

MSU Fruit Team Apple Maturity Report - 2009 Northwest Region

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

NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #2

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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.

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 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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