

MSU Fruit Team 2010 Apple Maturity Report

Northwest Region Reports

During the harvest season, apples from different regions are collected for maturity testing. The data is then compiled by MSU Extension educators into recommendations for harvest and storage of the most commonly grown apple varieties. Growers use this information as guidance for scheduling harvest on their farms.

There are several sponsors that make this testing possible through monetary donations. Please acknowledge the following companies and producers:

Windy Ridge, Moore Farms Orchards, Inc., Wittenbach Orchards, MANA, Melissa VanBeveren Twin Bee Orchards, LLC., Chase Orchards, Inc., First Crop LLC., Greg & Karen Prillwitz LLC., Joe Rasch Orchards, LLC., AppleQuest Inc., North Bay Produce, Inc., Greg Orchards & Produce, Inc., Roossinck Orchards & Fruit Storage Rasch Family Orchards, LLC., BelleHarvest Sales, Inc., Storage Control Systems, Inc.

The following pages contain helpful resources and **2010 reports from August through October (beginning on page 5)**.

HOW TO INTERPRET MATURITY INDICES

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/checking_apple_maturity_what_to_look_for

MATURITY REPORTS FROM OTHER REGIONS

<http://www.apples.msu.edu/maturity.htm>

PREDICTED 2011 APPLE HARVEST DATES

Phillip Schwallier, District Horticulture Educator
Amy Irish-Brown, District ICM Educator
Clarksville Horticultural Experimentation Station

This season started out early across the whole state. This year, the state is experiencing a compressed crop development. Green Tip was between 2 and 3 weeks ahead of normal from far south to far north. Tree development slowed during the cold weather shortly before bloom that moved into the state but bloom developed ahead of normal for the whole state. What was unique this year is that the whole state was compressed between south and north. Usually, there is a 2 to 3 week difference between SW and NW Michigan, but this year there was only a 7 day difference in bloom dates between SW and NW. Bloom dates were 1 week early in the south and 3 weeks early in the north. Apple maturity for 2010 is expected to be 7 days early in the south and 21 days early in the north. During and after bloom the daily temperatures can be characterized as cold with numerous frost events occurring throughout the state. The state has a very mixed cropload from block to block, but overall the state has a light crop. The postbloom cold temperatures will delay maturity and light croploads will advance maturity. Because crops are mixed, heavy to light, there will be a mix of maturity. There also was extended bloom in some parts of the state, which will make harvest dates less accurate.

The early bloom and cold weather following bloom, give us predicted harvest dates (Table 1) about 7 to 21 days ahead of normal. These predicted harvest dates are for the center or peak harvest of these varieties for CA storage. This year the 2010 predicted harvest dates are 7 to 21 days ahead of normal ahead of last year's predicted harvest dates (Table 2).

Hot temperatures during July and August will hasten the maturity of some varieties. Gala is notorious for ripening early when late summer temperatures are above normal. Other varieties are less prone to hot temperatures advancing fall maturity. Still other varieties ripen when cold temperatures occur near harvest time.

The normal harvest dates for other varieties are listed in Table 3 for the Grand Rapids area. This year's 2010 predicted dates are a rough estimate based on the McIntosh, Jonathan and Red Delicious predicted dates. Other areas of the state should adjust non-predicted varieties based on their own history

Table 1. 2010 predicted peak harvest dates

Station	Full bloom date			Predicted harvest date			Observer
	McIntosh	Jons	Reds	McIntosh	Jons	Reds	
SWMREC	24-Apr	28-Apr	29-Apr	30-Aug	16-Sep	21-Sep	Shane
Deerfield	26-Apr	29-Apr	30-Apr	31-Aug	19-Sep	26-Sep	Tritten
Romeo	29-Apr	30-Apr	1-May	1-Sep	18-Sep	24-Sep	Tritten
Peach Ridge	28-May	30-May	30-May	2-Sep	16-Sep	22-Sep	Schwallier
Ludington	1-May	1-May	3-May	4-Sep	14-Sep	21-Sep	Danilovich
NWMHRS	3-May	4-May	4-May	4-Sep	17-Sep	23-Sep	Rothwell

