

MSU Fruit Team Apple Maturity Report Northwest Region Reports - 2005

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www.ams.usda.gov/marketnews.htm

www.bhfm.com

NW Michigan Pome Fruit Code-a-phone/Apple Maturity Line (231) 947-3063

NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #1 **August 31, 2005**

This year the NWMHRS will again 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).

General Comments - If you are interested in having your fruit tested, drop off a 10 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.

EarliGold - Harvesting this week.

GingerGold - Approaching mature to mature (1 sample). Firmness at 17.1 lbs., about 3 lb. less than last week, as GingerGold tends to soften quickly even before ripening. Starch level is holding at 1.2. Harvest has begun in some blocks. 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.

HoneyCrisp - Immature. 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. Gala may mature with or before McIntosh this year due to the warm weather in July. We will know more once we begin testing the samples.

STATEWIDE REPORTS

Southwest - Gala may begin soon. Empire - immature, but being harvested for taffy apples. Golden Delicious - immature, being harvested for processing.

Southeast - PaulaRed and GingerGold are finished. Gala and Mac are about one week off. HoneyCrisp - color picking.

Ridge / Clarksville - McIntosh - immature. Gala - some early blocks are ready for long term CA. HoneyCrisp - color picking. Empire - some are being harvested for taffy apples.

Mason / Oceana / Manistee - No report this week.

NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #2 September 7, 2005

This year the NWMHRS will again 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).

General Comments - If you are interested in having your fruit tested, drop off a 10 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.

Comments from other regions of the state suggest that firmness is lower than expected on nearly all varieties at this time. Regional Reports are available on the web at the following address:
<http://web1.msue.msu.edu/fruit/ripeapple.htm>

EarliGold - Harvest is finished.

GingerGold - GingerGold tends to soften quickly even before ripening. Harvest is wrapping up in most blocks. 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.

HoneyCrisp - Immature. Firmness average is 17.6 lbs. and starch index at 2.0. Color on the ripest fruit is about 75%. Brix level is 11.8. This variety needs multiple pickings over several weeks for premium quality fruit. First picking on this variety may be as early as next week, but will probably be limited to a few apples per tree.

Gala - Immature. Firmness average is 21.6 lbs. and starch index at 1.3. Color is good to excellent depending on strain. Brix level is 12.6. Gala is expected to ripen prior to or along with McIntosh this season due to the warmer than normal summer temperatures we experienced.

McIntosh - Immature. Firmness average is 16.5 lbs and starch index 2.2. Color is good at 65% and has improved from last week. Brix level is 12.1. McIntosh should be nearing maturity levels for CA Storage in about a week to 10 days.

STATEWIDE SUMMARIES

Southwest - Gala may finish this week. Empire - immature. Golden Supreme - some drop and spot picking. Jonathan - harvest for processing to begin next week. Honeycrisp - some harvest.

Southeast - Gala - some early sites being harvested. McIntosh - just approaching the LT CA window. HoneyCrisp - color picking. Empire and RedCort - immature.

Ridge / Clarksville - McIntosh - ready for LT CA. Gala - harvest has begun, ready for LT CA with some blocks approaching mid term CA window. HoneyCrisp - color picking, ready for storage. Empire - immature.

Mason / Oceana / Manistee - Gala - some early strains mature. McIntosh - ready for long term CA by the end of this week or early next week. Honeycrisp - needs color. Jonagold and Cortland - immature. Golden Supreme - fruit could be harvested early next week.

NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #3 September 14, 2005

General Comments - If you are interested in having your fruit tested, drop off a 10 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. Brix readings are higher than normal this year across all varieties due to the warmer and sunny summer weather we experienced.

Regional Reports are available on the web at the following address:
<http://web1.msue.msu.edu/fruit/ripeapple.htm>

HoneyCrisp - Mature (5 samples). Firmness average is 17.0 lbs. and starch index at 5.7 up from 2.0 last week. Color on the ripest fruit is about 70%. Brix level is 13.7. This variety needs multiple pickings for premium quality fruit. First picking on this variety should take place now, but will probably be limited to fewer than 25% of the tree.

