

# MSU Fruit Team Apple Maturity Report Northwest Region Reports - 2009

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## **NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #1** **September 16, 2009**

**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 [ornwmihort@msu.edu](mailto:ornwmihort@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.

We have had no rainfall since the end of August, cool evenings and sunny days have helped with coloring and maturation. Quality looks good. Flavor and aroma are also great.

**PaulRed** - Harvest is nearly over.

**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** - Nearing mature (4 samples). Firmness at about 17.1 lbs. Starch index at 3.1. Brix level at 11.6. Color is at 81%. Some drop has been noted as the fruit sizes and tend to crowd each other off the limb.

**HoneyCrisp** - Immature (4 samples). Firmness at about 17.5 lbs. Starch index at 2.4. Brix level at 11.7. Color is at 70%. 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 (2 samples). Firmness at 20.3 lbs. Starch index is at 1.1 and brix levels are at 10.2. Color is at 70%.

## STATEWIDE REPORTS

**Southwest:** Dry conditions helped harvest. Gala and Honeycrisp are mature. Empires are mostly gone. Jonathans are 17.2 in firmness and brix is averaging 12.2. Jonagold has a starch index of 4 – excellent firmness, weird conical shape this year. Wide range of firmness in Yellow Delicious.

**Southeast:** Picking Macs now and some Gala for fresh market. Honeycrisps are 1/2-1/3 picked. Empires not ready yet despite large drop in pressure. Jonagolds have poor color and that unusual shape.

**Grand Rapids :** Empires are a way off yet. No Red Delicious yet. Things are more slowly – letting hang longer for size. Labor is good.

**West Central:** Starting to pick Macs. Lots of bitter pit this year. Jonagolds have good size and moving along quickly. Labor is also good.

## NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #2 September 23, 2009

**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 [ornwmihort@msu.edu](mailto:ornwmihort@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.

We have had 0.3 inches of rainfall since last week and the only rain since the end of August, cool evenings and sunny days have helped with coloring and maturation. Quality looks good. Flavor and aroma are also great.

**McIntosh** - Nearing mature to mature (3 samples). Firmness at 15.0 lbs. down from 17.1 lbs. Starch index at 4.0 up from 3.1. Brix level at 11.8. Color is at 90%. Some drop has been noted as the fruit sizes and tend to crowd each other off the limb.

**HoneyCrisp** - Nearing mature to mature (3 samples). Firmness at 15.7 lbs. down from 17.5 lbs. Starch index at 4.5 up from 2.4. Brix level at 11.6. Color is at 80%. 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 (3 samples). Firmness at 19.7 lbs down slightly from 20.3 lbs. Starch index is 2.0 up from 1.1 and brix levels are at 11.8. Color is has improved to nearly 90%.

**Golden Delicious** - Immature (3 samples). Firmness at 18.0 lbs. Starch Index is 1.9 and brix levels are at 11.9. Fruit have about 20% blush

## STATEWIDE REPORTS

**Southwest:** Honeycrisp and Galas are mature and no more testing. Last week of Jonathans, and they are getting ready to go. Jonagolds are moving along. Early strains of Red Delicious are starting to mature but do not taste good. Idareds—out of four sites, two are starting to mature. Fujis have brix 12.7 and excellent firmness.

**Southeast:** Empires are still not ready. Red Delicious is still a long way off. Many Macs were looked over due to pushing off and low pressure. Many were left on trees for juice and gone after better looking Gala. Galas are still firm and nice color. Cortlands color keeps improving, and one pound drop in pressure from last week while brix remained the same. Big gap in ripeness between Goldens and Red Delicious.

**Grand Rapids :** Very similar to southeast. Processors are not taking all of the crop, and some fruit looks great while other blocks look terrible. Galas still have immature blocks while others have been picked. Honeycrisp is about half finished. All Jonathans and Jonagolds are bleeding terribly even though they are still immature. Goldens (and just about everything else!) will be ready next week. Firmness on many varieties is still high. Overall brix is up around 11 or 12, and a bit on the low side compared to normal. Color is great except on Gala.

**West Central:** Macs are being picked and fast. Honeycrisp will hit its peak next week, but some fruit are showing signs of maturity. Brix in Honeycrisp seems low. Jonagolds have excellent firmness, and a few are testing mature. Empires are small to medium in size.

**NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #3**  
**September 30, 2009**

**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 [ornwmihort@msu.edu](mailto:ornwmihort@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.

We have had 1.2 inches of rainfall since last week. Cool evenings and sunny days have helped with coloring and maturation. Quality looks good. Flavor and aroma are also great.

**McIntosh** - Nearing mature to mature (3 samples). Firmness at 15.3 lbs. nearly the same as last week. Starch index at 3.4, ranging from under 2.0 to nearly 7.0. Brix level at 12.1. Color is at 90%. Some drop has been noted as the fruit sizes and tend to crowd each other off the limb.

**HoneyCrisp** - Mature (4 samples). Firmness at 15.5 lbs. down from 15.7 lbs. Starch index at 6.1 up from 4.5. Brix level at 12.8, up from 11.6. Color is at 90%. 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** - Nearing mature to mature (3 samples). Firmness at 17.8 lbs down slightly from 19.7 lbs. Starch index is 3.5 up from 2.0 and brix levels are at 12.4. Color is over 90%.