Table 2. 2010 predicted peak harvest dates compared to normal and last year

Station	Days ahead of normal			Days ahead of last year		
	McIntosh	Jons	Reds	McIntosh	Jons	Reds
SWMREC	11	5	7	5	8	11
Deerfield	8	2	6	5	10	6
Romeo	9	7	8	11	15	14
Peach Ridge	12	10	12	10	18	18
Ludington	14	19	23	17	27	26
NWMHRS	19	23	30	20	21	22
Bloom and Harvest Days between SWMREC and NWMHRS						
Year	Full bloom date			Predicted harvest date		
2010	9	6	5	5	1	2
2009	15	16	16	20	14	13

Table 3. Normal peak harvest dates for varieties for the Grand Rapids area

Variety	Normal date	2010 predicted date
Paulared	24-Aug	12-Aug
Gingergold	26-Aug	14-Aug
Gala	10-Sep	29-Aug
McIntosh	15-Sep	2-Sep
Honeycrisp	18-Sep	6-Sep
Empire	22-Sep	10-Sep
Jonathan	28-Sep	16-Sep
Jonagold	28-Sep	16-Sep
Golden Delicious	2-Oct	20-Sep
Red Delicious	5-Oct	22-Sep
Idared	10-Oct	28-Sep
Rome	15-Oct	3-Oct
Fuji	25-Oct	13-Oct
Braeburn	25-Oct	13-Oct
Goldrush	1-Nov	20-Oct

NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #1
August 24, 2010

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.

August rainfall and a light crop are helping to make nice size fruit. Hoping for more cool evenings and sunny days to help with coloring and maturation. Many blocks have fruit showing frost marks.

PaulRed - None tested, should be mature

Gingergold - Nearing mature (2 samples). Firmness at 18.9 lbs. Starch index at 1.7. 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 (2 samples). Firmness at about 17.5 lbs. Starch index at 1.2. Brix level at 10.6. Color is at 68%.

HoneyCrisp - Immature (1 sample). Firmness at about 17.7 lbs. Starch index at 1.0. Brix level at 9.9. Color is at 25%. 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 (2 samples). Firmness at 22.0 lbs. Starch index is at 1.1 and brix levels are at 10.8. Color is nearing 60%. Gala may ripen with McIntosh in warm years (strains will vary).

STATEWIDE REPORTS

Southwest: Harvest of Paulared, and Golden Supreme are underway. Most of the Empire have already harvested for taffy apples. Harvest of Gala and Jonamac are expected to begin this week.

Southeast: Gala seems to ripening quickly.

Grand Rapids: Expecting to begin Gala harvest about September 1st.

West Central: Harvesting early apple varieties.

NW Michigan Pome Fruit Code-a-phone/Apple Maturity Line (231) 947-3063 or at <http://www.maes.msu.edu/nwmihort/applemat.html>

NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #2 September 1, 2010

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.

August rainfall and a light crop are helping to make nice size fruit. Hoping for more cool evenings and sunny days to help with coloring and maturation. Many blocks have fruit showing frost marks.

Paulred - None tested, harvest should be finished.

Gingergold - Mature (no samples). Harvest is ongoing in the area. Background color should just be turning yellowish at the time of harvest. Fruit that ripens to the point of full yellow will not hold up well in storage.

McIntosh - Immature (2 samples). Firmness at about 18.4 lbs. Starch index at 1.2, unchanged from last week. Brix level at 10.9, up slightly from last week. Color is at 73%.

HoneyCrisp - Immature (2 samples). Firmness at about 16.9 lbs., down from 17.7 lbs. Starch index at 1.2, up slightly from 1.0 last week. Brix level at 11.6. Color is at 57%. 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 (2 samples). Firmness at 21.8 lbs., unchanged from last week. Starch index is at 1.3, up from 1.1 and brix levels are at 11.4. Color is 60%. Gala may ripen with McIntosh in warm years (strains will vary).

