

## MSU Fruit Team Apple Maturity Report Northwest Region - 2010

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### NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #5

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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. The maturity newsletter is 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.

August and September 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** - Mature, color has improved greatly in the past two weeks. Most blocks have been harvested.

**HoneyCrisp** - Mature (2 samples). Firmness at 14.7 lbs., down from 15.6 lbs last week. Starch index is at 4.4, up from 3.4 last week. Brix level between 12 and 13. Color is over 80%. This variety needs multiple pickings over several weeks for premium quality fruit. This variety is in its second picking in many orchards.

**Gala** - Mature, firmness seems to be holding. Gala are ripening with McIntosh this year and many blocks have been harvested (strains will vary).

**Golden Delicious** - Immature to approaching mature (3 samples). Firmness at 18.3 lbs., down from 19.6 lbs. last week. Starch index is at 1.3, up slightly and brix levels are at 13.9, up from 13.7 last week. Background color is still green in most blocks with a blush covering up to 20% of each fruit.

**Jonagold** - Immature (2 samples). Firmness at 17.4 lbs., down from 19.0 lbs. Starch index is at 1.9, up from 1.4 last week and brix levels are at 14.4. Color has improved to 80%.

**Northern Spy** - Immature to approaching mature (2 samples). Firmness at 21.8 lbs and starch index at 2.1. Brix levels are at 12.1. Color is between 50 and 60%

**Ida Red** - Immature to approaching mature (2 samples). Firmness at 18.9 lbs and starch index at 2.5. Brix levels are at 12.4. Color is excellent at 90%

**Other** (Based on limited samples) - Empire - Mature; Fuji - Immature, but moving; Red Delicious - Immature.

#### STATEWIDE REPORTS

**Southwest:** Harvest of Golden Delicious and Red Delicious is the main focus of many farms in SW Michigan. Golden Delicious drop is becoming more common. Jonagold and Empire harvest is wrapping up. Fuji are mature and being harvested.

**Southeast:** Overall internal ethylene levels have been high and brix have been low compared with previous seasons. Red Cortland, Golden Delicious, and Jonathan harvests are underway, though the majority of Jonathan were harvest over the previous two weeks. Red Delicious are just beginning to mature for mid-long term storage. Ida Red and Northern Spy are still a week or so away from being ready. Empire are quickly approaching maturity for long term storage.

**Grand Rapids:** Growers are at peak harvest on the Ridge and reporting that they are picking out short. Adequate labor and a short crop is really accelerating harvest. Wind and weather have knocked a lot of fruit off the trees as of late. Gala harvest is over and early Fuji are overmature. Honeycrisp is in the 2-3<sup>rd</sup> picking with a lot of bitterpit reported. Red Delicious is ready for mid-long term storage; Golden Delicious is at peak maturity and being picked. Ida Reds, late Fuji, and Jonagold are not yet mature.

**West Central:** Local growers have been harvesting their orchards rather quickly. Currently they are harvesting Honeycrisp for the 2 and/or third time, Cortlands, Jonathans and Jonagolds are just about done; Golden Delicious is being harvested as well as some of Red Delicious strains.

**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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