

# MSU Fruit Team Apple Maturity Report 2013

## Northwest Region, Report Number 3

September 18, 2013

Nikki Rothwell and Emily Pochubay, Extension Fruit Educators

**This is the third week of 2013 apple maturity testing at NWMHRC. General Comments** - The NWMHRC will be testing apples for maturity for 2013, and results will be sent via fax and email to past apple maturity list subscribers. Results will also be available at [http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/centers/nwmihort/nwmihort\\_resources\\_and\\_reports#NWMAppleMaturityReps](http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/centers/nwmihort/nwmihort_resources_and_reports#NWMAppleMaturityReps) Reports for other regions around the state can be viewed at [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/resources/apple\\_maturity\\_program\\_and\\_reports](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/resources/apple_maturity_program_and_reports).

Apples are really starting to color up across the region. Many common varieties are approaching mature, and growers are eager to start picking these apples. Boxes have been placed in many blocks in anticipation of harvest. As many varieties are not yet mature, growers are also hoping for increased size and color. Color has improved from last week, but a green background is still visible on most fruit. The club variety SweeTango harvest is underway at this time. Sweet cider press has started with early apples but brix levels in the juice is fairly low: ~10.5%. Some Retain is going on in the past week, and little apple drop has been observed so far this season.

Summary of northwest Michigan apple maturity samples taken on 17 September 2013

Variety	Color % (range)	Firmness lbs. pressure (range)	Starch (range)	Brix (range)
Gala	79 (50 - 100)	18.6 (16 - 23)	2.0 (1 - 5)	11.3 (9.5 - 13.8)
McIntosh	77 (50 - 100)	16.2 (11.5 - 23)	2.9 (1 - 8)	12.6 (11 - 15.5)
HoneyCrisp	60 (30 - 80)	16.1 (13 - 19)	3.6 (1.5 - 6)	12.5 (10.2 - 16)
Jonagold	55 (30 - 80)	17.6 (14 - 21)	1.6 (1 - 3)	12.8 (12 - 14)
Golden Delicious	22 (5 - 50)	15.5 (13.5 - 21)	3 (2 - 5)	14 (12.5 - 14.4)

**Gala** - Approaching mature (2 samples). Firmness is at 18.6 lbs., down from 20.6 lbs. Starch index is at 2.0, up from 1.4 and brix levels are up to 11.3. Color has improved to nearly 80% on our two samples, but growers are still waiting on color on older strains of Gala.

**McIntosh** – Approaching mature (3 samples). Firmness is at 16.2 lbs., down from 18.1 lbs. Starch index is at 2.9, up from 1.6 and the brix level has increased to 12.6. Color has improved 77%.

**HoneyCrisp** - Approaching mature (3 samples). Firmness is at 16.1 lbs., down from 18.0 lbs. Starch index is at 3.6, up from 1.7 and the brix level has increased to 12.5. Color has improved to 60%. Background of most apples is still green. This variety needs multiple pickings over several weeks for premium quality fruit. Watch for the first 2 to 3 apples per tree to color for the first picking.

**Jonagold** - Immature (2 samples). Firmness is at 17.6 lbs. Starch index is at 1.6. Brix level is 12.8 and color is 55%.

**Golden Delicious** - Approaching mature (1 sample). Firmness is at 15.5 lbs. Starch index is at 3.0. Brix level is 14.0 and color (blush) is 22%. Maturity may vary among blocks as only one sample has been tested.