STATEWIDE REPORTS

Southwest: Gala firmness is good but not super flavorful. Background color is 'white'. Honeycrisp moving along this week, and they look good despite the heat; about two weeks ahead of normal. Jonagolds are big due to light crop, and some are ready for long-term CA storage. Golden Delicious are still immature.

Southeast: Gala color is good (87%) and firmness still good, and some blocks are overmature—finishing up at this time. Honeycrisp has good color again despite heat, and light first picking underway. McIntosh color is good and some variability in starch.

Grand Rapids: Similar to SE on sandy sites but not quite as far along on clay sites. Picking some early Gala and later Galas still have pink color. McIntosh have nice color and coming into mature window now. Big Gala week next week, and good labor source. Variation in maturity on tree.

West Central: Variability in Honeycrisp, but color looks pretty good. More details next week.

NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #3 September 8, 2010

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.

August rainfall and a light crop are helping to make nice size fruit. Hoping for more cool evenings and sunny days to help with coloring and maturation. Many blocks have fruit showing frost marks. This week's high winds have knocked ripening fruit (HoneyCrisp, SweetTango and McIntosh) off in some blocks.

Gingergold - Mature (no samples)

McIntosh - Approaching mature (3 samples). Firmness at about 16.3 lbs., down from 18.4 lbs. last week. Starch index is at 1.9, up from 1.2 last week. Brix level at 11.5 up from 10.9. Color has improved to 85%. Blocks in more advanced areas may be ready for harvest this week.

HoneyCrisp - Approaching mature (3 samples). Firmness at about 16.0 lbs., down from 16.9 lbs. Starch index is at 2.9, up from 1.2 last week. Brix level at 12.9. Color is at 75%. This variety needs multiple pickings over several weeks for premium quality fruit. The first fruits per tree to color may be ready for the first picking later this week.

Gala - Immature (2 samples). Firmness at 21.0 lbs., slightly down from 21.8 lbs. last week. Starch index is at 1.7, up from 1.3 and brix levels are at 12.2. Color has improved to 85%. Gala may ripen with McIntosh in warm years (strains will vary).

Golden Delicious - Immature (2 samples). Firmness at 19.4 lbs. Starch index is at 1.2 and brix levels are at 12.7. Green background color with slight blush covering about 10% of each fruit.

STATEWIDE REPORTS

Southwest: High winds removed apples across the region. Some black rot and bitter rot showing up in some varieties. Color is improving with cooler nights. Honeycrisp is mature and is slightly earlier than the predicted harvest dates. Empires are being picked for taffy apples. Jonathans are entering mature window. Golden Delicious background color changing to yellow.

Southeast: High winds have dropped some apples. Bitterpit showing up a little around the region. Most Gala are harvested at this time; some greasiness showing up. Black rot showing up in some Galas and Honeycrisp. First picking of Honeycrisp is done and big harvest is underway now—eating well now. McIntosh harvest is also underway but color is not as good as we would like and eat like they need a few more days. Empires still firm, and Jonathan and Jonagolds are similar and widespread in ripening. Droughty conditions are affecting fruit size.

Grand Rapids: Similar to SE. Gala big pick week, and many growers used ½ rate of Retain. Honeycrisp are also coming off this week. Brix on all varieties are good to excellent. Jonathans eat well but are not quite mature. Growers will start picking McIntosh later this week. Growers are picking shorter than expected.

West Central: Growers are picking McIntosh due to requests from Peterson Farms, but many were still green at this time. Size is good but color is not there yet. Gala crop was down in numbers and are picking where they projected: 25-30% of a crop, and color is not bad.

NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #4 September 15, 2010

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.

August rainfall and a light crop are helping to make nice size fruit. Hoping for more cool evenings and sunny days to help with coloring and maturation. Many blocks have fruit showing frost marks. The winds continue to cause ripening fruit to drop off in some blocks.