Gala - Approaching mature (6 samples). Firmness average is 20.8 lbs, down 1 lb. from last week. Starch index at 1.9. One block is entering the long term CA window. Brix level is 13.7. Color has increased this week and is good to excellent depending on the strain. Gala is expected to ripen prior to or along with McIntosh this season due to the warmer than normal summer temperatures we experienced. Retain treated samples were less mature.

McIntosh - Approaching mature. Firmness average is 16.2 lbs and starch index 2.4, slightly up from last week. Color is good at 65% and has deepened from last week. Brix level is 13.3. McIntosh is near maturity levels for CA storage in some blocks and will be ready in others in the next week. Some fruit drop has been seen in McIntosh. The expected cooler night time temperatures should increase coloring and help hasten maturity.

Empire - Immature. Firmness at 21.7 lbs. Starch index at 1.1. Color - fair. Brix at 12.6

STATEWIDE REPORTS

Southwest - Gala - finished. Empire - about 7 days off. Golden Delicious - immature, some processing harvest. Jonathan - ready for processing, wait for fresh. Jonagold - waiting for better color. Red Delicious - moving into mature zone, expect harvest in 5 to 7 days.

Southeast - Gala - finished. McIntosh - nearly finished. HoneyCrisp - in 3rd or 4th picking. Empire - approaching mature. Cortland and Golden Delicious - immature. Jonathan - variable maturity. Jonagold - 7 to 10 days away, needs color.

Ridge / Clarksville - McIntosh - harvest nearly complete. Gala - moving to mid to short term CA window, may finish this week. HoneyCrisp - 3rd picking. Empire - approaching mature, ready for export harvest. Jonathan - red sports will be harvested next week. Jonagold - next week for processing / storage, 10 days for fresh

Mason / Oceana / Manistee - Gala - harvest nearly complete. McIntosh - harvest ongoing. Honeycrisp - mature. Jonagold - needs color. Cortland - being harvested for processing. Golden Delicious - immature, some spot picking. Empire - harvest will begin next week.

NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #4 September 21, 2005

This year the NWMHRS will again 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).

General Comments - Brix readings are higher than normal this year across all varieties due to the warmer and sunny summer weather we experienced.

Regional Reports are available on the web at the following address:
<http://web1.msue.msu.edu/fruit/ripeapple.htm>

HoneyCrisp - Mature (5 samples). Firmness average is 15.6 lbs., down from 17.0 lbs. last week. Starch index is at 7.2, up from 5.7 last week. Color on the ripest fruit is about 80%. Brix level is at 14.0. This variety needs multiple pickings for premium quality fruit. Some blocks with light crops are nearly finished, while trees or blocks with heavier crop loads still have multiple pickings to come.

Gala - Mature (4 samples). Firmness average is 19.1 lbs., down 1.7 lbs. from last week. Starch index is at 4.0, up from 1.9. Brix level has increased slightly to 14.4. Color on most fruit is excellent. Gala is expected to ripen prior to or along with McIntosh this season due to the warmer than normal summer temperatures we experienced. Retain treated samples were less mature with firmness at 20.1 lbs. and starch index at 1.1.

McIntosh - Mature (4 samples). Firmness average is unchanged from last week at 16.1 lbs and starch index 2.9, up 0.5 from last week. Color is good at 67% and has deepened from last week. Brix level is at 13.8. McIntosh is mature for CA storage in some blocks and will be ready in others by this weekend or early next week. Some fruit drop has been seen in McIntosh.

Empire - Immature (3 samples). Firmness at 19.0 lbs. Starch index at 1.6, up from 1.1 last week. Color is good. Brix level is at 12.7. Some fruit is being harvested for taffy apples.

Golden Delicious - Immature (1 sample). Firmness at 19.2 lbs. and starch index is at 3.1. Brix level is at 13.4. Fruit still had full green background color.

STATEWIDE REPORTS

Southwest - Gala - finished. Empire - nearly ready for CA. Golden Delicious - the most mature blocks are ready for storage. Jonathan - mature for all uses. Jonagold - harvest is underway. Red Delicious - harvest of early and high colored strains is underway.

Southeast - Gala and McIntosh - finished. Empire - mature for mid to LT CA. Cortland - immature. Golden Delicious - entering mature range. Jonathan - mature, some harvest. Jonagold - mature, needs color. Red Delicious - approaching mature.

