

MSU Fruit Team Apple Maturity Report Northwest Region Reports - 2007

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

NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #1 **August 29, 2007**

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 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. Fairly heavy drop in McIntosh has been noted in other areas of the state.

Sunrise - Mature (1 sample). Firmness at 20.0 lbs. Starch index is at 4.0 and brix levels are at 12.9.

Gingergold - Approaching Mature (3 samples). Firmness at 21.3 lbs, but Gingergold tends to soften quickly even before ripening. Starch level is 1.2 with brix level at 12.0. Limited 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 - Immature (3 samples). Firmness at about 23.0 lbs. Starch index at 1.6. Brix level at 11.9. Color is at 68%. Some drop has been noted as the fruit sizes and tend to crowd each other off the limb.

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 (4 samples). Firmness at 23.4 lbs. Starch index is at 1.0 and brix levels are at 12.3. Color has improved over the past week.

STATEWIDE REPORTS

Southwest - Gingergold is finished. Gala is being spot picked as are apples for the taffy apple market.

Southeast - Gingergold and Paulared are finished. Gala - spot picking. Mac - waiting, some drops

Ridge / Clarksville - Gala ready for LT Ca storage, ethylene above threshold levels. Macs - no harvest yet, lots of drops. Honeycrisp still immature. Zesta and MN1914 - mature.

Mason / Oceana / Manistee - Mac - harvest may begin mid to late next week. Gala harvest may begin in about 1 week.

NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #2 September 5, 2007

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 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. Fairly heavy drop in McIntosh has been noted in other areas of the state.

Sunrise - Mature (no samples).

Gingergold - Mature (no samples). 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 - Immature (3 samples). Firmness at 19.2 lbs down from 23 lbs. last week. Starch index at 2.5 up from 1.6 last week. Brix level at 12. Color is at 68%. Estimated date for harvest in NW Michigan is 9/9 for CA Storage. Some drop has been noted.

HoneyCrisp - Immature (2 samples). Firmness at 20.3 lbs. and starch index at 2.2. Brix level is 12.9. Color is improving and a few apples per tree are nearing maturity. 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 22.5 lbs. down from 23.4 lbs. last week. Starch index is at 1.1 and brix levels are at 11.7. Color has improved over the past week.

STATEWIDE REPORTS

Southwest - Gala is being harvested. Honeycrisp is being spot picked. Empire are being harvested for the taffy apple and slice market and may start the end of the week for storage for the fresh market.

Southeast - Gala - 80% harvested. Mac - 40 to 50% done. Honeycrisp - spot picking. Empire, Jonathan and Jonagold - immature.

Ridge / Clarksville - Gala is being harvested now. Macs - 15 to 20% harvested. Honeycrisp - spot picking. Empire should begin next week. Jonathan, Cortland and Jonagold - immature

Mason / Oceana / Manistee - Mac - harvesting, some drop. Gala - ready for spot picking. Honeycrisp - may begin spot picking by the end of the week. Empire and Cortland - immature.

NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #3 September 12, 2007

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).

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McIntosh – Mature for CA storage (2 samples). Firmness at 16.6 lbs. down from 19.2 lbs. last week. Starch index at 3.3 up from 2.5 last week. Brix level at 12.9. Color is at 68%. Mac's are ready for Ca storage at this time.

Honeycrisp – Mature for 1st picking (3 samples). Firmness at 17.5 lbs. down from 20.3 lbs. last week. Starch index is at 4.0. Brix level is 13.0. Color is improving at 77% and Honeycrisp is ready for its 1st picking. This variety needs multiple pickings over several weeks for premium quality fruit.

Gala - Immature (3 samples). Firmness at 20.9 lbs. down from 22.5 lbs. last week. Starch index is at 1.8 up from 1.1. Brix levels are at 12.7. Color has improved over the past week to 78%.

Empire – Immature (2 samples). Firmness at 20.5 lbs. and starch index is at 1.5. Brix level is at 12.8. Color has improved to 70%

Jonagold – Immature (2 samples). Firmness at 18.7 lbs. and starch index is at 2.5. Brix level is at 12.9 and color is at 48%.

