

MSU Fruit Team Apple Maturity Report 2013
Northwest Region, Report Number 5: October 2, 2013
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This is the fifth week of 2013 apple maturity testing at NWMHRC. Results will be sent via fax and email to past apple maturity list subscribers. Results will also be available at http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/centers/nwmihort/nwmihort_resources_and_reports#NWMIAppleMaturityReps Reports for other regions around the state can be viewed at http://msue.anr.msu.edu/resources/apple_maturity_program_and_reports.

Apple harvest continues to move along at a rapid pace here in northwest Michigan. The weather conditions for picking fruit have been almost perfect, and growers are trying to get apples off the trees prior to the rain predicted for the next few days. Color continues to improve in all varieties, and brix levels are increasing and apples are eating well at this time. Many MacIntosh blocks are wrapping up for the season, and first or second picking of HoneyCrisp is underway. Labor is on many growers' minds as they see lots of fruit yet to come off the trees in the coming weeks.

Summary of northwest Michigan apple maturity samples taken on 1 October 2013

Variety	Color % (range)	Firmness lbs. pressure (range)	Starch (range)	Brix (range)
Gala	86 (75 - 100)	18.5 (16 – 21)	2.4 (1 - 5)	11.2 (10.2 – 12.6)
Empire	74 (50 - 95)	18.0 (15 – 20.5)	4.0 (3 - 5)	13.0 (11.2 – 15)
HoneyCrisp	78 (50 - 100)	15.2 (13.5 - 17)	5.3 (2 - 6)	12.9 (10.4 – 14.2)
Jonagold	66 (20 – 95)	16.6 (14.5 – 20)	4.2 (2 – 8)	13.7 (12 – 15.5)
Golden Delicious	26 (10 – 40)	17.7 (15.5 – 21)	1.6 (1 – 3)	14.3 (14 – 15)
IdaRed	80 (50 – 95)	17.8 (15.5 – 20)	2.7 (2 – 3)	12.1 (11.6 – 12.6)

Gala – Mature (1 sample). Firmness is at 18.5 lbs., down from 19.7 lbs. Starch index is at 2.4 and brix levels are up to 11.2. Color has improved to 86%. Galas with a light crop are maturing quicker and coming off faster than blocks with a heavy crop.

McIntosh – Mature (no samples tested).

HoneyCrisp – Mature (2 samples). Firmness is at 15.2 lbs., down from 16.0 lbs. Starch index is at 5.3, up from 4.2 and the brix level has increased to 12.9. Color has improved to over 75%. This variety needs multiple pickings over several weeks for premium quality fruit. Watch for the first 2 to 3 apples per tree to color for the first picking.

Jonagold – Mature (3 samples). Firmness is at 16.6 lbs., down from 18.1 lbs. Starch index is at 4.2, up from 2.3. Brix level is 13.7 and color is 66%.

Golden Delicious - Approaching mature (1 sample). Firmness is at 17.7 lbs., down from 18.9 lbs. Starch index is at 1.6 up from 1.4. Brix level is 14.3 and color (blush) is 25%. Maturity may vary among blocks as only one sample has been tested this week.

Empire – Mature (1 sample). Firmness is at 18.0 lbs. with the starch index at 4.0. Brix level is at 13.0 and the color is at 74%.

IdaRed – Approaching mature (1 sample). Firmness is at 17.8 lbs. with the starch index at 2.7. Brix level is at 12.1 and the color is at 80%.