

SW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT

ISSUE 6 – September 28, 2010

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Contact Bill Shane at SWMREC 269-944-1477 x 205 if you would like to have samples from your farm tested for maturity. See the Michigan State University apple web site (apples.msu.edu) for more information, including reports from other regions, past season reports, and additional information about apple maturity and apples in general.

General comments

Many Red Delicious and Golden Delicious blocks have been harvested in the area. This and next week will see many operations finishing up harvests.

Jonathan (6 sites sampled, 5th week) Flesh firmness average is 15.8, compared to 16.5 lb for last week. Starch conversion average is 6.6, last week 5.2. The brix average is 14.6, last week 13.3. The 2010 predicted peak longterm CA harvest date for Berrien County is Sept 15 and the normal date is September 22. Like last week, starch conversion tests in the mature to overmature range with firmness ranging from excellent for long term CA to short term storage firmness.

Golden Delicious (8 sites sampled, 5th week of sampling). Flesh firmness is averaging 16.9, last week 17.5 lb. Starch conversion average is 5.4, another large jump over last week's 3.9, and brix is averaging 14.1, compared to 13.3 for last week. Firmness has drifted down to the mid range storage range for most sites. Sites are testing in the mature to overmature range for starch conversion. Harvesting is proceeding rapidly in the area. Fruit drop is common in sites not protected by stop drop sprays. The 2010 predicted date for peak harvest for longterm CA storage is September 19th.

Red Delicious (6 sites sampled, 5th week of sampling). Flesh firmness is averaging 16.5, last week was 17.3 lb. Starch conversion average is 5.1, last week's value was 4.7 and brix is averaging 12.4 compared to 12 for last week. Firmness is generally in the mid term storage range, with starch conversion in the mature to the over mature range. The 2010 predicted date for peak harvest for longterm CA storage is September 21st. Some blocks may be beyond the optimum point for longterm CA storage.

Idared (5 sites sampled, 3rd week of sampling). Flesh firmness is averaging 16.4 slightly lower than last week's 16.8 lb. Starch conversion average is 3.8, last week was 2.8, and brix is averaging 12.0 compared to 11.6 for last week. The 2010 predicted date for peak harvest for longterm CA storage is September 27st and the longtime average is Oct 5th. Idared firmness is still in the excellent to very good range in most sites, starch conversion are now in the mature range.

Fuji (7 sites sampled, 3rd week of sampling). Flesh firmness is averaging 18.3, compared to 19.1 for last week. Starch conversion average is 5.2 compared to 4 for last week, brix is averaging 13.5, last week's average was 12.8. The 2010 predicted date for peak harvest for

longterm CA storage is October 12th and the longtime average is Oct 20th. Fuji firmness ranges from excellent to suitable for longterm CA storage, and like last week, all sites are in the mature zone for starch conversion. Background color for all samples was still green.

Braeburn (5 samples from 3 sites, 1st week of sampling). Flesh firmness is very high, averaging 22 lbs, with starch conversion already averaging 3.2, and brix of 12.2. Braeburn harvest can be delayed.

Rome (4 sites sampled, 1st week of sampling). Flesh firmness is averaging 21.5 lb, very firm, starch is 3.6, mostly in the mature range, with brix averaging 12. Harvesting for processing use has been underway in some blocks.

This report and project is made possible by the support of our sponsors which include Greg Orchards Produce, Inc, Michigan Apple Committee, Michigan State Horticultural Society, Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station, Mammoth Farms, and Michigan State University Extension. SW growers providing apples include Grandview Orchards, Mammoth Farms, Oak Hill, Bixby Orchards, Dan Klug, Weber Farms, Meachum Farms, Kevin Winkel Farms, Weckwerth Farms, Willmeng Farms, and Czuba Farms.

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Figures 1 & 2. Apple maturity trends for SW Michigan. Each dot is the average for an orchard based on a 10 apple sample. Samples were taken in Berrien and Van Buren counties.