McIntosh - Approaching mature to mature (5 samples). Firmness at about 15.8 lbs., down from 16.3 lbs. last week Starch index is at 2.7, up from 1.9 last week. Brix level at 12.0 up from 11.5. Color has improved to 85%. Blocks in more advanced areas are ready for harvest this week.

HoneyCrisp - Mature (4 samples). Firmness at about 15.6 lbs., down from 16.0 lbs. Starch index is at 3.4, up from 2.9 last week. Brix level at 13.0. Color is at 75%. This variety needs multiple pickings over several weeks for premium quality fruit. This variety is ready for the first picking.

Gala - Entering the mature range (2 samples). Firmness at 19.8 lbs., slightly down from 21.0 lbs. last week. Starch index is at 2.7, up from 1.7 and brix levels are at 13.0. Color has improved to 90%. Gala are ripening with McIntosh in this year (strains will vary).

Golden Delicious - Immature (2 samples). Firmness at 19.6 lbs., unchanged from last week. Starch index is at 1.1 and brix levels are at 13.7, up from 12.7 last week. Background color is still green with a blush covering about 20% of each fruit.

Jonagold - Immature (2 samples). Firmness at 19.0 lbs. Starch index is at 1.4 and brix levels are at 14.1. Color has improved to 75%.

Other - Northern Spy - Immature; Rhode Island Greening - Immature; Hubbardston - Mature to over mature

STATEWIDE REPORTS

Southwest: Started into Golden this week—firmness is good and a few are in mature range. Lots of labor and growers are moving quickly. Honeycrisp are mostly finished and are all mature (lots of bitterpit this year). Empires will be gone by next week, and firmness has dropped in past week. Jonathans are also moving along and will be hard to find next week. Jonagolds dropped in firmness and is in excellent range for long-term storage. Red Delicious has good color.

Southeast: Honeycrisp were hard to find this week as most are gone, but good flavor with some bitterpit. McIntosh harvest is underway, and color has improved in the past week. Red Cort has lots of internal ethylene, and color is good but still immature. Empire are consistent across the region. Jonathans are ready ahead of Empire this year. Jonagold has good color and firmness—nearly ready for harvest for long-term CA storage at some farms and ready at others. Golden have little to no blush—at least 10 days away from harvest. Internal ethylene in Red Delicious and Northern Spy.

Grand Rapids: Big week for Gala harvest, and many were treated with Retain. With the lots of rain (1-1/2"), minor cracks in Gala with Retain and bigger cracks in apples without Retain. Honeycrisp are coming off and looking nice, a bit less than estimate. Brix, flavor, and color in Honeycrisp are excellent. Concerns about people selling Honeycrisp before they are ready—want to keep it high value. McIntosh mostly cleaned off or in the process of being removed. Jonagolds are close for long term storage, but color really isn't there. Empire harvest is underway for long-term storage. Adequate labor and bins.

West Central: McIntosh is just about finished. Empire harvest underway but still immature, and color is so-so. Jonathans are looking nice, and brix are high are ready for harvest. Jonagolds vary by tree and block. Golden have good brix but still immature now.

NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #5

September 22, 2010

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.

August and September rainfall and a light crop are helping to make nice size fruit. Hoping for more cool evenings and sunny days to help with coloring and maturation. Many blocks have fruit showing frost marks. The winds continue to cause ripening fruit to drop off in some blocks.

McIntosh - Mature, color has improved greatly in the past two weeks. Most blocks have been harvested.

HoneyCrisp - Mature (2 samples). Firmness at 14.7 lbs., down from 15.6 lbs last week. Starch index is at 4.4, up from 3.4 last week. Brix level between 12 and 13. Color is over 80%. This variety needs multiple pickings over several weeks for premium quality fruit. This variety is in its second picking in many orchards.

Gala - Mature, firmness seems to be holding. Gala are ripening with McIntosh this year and many blocks have been harvested (strains will vary).

