

MSU Fruit Team Apple Maturity Report Northwest Region - 2010

Nikki Rothwell, Dist. Horticulturist, Bill Klein, Farm Manager, Karen Powers, Research Tech.

NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #4

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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).

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.

August rainfall and a light crop are helping to make nice size fruit. Hoping for more cool evenings and sunny days to help with coloring and maturation. Many blocks have fruit showing frost marks. The winds continue to cause ripening fruit to drop off in some blocks.

McIntosh - Approaching mature to mature (5 samples). Firmness at about 15.8 lbs., down from 16.3 lbs. last week. Starch index is at 2.7, up from 1.9 last week. Brix level at 12.0 up from 11.5. Color has improved to 85%. Blocks in more advanced areas are ready for harvest this week.

HoneyCrisp - Mature (4 samples). Firmness at about 15.6 lbs., down from 16.0 lbs. Starch index is at 3.4, up from 2.9 last week. Brix level at 13.0. Color is at 75%. This variety needs multiple pickings over several weeks for premium quality fruit. This variety is ready for the first picking.

Gala - Entering the mature range (2 samples). Firmness at 19.8 lbs., slightly down from 21.0 lbs. last week. Starch index is at 2.7, up from 1.7 and brix levels are at 13.0. Color has improved to 90%. Gala are ripening with McIntosh in this year (strains will vary).

Golden Delicious - Immature (2 samples). Firmness at 19.6 lbs., unchanged from last week. Starch index is at 1.1 and brix levels are at 13.7, up from 12.7 last week. Background color is still green with a blush covering about 20% of each fruit.

Jonagold - Immature (2 samples). Firmness at 19.0 lbs. Starch index is at 1.4 and brix levels are at 14.1. Color has improved to 75%.

Other - Northern Spy - Immature; Rhode Island Greening - Immature; Hubbardston - Mature to over mature

STATEWIDE REPORTS

Southwest: Started into Golden this week—firmness is good and a few are in mature range. Lots of labor and growers are moving quickly. Honeycrisp are mostly finished and are all mature (lots of bitterpit this year). Empires will be gone by next week, and firmness has dropped in past week. Jonathans are also moving along and will be hard to find next week. Jonagolds dropped in firmness and is in excellent range for long-term storage. Red Delicious has good color.

Southeast: Honeycrisp were hard to find this week as most are gone, but good flavor with some bitterpit. McIntosh harvest is underway, and color has improved in the past week. Red Cort has lots of internal ethylene, and color is good but still immature. Empire are consistent across the region. Jonathans are ready ahead of Empire this year. Jonagold has good color and firmness—nearly ready for harvest for long-term CA storage at some farms and ready at others. Golden have little to no blush—at least 10 days away from harvest. Internal ethylene in Red Delicious and Northern Spy.

Grand Rapids: Big week for Gala harvest, and many were treated with Retain. With the lots of rain (1-1/2"), minor cracks in Gala with Retain and bigger cracks in apples without Retain. Honeycrisp are coming off and looking nice, a bit less than estimate. Brix, flavor, and color in Honeycrisp are excellent. Concerns about people selling Honeycrisp before they are ready—want to keep it high value. McIntosh mostly cleaned off or in the process of being removed. Jonagolds are close for long term storage, but color really isn't there. Empire harvest is underway for long-term storage. Adequate labor and bins.

West Central: McIntosh is just about finished. Empire harvest underway but still immature, and color is so-so. Jonathans are looking nice, and brix are high are ready for harvest. Jonagolds vary by tree and block. Golden have good brix but still immature now.

NW Michigan Pome Fruit Code-a-phone/Apple Maturity Line (231) 947-3063
or at <http://www.maes.msu.edu/nwmihort/applemat.html>

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