.edu)).

If you are interested in having your fruit tested, drop off a 10 to 12 apple sample at the NW Station on Mondays, if possible. The fruit should be picked randomly from the outside portion of the trees and should be large in size and free of blemishes with the stem attached.

**General Comments** - Many varieties are approaching mature and drop continues to be an issue in some varieties.

**Jonagold** - Approaching mature to mature (3 samples). Firmness at 18.3 lbs. Starch index at 4.1. Brix level is 15.1 and color is at 78%

**Swiss Gourmet** - Mature ( sample). Firmness at 18.4 lbs. Starch index at 6.7. Brix level at 12.7. Color is at 77%.

**HoneyCrisp** - Mature (1 sample). Firmness at 15.4 lbs. Starch index at 7.8. Brix level at 14. Color is at 98%. Many HoneyCrisp have been harvested and those that remain on the trees should be ready for harvest if they are well colored.

**Gala** - Mature (4 samples). Firmness at 18.3 lbs., down from 19.8 last week. Starch index is at 4.2 up from 2.0 and brix levels are at 13.2. Color has increased to over 90% in many blocks. Harvest should begin in many orchards.

**Golden Delicious** - Approaching mature (4 samples). Firmness is at 17.3 lbs., down from 18.5 lbs. and the starch index is up to 2.6 from 1.6 last week. Brix levels are 14.6. Slight blush covering less than 20% of the fruit. Harvest is expected to begin the week of October 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Northern Spy** - Immature (2 samples). Firmness is at 21.3 lbs and starch index is just under 2.0. Brix levels are at 13.8.

**Red Delicious** - Immature (1 sample). Firmness is 18.1 lbs. and starch index is at 2.2. Brix level is at 12.7. Color on this sample was excellent. Red Delicious may be ready for harvest late next week.

**Empire** - Approaching mature (1 sample). Firmness is 18.3 lbs. and starch index is at 2.9. Brix level is 11.5 and color is at 75%.

**Macoun** - Approaching mature (1 sample). Firmness is 18.8 lbs. and starch index is at 2.5. Brix level is 13.2 and color is 83%

#### STATEWIDE REPORTS

**Southwest** - All varieties not previously harvested are underway with the exception of Fuji and Braeburn

**Southeast** - Empire, Jonagold and Golden Delicious - harvest underway. Some drop noted in Empire and Red Delicious.

**Ridge / Clarksville** - Gala, McIntosh and Honeycrisp - harvest complete. Empire - nearly finished. Jonathan - harvest is winding down. Jonagold - mid term CA window. Golden Delicious - harvest underway for long term CA. Red Delicious - some harvest and some drop. IdaRed - just entering the long term CA storage window. Law Rome and Fuji - immature

**Mason / Oceana / Manistee** - Cortland - ready for mid to short term CA. Golden Delicious - harvest underway. Red Delicious - 7 - 10 days out. Jonagold - maturity depends on the strain. IdaRed - should be ready in about 2 weeks.

#### **NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #5 October 8, 2008**

This year the NWMHRS will be testing apples for maturity. Results will be sent via fax and email to past apple maturity list subscribers and results will be put on the pome fruit section of the code-a-phone (947-3063). The maturity newsletter and code-a-phone will be updated weekly on Wednesdays. If you have not received this information in the past and wish to subscribe to the list, please contact the NWMHRS (946-1510 or [nwmihort@msu.edu](mailto:nwmihort@msu.edu)).

**General Comments** - *This will be the final report of the season.* Many varieties are approaching mature and drop continues to be an issue in some varieties. Color has improved over the past week. Prices for this year's crop are good.

**Jonagold** - Mature (4 samples). Firmness at 17.0 lbs., down from 18.3 last week. Starch index at 6.0 up from 4.1. Brix level is 14.7 and color is at 86%. Harvest should be underway in well colored blocks.

**Rome** - Entering the mature range (2 samples). Firmness at 20.7 lbs. Starch index at 3.5. Brix level at 12.5. Color is at 98%.

**IdaRed** - Immature (2 samples). Firmness at 16.7 lbs. Starch index at 2.2. Brix level at 12.6. Color is at 90%. IdaRed is expected to be ready for harvest in about 7 days.

**Gala** - Mature (None tested). Harvest is ongoing in many blocks.

**Golden Delicious** - Mature (4 samples). Firmness is at 16.3 lbs., down from 17.3 lbs. and the starch index is up to 4.1 from 2.6 last week. Brix levels are 14.5. Slight blush covering less than 20% of the fruit. Harvest has begun this week.

**Northern Spy** - Immature (1 sample). Firmness is at 20.2 lbs., down from 21.3 lbs last week and starch index is 2.3 up from 2.0. Brix levels are at 13.9.

**Red Delicious** - Immature (2 samples). Firmness is 17.9 lbs., down from 18.1 lbs. and starch index is just over 2.0. Brix level is at 12.2. Color on these samples was excellent. Red Delicious may be ready for harvest beginning next week.

**Empire** - (None tested). Empire is expected to be in the mature range this week.

#### STATEWIDE REPORTS

**Southwest** - Wet. Most growers finishing up with only some late varieties still left. Bleeding noted in Romes.

**Southeast** - Empire underway, color great. Jonagold is wrapping up. Unknown spotting is showing up on Golden Delicious. Red Delicious seems slow to mature this season.

**Ridge / Clarksville** - Jonagold is nearly finished with remaining fruit overmature. IdaRed, Fuji and Rome are still hanging. This season has been considered calm and easy.

**Mason / Oceana / Manistee** - Jonathan is now overmature. Golden Delicious harvest is underway. Some bleeding of skin color noted in IdaRed. Overall the crop size was about 25% of normal.