Golden Delicious - Immature to approaching mature (3 samples). Firmness at 18.3 lbs., down from 19.6 lbs. last week. Starch index is at 1.3, up slightly and brix levels are at 13.9, up from 13.7 last week. Background color is still green in most blocks with a blush covering up to 20% of each fruit.

Jonagold - Immature (2 samples). Firmness at 17.4 lbs., down from 19.0 lbs. Starch index is at 1.9, up from 1.4 last week and brix levels are at 14.4. Color has improved to 80%.

Northern Spy - Immature to approaching mature (2 samples). Firmness at 21.8 lbs and starch index at 2.1. Brix levels are at 12.1. Color is between 50 and 60%

Ida Red - Immature to approaching mature (2 samples). Firmness at 18.9 lbs and starch index at 2.5. Brix levels are at 12.4. Color is excellent at 90%

Other (Based on limited samples) - Empire - Mature; Fuji - Immature, but moving; Red Delicious - Immature.

STATEWIDE REPORTS

Southwest: Harvest of Golden Delicious and Red Delicious is the main focus of many farms in SW Michigan. Golden Delicious drop is becoming more common. Jonagold and Empire harvest is wrapping up. Fuji are mature and being harvested.

Southeast: Overall internal ethylene levels have been high and brix have been low compared with previous seasons. Red Cortland, Golden Delicious, and Jonathan harvests are underway, though the

majority of Jonathan were harvest over the previous two weeks. Red Delicious are just beginning to mature for mid-long term storage. Ida Red and Northern Spy are still a week or so away from being ready. Empire are quickly approaching maturity for long term storage.

Grand Rapids: Growers are at peak harvest on the Ridge and reporting that they are picking out short. Adequate labor and a short crop is really accelerating harvest. Wind and weather have knocked a lot of fruit off the trees as of late. Gala harvest is over and early Fuji are overmature. Honeycrisp is in the 2-3rd picking with a lot of bitterpit reported. Red Delicious is ready for mid-long term storage; Golden Delicious is at peak maturity and being picked. Ida Reds, late Fuji, and Jonagold are not yet mature.

West Central: Local growers have been harvesting their orchards rather quickly. Currently they are harvesting Honeycrisp for the 2 and/or third time, Cortlands, Jonathans and Jonagolds are just about done; Golden Delicious is being harvested as well as some of Red Delicious strains.

NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #6 September 29, 2010

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.

August and September rainfall and a light crop are helping to make nice size fruit. Cool evenings and sunny days are helping with coloring and maturation. Many blocks have fruit showing frost marks.

McIntosh - Harvest finished.

HoneyCrisp - Harvest finished.

Gala - Harvest finished.

Golden Delicious - Approaching mature (2 samples). Firmness is 17.4 lbs., down from 18.3 lbs. last week. Starch index is 2.2, up from 1.3 and brix levels are at 15.2, up from 13.9 last week. Background color is beginning to lighten in most blocks with a blush covering up to 20% of each fruit.

Jonagold - Mature (2 samples). Firmness is at 16.9 lbs., down from 17.4 lbs. Starch index is at 4.5, up from 1.9 last week and brix levels are at 15.9. Color has improved to 90%.

Northern Spy - Approaching mature to mature (2 samples). Firmness is 21.3 lbs., down from 21.8 lbs and starch index is 3.0, up from 2.1. Brix levels are at 12.9. Color is between 50 and 60%

Ida Red - Approaching mature (2 samples). Firmness is 17.7 lbs., down from 18.9 lbs and the starch index is 3.3, up from 2.5. Brix levels are at 13.2. Color is excellent at 95%

Rome - Immature (2 samples). Firmness is 22.0 lbs., starch index is about 2.0. Brix levels are at 13.0. Color is at 95%, but has not turned to a true red. No color was found to be bleeding into the flesh at this time.

Other (Based on limited testing) - Empire - Mature; Red Delicious - Approaching mature.