**Golden Delicious** - Immature to nearing mature (3 samples). Firmness at 18.4 lbs, down from 18.0 lbs. Starch Index is 3.0 up from 1.9 and brix levels are at 13.4. Fruit have about 20% blush.

**Jonagold** - Immature to nearing mature (3 samples). Firmness at 17.4 lbs. Starch Index is 2.9. with brix levels are at 14.1. Color is at 70%.

**Northern Spy** - Immature (2 samples). Firmness at 22.1 lbs. Starch Index is 1.4. with brix levels are at 11.7. Color is between 50% and 95%.

## **STATEWIDE REPORTS**

**Southwest:** Compared to last year, overall the southwest is not much different in apple maturity. IdaReds are a bit ahead of last year. Empire, Jonathan, Jonagold, Honeycrisp all mature. Golden Delicious starch removal is at 6, but showing range of maturity. Red Delicious firmness is dropping but starch conversion still only in the mid-2's. Northern spies starting to test mature in most sites but many waiting for better size, color, and sugar content. Labor is good because vegetables are finishing up. Bins are tight.

**Southeast:** Lots of samples this week. Sixth week of Galas and mostly finished. The majority of Empires and Cortlands have been harvested. Jonagolds still have low internal ethylene but increase in

starch removal—many overmature now. Golden Delicious are ready for harvest. Red Delicious color is good but starch removal and sugar are not there yet—Reds a long way behind Golden this year. IdaRed is not ready for harvest.

**Grand Rapids :** There may have been frost injury earlier contributing to range in maturity and size. Winding up first picking of Gala, and 10% to go. Still working on Honeycrisp—about 60% have been picked. Empires range from immature to mature but very firm with nice color. The majority of Jonagolds are approaching mature with good brix but not good color. Jonathan is in mature range and ahead of Empire this year. Golden are moving along. Red Delicious and IdaReds are both immature. Labor supply is great.

**West Central:** High winds and rain slowed harvest. Half way finished with Gala. Honeycrisp first color picking finished and starch removal dropped in a week with good color and brix. Jonagold is ahead of Gala this year with good firmness.

#### **NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #4 October 7, 2009**

**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.

More rainfall since last week. Cool evenings and a few sunny days have helped with coloring and maturation. Quality looks good. Flavor and aroma are also great.

**McIntosh** - Mature (no samples). Harvest of Mac is winding down.

**HoneyCrisp** - Mature (no samples). Many orchards have finished their first picking.

**Gala** - Nearing mature to mature (3 samples all North of M-204). Firmness at 18.8 lbs. Starch index is 3.4 and brix levels are at 12.8. Color is over 90%.

**Golden Delicious** - Nearing mature to mature (2 samples). Firmness at 17.3 lbs, down from 18.4 lbs. Starch Index is 3.3 up from 3.0 and brix levels are at 13.8. Fruit have about 20% blush.

**Jonagold** - Mature (3 samples). Firmness at 17.6 lbs. Starch Index is 4.8, up from 2.9. with brix levels are at 14.9. Color is has improved to over 75%.

**Northern Spy** - Immature (2 samples). Firmness at 21.2 lbs., down from 22.1 lbs. Starch Index is 2.0 up from 1.4. with brix levels are at 12.4. Color is 60%.

**Empire** - Mature (1 sample). Firmness at 17.4 lbs. Starch Index is 4.9 with brix levels are at 13.0. Color is 90%.

**STATEWIDE REPORTS**

**Unavailable due to power outages in the NW on Wednesday, Oct. 7.**

**NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #5**

**October 14, 2009**

**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 [ornwmihort@msu.edu](mailto:ornwmihort@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.

Again, more rainfall since last week. Cool evenings and a few sunny days have helped with coloring and maturation. We have reached the point in the season when picking becomes a free-for-all and nearly all varieties are being harvested.

**HoneyCrisp** - Mature to overmature (no samples). Most orchards have finished picking.

**Gala** - Mature to overmature (no samples). Most orchards have finished picking.

**Golden Delicious** - Mature (1 sample). Firmness at 17.7 lbs. Starch Index is 5.6, up from 3.3 and brix levels are at 14.4. Fruit have about 30% blush.

**Jonagold** - Mature (no samples). All previously sampled blocks have been harvested.

**Northern Spy** - Approaching mature (1 sample). Firmness at 20.7 lbs., down from 21.2 lbs. Starch Index is 2.2, up from 2.0 with brix levels at 12.7. Color is over 60%. Some blocks have been harvested.

**Empire** - Mature (no samples). Most orchards have finished picking.

**IdaRed** - Mature (2 samples). Firmness at 17.7 lbs. Starch Index is 3.6 and brix levels are at 13.4. Fruit have nearly 100% color. Harvesting is ongoing.

**Rome** - Mature (1 sample). Firmness at 22.4 lbs. Starch Index is 3.0 with brix levels at 12.7. Color is 100%. Some blocks have been harvested.

**STATEWIDE REPORTS**

**Southwest:** No report this week.

**Southeast:** No report this week.

**Grand Rapids :** No report this week.

**West Central:** No report this week.