

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 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 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 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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