Cortland – Immature (1 sample). Firmness at 18.8 lbs and starch index is at 1.1. Brix level is at 13.9. Color is at 75%

STATEWIDE REPORTS

Southwest – Waiting for color on many varieties. Red Delicious is more advanced this year; may harvest before Goldens. Rome harvest has started to prevent bleeding in flesh.

Southeast – Harvest is in a ‘gap’ right now. Looking at Empires, but they are not quite ready yet. Mac and Gala harvest is finished. Honeycrisp harvest is underway, and color is at 76%. Red Delicious is ahead of Golden in this area too, and Red are almost ready to harvest.

Ridge / Clarksville – Macs are in the mid-term storage range, but most growers are finished with this variety. Empire harvest is underway, and there is better color this week. Jonathans are ready for long term CA storage. Reds are still immature, and Cortlands have not changed from last week. Still picking Honeycrisp and trying to get color on inside apples. Harvest labor is adequate.

Mason / Oceana / Manistee – Picking Macs now. Spot/color picking Galas, which are small in size this year. Cortland color is all over the board. Spot picking Honeycrisp, but color is not good as of yet. Jonagolds have good size.

NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #4 September 19, 2007

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General Comments - 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, should be large in size, free of blemishes, and with the stem attached.

McIntosh – Mature (no samples). Most McIntosh in the area have been harvested.

Honeycrisp – Mature (3 samples). Firmness at 16.5 lbs., down from 17.5 lbs. last week. Starch index is at 6.2, up from 4.0. Brix level is 13.3. Color is improving at 89%. Well colored Honeycrisp are ready for picking. This variety needs multiple pickings over several weeks for premium quality fruit.

Gala - Immature (3 samples). Firmness at 20.5 lbs., down from 20.9 lbs. last week. Starch index is at 1.7, unchanged from last week. Brix levels are at 12.8. Color has improved over the past week to 95%. Gala should be ready for CA storage in 5 to 7 days unless the fruit was treated with Retain.

Empire – Immature (1 sample). Firmness at 18.1 lbs. and starch index is at 1.3. Brix level is at 12.9. Color has improved to 90%. Some Empire in the area have been harvested for the taffy apple market.

Jonagold – Entering the mature range (2 samples). Firmness at 18.7 lbs., unchanged from last week. Starch index is at 3.9, up from 2.5 last week. Brix level is at 14. Color has greatly improved to 85%.

Golden Delicious – Immature (3 samples). Firmness at 20.4 lbs and starch index is at 1.3. Brix level is at 14.5. Fruit are showing some blush, background color is still green.

STATEWIDE REPORTS

Southwest – Jonathan - beyond LT CA window. Empire and Honeycrisp - nearly finished. Golden Delicious - ready for CA, some already picked for processing. Idared - some harvest, many blocks can wait. Jonagold - ready for harvest, unless color is poor. Red Delicious - harvest underway for LT storage.

Southeast – Empire - color improving. Redcort is being harvested. Jonagold - color improving, firmness dropped dramatically. Red Delicious - Low pressure, great color. N. Spy - blister spot and bitterpit being found. Labor supply and weather have both been great.

Ridge / Clarksville – Empire - nearly finished. Jonathan - most fruit still on trees. Cortland - waiting for better color. Golden Delicious - harvesting this week and next. Red Delicious - ready for LT CA in one week. Idared - ready for LT CA in 10 - 14 days. Jonagold in some areas are ready before Empire. Labor supply is good.

Mason / Oceana / Manistee – Gala - most blocks are finishing harvest. Empire - many are being harvested now.

NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #5 September 26, 2007

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General Comments - 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, should be large in size, free of blemishes, and with the stem attached.

Honeycrisp – Mature (3 samples). Firmness at 15.4 lbs., down from 16.5 lbs. last week. Starch index is at 7.4, up from 6.2. Brix level is 13.3. Color is excellent at 93%. Well colored Honeycrisp are ready for picking. This variety needs multiple pickings over several weeks for premium quality fruit.

Gala - Entering the mature range (2 samples). Firmness at 18.9 lbs., down from 20.5 lbs. last week. Starch index is at 2.7, up from 1.7 from last week. Brix levels are at 13.2. Color is still over 90%. Gala should be ready for CA unless the fruit was treated with Retain.

