

MSU Fruit Team Apple Maturity Report Northwest Region - 2010
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NW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT #7 - Final Report of the Season
October 6, 2010

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. The maturity newsletter is 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.

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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