

MSU Fruit Team Apple Maturity Report 2013
Northwest Region, Report Number 7: October 16, 2013
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This is the seventh 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.

The past week has been a great time for picking apples across northwest Michigan. Daytime temperatures reached into the mid-70s, and sunshine has been abundant for the past seven days. Rain is expected to move into the region, but temperatures are still forecasted to be mild for the remainder of the week. Some growers are still harvesting their second and third pickings of HoneyCrisp, but many growers have moved onto the Jonagolds and both Red and Golden Delicious. Labor is in short supply for many farms, but the numbers of pickers needed varies widely across the region. Lack of available housing has been cited as a potential issue for attracting workers for apple harvest in northwest Michigan. Winegrape growers have also been short on workers this season, and in this region, growers have typically shared pickers between apples and winegrapes.

Summary of northwest Michigan apple maturity samples taken on 15 October 2013

Variety	Color % (range)	Firmness lbs. pressure (range)	Starch (range)	Brix (range)
Red Delicious	100 (100)	17.2 (14.5 - 22)	3.6 (2 - 6)	13.4 (12 – 15)
Crispin	27 (0 – 70)	20.1 (18 – 23)	2.0 (2.0)	13.4 (12 – 13.8)
Golden Delicious	32 (0 – 70)	17.6 (15.5 – 22)	5.4 (2 – 8)	15.4 (14 – 17)
IdaRed	91 (80 – 100)	17.7 (15 – 21)	3.6 (3 – 5)	14.9 (14 – 15.2)

Jonagold – Mature for short-term CA (no samples). Many growers have started harvest of this variety this week. Jonagold size is large in many orchards.

Golden Delicious - Mature Long-term CA (3 samples). Firmness is at 17.6 lbs., down from 18.2 lbs. last week. Starch index is at 5.4, up from 3.8. Brix level is 15.4 and color (blush) is at 32%.

Red Delicious – Mature Long-term CA (3 samples). Firmness is holding at 17.2 lbs. with the starch index up to 3.6 from 3.3 last week. Brix level is up to 13.4 and the color is at 100%.

IdaRed – Mature Long-term CA (1 sample). Firmness is holding 17.7 lbs. Starch index is holding at 3.6. Brix level is at 14.9 and the color is at 91%. IdaReds have a sample size of one, and growers should be aware that there might be variability across orchards compared with our single sample.

Crispin – Approaching mature (1 sample). Firmness is at 20.1 lbs. Starch index is at 2.0. Brix level is at 13.4 and the color (blush) is at 27%. Again, a single sample should be noted.