Empire – Immature (1 sample). Firmness at 18.2 lbs. and starch index is at 1.0. Brix level is at 13.5. Color has improved to 90%. Some Empire in the area have been harvested for the taffy apple market.

Jonagold – Entering the mature range (2 samples). Firmness at 17.7 lbs., down from 18.7 lbs. last week. Starch index is at 5.6, up from 3.9 last week. Brix level is at 14.3. Color has greatly improved to 95%. Some strains may need to hang to gain more color.

Golden Delicious – Immature (3 samples). Firmness at 19.5 lbs., down from 20.4 lbs last week. Starch index is at 2.0 up from 1.3. Brix level is at 15.9. Fruit are showing up to 25% blush, background color is still green. Golden in some blocks may be ready for CA storage in about 1 week.

Red Delicious - Entering the mature range (3 samples). Firmness at 19.5 lbs. and the starch index is at 2.6. Brix level is at 13.6. Fruit is 100% colored, but could improve with some cool nights. The three samples tested are just entering the mature range for long term CA storage.

STATEWIDE REPORTS

Southwest – Jonathan, Empire, Honeycrisp and Jonagold are mostly finished. Golden Delicious, Red Delicious and IdaRed are all being harvested. Fuji and Braeburn waiting for better size and color.

Southeast – Empire nearly finished. Jonagold and Golden Delicious are being spot picked. Red Delicious harvest is ongoing. IdaRed will be ready next week.

Ridge / Clarksville – Empire nearly finished. Jonathan and Jonagold coming off in good numbers this week. Red Delicious harvest is ongoing. Lots of drop in all varieties.

Mason / Oceana / Manistee – Empire and Jonagold are nearly finished. Red Delicious uniform ripening with excellent color and firmness. Mutsu is 7 to 10 days away from harvest with lots of Blister Spot. Northern Spy in nearly mature.

NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #6

October 3, 2007

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 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, should be large in size, free of blemishes, and with the stem attached. **This will be the final report of the season.**

Honeycrisp – Mature, harvest is complete in most orchards.

Gala - Mature to over mature (1 sample). Firmness at 18.9 lbs., unchanged from last week. Starch index is at 6.2, up from 2.7 from last week. Brix levels are at 14.8. Color is over 90%. Most Gala have been harvested.

Empire – Mature (1 sample). Firmness at 16.1lbs., down from 18.2 lbs. last week. Starch index is at 3.0, up from 1.0 last week. Brix level is at 13.4. Color has improved to 90%. Many Empire in the area have been harvested.

Jonagold – Mature to over mature (2 samples). Firmness at 16.0 lbs., down from 17.7 lbs. last week. Starch index is at 7.5, up from 5.6 last week. Brix level is at 14.3. Color is excellent on most strains. Some strains may need to hang to gain more color.

Golden Delicious – Mature (3 samples). Firmness at 17.8 lbs., down from 19.5 lbs last week. Starch index is at 4.3, up from 2.0 last week. Brix level is at 15.4. Fruit are showing up to 25% blush, background color has started to break. Golden are ready for CA storage.

Red Delicious - Mature (2 samples). Firmness at 17.2 lbs., down from 19.5 lbs. last week. Starch index is at 4.0, up from 2.6 last week. Brix level is at 13.7. Fruit is 100% colored and the color has deepened from last week. Red Delicious are ready for CA Storage.

IdaRed - Immature (2 samples). Firmness at 16.5 lbs. and the starch index is at 1.9. Brix level is at 13.1. Color ranges from 45 to 90%. IdaRed may be ready CA storage in about 1 week.

STATEWIDE REPORTS

The general comment is that most areas are picking out shorter than expected.

Southwest – Red Delicious is being harvested for mid to short term CA. IdaRed were harvested last week. Fuji - color needs improvement, firmness dropping.

Southeast – Jonagold harvest nearly finished. Golden Delicious harvest is finishing up. IdaRed are ready this week. Fuji is mature, a bit earlier than normal. Red Delicious firmness is a concern.

Ridge / Clarksville – Golden Delicious came off quickly this week. Red Delicious samples were variable, firmness is also a concern. IdaRed harvest should start this week. Harvest should wrap up in about 7 days. Jonagold are still waiting for color.

Mason / Oceana / Manistee – Many varieties are being harvest at this point. West Central is picking out higher than expected.