STATEWIDE REPORTS

Southwest: Many Red Delicious and Golden Delicious blocks have been harvested in the area. By next week will see many operations finishing up harvest. Jonathan firmness has dropped a bit and starch index is in the mature to overmature range with firmness ranging from excellent for long term CA to short term storage firmness. Golden Delicious firmness is in the mid to LT CA range and starch conversion made a large jump over last week. Fruit drop is common in sites not protected by stop drop sprays. Red Delicious firmness is generally in the mid-term storage range with starch conversion in the mature to the over mature range. Idared firmness is still in the excellent to very good range in most sites, starch conversion are now in the mature range. Fuji firmness is averaging 18.3

Southeast: Apple harvest is moving very fast this year and many can see the end in sight. They will likely finish in a week to 10 days. Crop is picking out shorter than anticipated. Growers are picking Golden and Red Delicious harvest is underway. Ida Reds are three to five days away. Fujis and Braeburns are a week away.

Grand Rapids: Most growers have finished Idareds, and Red Delicious harvest is underway. Fujis and Braeburn will be harvesting into next week, but overall many growers will be finished by the end of this week. Some growers are letting workers go because harvest is wrapping up early.

West Central: Golden delicious harvest is just about done. Red Delicious firmness is very good to excellent. All samples except one are on the mature side and color is excellent. Harvest is underway in most of the sampled blocks. Idared had little firmness change and starch conversion is showing slow movement. Two samples are testing immature, and color is very good.

NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #7

October 6, 2010

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.

September rainfall and a light crop are helping to make nice size fruit. Cool evenings and sunny days are helping with coloring and maturation. Many blocks have fruit showing frost marks. Harvest has moved quickly this season with some growers reported to be winding down this week.

Gala - Harvest finished.

Golden Delicious - Mature (2 samples). Firmness is 16.8 lbs., down from 17.4 lbs. last week. Starch index is 5.4, up from 2.2 and brix levels are at 14.4. Background color has lightened in most blocks with a blush covering up to 25% of each fruit.

Jonagold - Mature to over mature (2 samples). Firmness is at 16.3 lbs., down from 16.9 lbs. Starch index is at 7.2, up from 4.5 last week and brix levels are at 12.9. Color varies by strain between 60 and 90%.

Northern Spy - Mature (2 samples). Firmness is 20.6 lbs., down from 21.3 lbs and starch index is 4.1, up from 3.0. Brix levels are at 13.1. Color averages about 75%.

Ida Red - Mature (no samples this week) Harvest has been completed in many blocks.

Rome - Mature (2 samples). Firmness is 22.1 lbs. Starch index is at 3.0, up from 2.0 last week. Brix levels are at 12.9. Color is at 100% and has deepened to a true red on one of the samples. The deep red sample had color bleeding into the flesh at this time.

No other samples were tested this week.

STATEWIDE REPORTS

Southwest: This will be the last week of sampling. They are down to three varieties with a few of random leftovers of others leftover. Fujis firmness has dropped in the last week. Braeburns dropped three pounds in firmness but still excellent—only variety not yet picked in region. Romes starch is up and firmness down (still excellent) with some skin bleeding.

Southeast: Red Delicious, Ida Red and Golden Delicious are moving slowly but other varieties are moving more quickly. Growers are looking to finish this week, particularly where they have a short crop and dry soils. Other areas may have another 10 days, but most are winding down now. Many farms have let harvest crews go for the season, and pick-your-own growers are trying to make the crop stretch. A bit of drop in Red Delicious with some water core. Northern Spy is moving quickly, and Ida Red color is good but some frost damage and not eating well yet. Fuji color is good to excellent and firmness is also good. Romes are also moving quickly.

Grand Rapids: The region is just behind southeast Michigan. Ida Reds are mature, and many are picked. Many growers are finishing, and larger growers will be done in one week to 10 days. Fujis are not as far along as southeast and Romes are similar. Next week will be just Granny Smiths and Braeburns left.

West Central: Three frosts reported in the area with temperatures in the mid-20's. Color of the fruit in the region is terrific. Ida Reds have good firmness and are mature at this time.