Ridge / Clarksville - McIntosh and Honeycrisp - most blocks finished. Empire - harvesting, at the minimum for export harvest. Jonathan - mature. Jonagold - ready for harvest, color fair. Golden Delicious - majority ready for LT CA next week. Red Delicious - about a week away.

Mason / Oceana / Manistee - Gala, McIntosh and Honeycrisp - wrapping up. Jonagold - mature for LT CA. Cortland - will finish this week for processing. Golden Delicious - immature. Empire - harvest will begin in 4 to 7 days. Jonathan - entering mature range.

NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #5 September 28, 2005

This year the NWMHRS will again 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).

General Comments - Brix readings are higher than normal this year across all varieties due to the warmer and sunny summer weather we experienced.

Regional Reports are available on the web at the following address:
<http://web1.msue.msu.edu/fruit/ripeapple.htm>

HoneyCrisp - Mature (5 samples). Firmness average is 15.6 lbs., down from 17.0 lbs. last week. Starch index is at 7.2, up from 5.7 last week. Color on the ripest fruit is about 80%. Brix level is at 14.0. This variety needs multiple pickings for premium quality fruit. Some blocks with light crops are nearly finished, while trees or blocks with heavier crop loads still have multiple pickings to come.

Gala - Mature (4 samples). Firmness average is 19.1 lbs., down 1.7 lbs. from last week. Starch index is at 4.0, up from 1.9. Brix level has increased slightly to 14.4. Color on most fruit is excellent. Gala is expected to ripen prior to or along with McIntosh this season due to the warmer than normal summer

temperatures we experienced. Retain treated samples were less mature with firmness at 20.1 lbs. and starch index at 1.1.

McIntosh - Mature (4 samples). Firmness average is unchanged from last week at 16.1 lbs and starch index 2.9, up 0.5 from last week. Color is good at 67% and has deepened from last week. Brix level is at 13.8. McIntosh is mature for CA storage in some blocks and will be ready in others by this weekend or early next week. Some fruit drop has been seen in McIntosh.

Empire - Immature (3 samples). Firmness at 19.0 lbs. Starch index at 1.6, up from 1.1 last week. Color is good. Brix level is at 12.7. Some fruit is being harvested for taffy apples.

Golden Delicious - Immature (1 sample). Firmness at 19.2 lbs. and starch index is at 3.1. Brix level is at 13.4. Fruit still had full green background color.

STATEWIDE REPORTS

Southwest - Gala - finished. Empire - nearly ready for CA. Golden Delicious - the most mature blocks are ready for storage. Jonathan - mature for all uses. Jonagold - harvest is underway. Red Delicious - harvest of early and high colored strains is underway.

Southeast - Gala and McIntosh - finished. Empire - mature for mid to LT CA. Cortland - immature. Golden Delicious - entering mature range. Jonathan - mature, some harvest. Jonagold - mature, needs color. Red Delicious - approaching mature.

Ridge / Clarksville - McIntosh and Honeycrisp - most blocks finished. Empire - harvesting, at the minimum for export harvest. Jonathan - mature. Jonagold - ready for harvest, color fair. Golden Delicious - majority ready for LT CA next week. Red Delicious - about a week away.

Mason / Oceana / Manistee - Gala, McIntosh and Honeycrisp - wrapping up. Jonagold - mature for LT CA. Cortland - will finish this week for processing. Golden Delicious - immature. Empire - harvest will begin in 4 to 7 days. Jonathan - entering mature range.

NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #6 October 5, 2005

This year the NWMHRS will again 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).

General Comments - Many varieties are maturing at the same time, and their harvest times are overlapping in the downstate apple regions. Our varieties will mature in a similar fashion in early October.

Brix readings in general, are higher than normal this year in all varieties due to the warmer and sunny summer weather.

Regional Reports are available on the web at the following address:

<http://web1.msue.msu.edu/fruit/ripeapple.htm>

Jonagold - Overmature (1 sample). Firmness still good in one sample tested. Starch index at 6.5. Brix level is 14.4. Color is fair to excellent depending on the strain. Jonagold is mature for short term storage and fresh sales.

Empire - Mature (1 sample). Firmness holding from last week. Starch index at 5.8, up from 1.9 last week. Color has improved. Brix level is at 12.4. Empire moved very quickly this past week and based on our limited samples should be harvested now.

Golden Delicious - Mature (7 samples). Firmness at 17.7 lbs., similar to last week. Starch index is at 3.2, up slightly from 3.0 last week. Brix level is at 13.9. Nice blush developing. Golden Delicious blocks are ready for long term CA or will be by the weekend. Reports around the state suggest the best Golden Delicious quality in years.

Red Delicious - Mature (4 samples). Firmness at 18.0 lbs. Starch index at 2.6 with brix levels at 12.0. Color is excellent. Three of the four blocks tested have reached the minimal level of starch conversion recommended for long term CA storage. Red Delicious is maturing about a week ahead of the predicted harvest date of 10/13.

Idared - Immature (3 samples). Firmness at 17.4 lbs. and starch index at 2.5. Brix level is at 11.7. Color is fair at 60%. Idared should be entering the mature range for long term storage in 7 to 10 days.

Rome - Immature (2 samples). Firmness is at 22.3 lbs. and the starch index is at 1.7. Brix level is 12.0 and color is good to excellent with no bleeding of skin color into the flesh.

Northern Spy - Immature (4 samples). Firmness is excellent at 21.5 lbs. Starch index at 1.9, up from 1.4 last week. Brix level is at 12.1. Some Spy blocks are currently being harvested, though the fruit is still immature.

STATEWIDE REPORTS

Southwest - Golden Delicious - harvest ongoing. Red Delicious - harvest for mid to short term storage. Rome - entering mature range for long term storage. Idared - mature for long term CA.

Southeast - Golden Delicious - nearly finished. Jonagold - harvest finished. Red Delicious - hurrying to finish, some drop. Spy - ready for CA. Idared - some harvest, can wait for other varieties if needed.

Ridge / Clarksville - Jonagold - finished, except a few waiting on color. Golden Delicious - nearly finished. Red Delicious - harvesting now, some blocks waiting for color. Idared - mature for long term CA. Spy - harvest ongoing. Rome - harvest to begin next week.

Mason / Oceana / Manistee - Jonagold - nearly finished. Golden Delicious - nearly finished. Red Delicious - entering mature range for long term storage. Idared - approaching mature. Rome - will follow Red Delicious.

NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #7
October 12, 2005

General Comments - Many varieties are maturing at the same time, and their harvest times are overlapping throughout the state.

Brix readings in general, are higher than normal this year in all varieties due to the warmer and sunny summer weather.

Jonagold - (no samples tested).

Empire - (no samples tested).

Golden Delicious - Mature (3 samples). Firmness at 16.3 lbs., down from 17.7 lbs. last week. Starch index is at 5.2, up from 3.2 last week. Brix level is at 15.1. Nice blush developing. Golden Delicious blocks are ready for mid to long term CA.

Red Delicious - Mature (2 samples). Firmness at 17.1 lbs., down from 18.0 lbs. last week. Starch index at 3.4, up from 2.6. Brix levels average 13.7. Color is excellent. Red Delicious blocks are ready for long term CA storage.

Idared - Mature (1 sample). Firmness at 15.2 lbs., down from 17.4 lbs. last week. Starch index at 5.0 up from 2.5. Brix level is at 15.2. Color is excellent at 80%. Based on the change from last week to this week, Idared is mature for long term storage.

Rome - Nearly mature (1 sample). Firmness is at 21.2 lbs., down 1 lb. from last week. Starch index is at 2.5, up from 1.7. Brix level is 12.8 and color is excellent. Rome should be mature for long term storage by the end of this week.

Northern Spy - Nearly mature (3 samples). Firmness is excellent and holding at 21.6 lbs. Starch index at 2.7, up from 1.9 last week. Brix level is at 14.3. Many Spy blocks are currently being harvested, though the fruit is just beginning to reach the mature range for long term storage.

STATEWIDE REPORTS

Southwest - Fuji -ready for long term storage. Braeburn - harvest will take place within the next week.

Southeast - no report available at this time.

Ridge / Clarksville - no report available at this time.

Mason / Oceana / Manistee - Red Delicious - mature for long term storage. Idared - ready for harvest this week.