



2026 Predicted Apple Harvest Dates – Southeast Region

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The information below includes predicted dates for peak harvest. Actual harvest dates may begin before and extend after these dates, and it is likely to vary based on specific location and conditions. This information is intended to be used by commercial growers to start planning harvest management. Interpretation is necessary for marketing purposes and fruit may be available in retail locations at different times.

The predicted harvest dates for all [Michigan State University Enviroweather Stations](#) are now available online and can be determined using the [Apple Maturity Model on the Enviroweather Website](#). These models for McIntosh, Jonathan, and Red Delicious calculate predict harvest dates based on full bloom date and the temperatures in the 30 days after bloom.

Most varieties appear to have *early* harvest dates. Bloom dates used for these predicted harvest dates were provided by MSU Enviroweather which are earlier than some of the observed bloom dates. Harvest dates will need to be adjusted as we get closer to harvest depending on temperatures leading up to harvest. **There may be additional variation in apple maturity this season due to the extended bloom period and variable temperatures this spring.** This year, it will be particularly important to test maturity block by block and to begin testing early.

Crop load. Blocks with light croploads will mature 3 or 4 days sooner than the predicted harvest dates while heavy crop loads will mature 7 days later than the predicted dates.

Conditions during August and September will also affect harvest dates. If hot stressful weather occurs in August or September, apple maturity will be advanced, especially in early to mid-ripening cultivars.

Stop-drop materials. ReTain application can be applied 28, 21, 14, or 7 DBH (days before harvest). Harvista can be applied 3 to 7 DBH. Use Table 3 and Table 4, 2026 Predicted Harvest Dates for Other Varieties, to time ReTain applications and adjust for varieties and locations.

The tables below list the normal and predicted harvest dates for varieties across the state. Table 1 lists the predicted harvest dates for locations across the state of Michigan for 2026. Table 2 lists this year's predictions compared to normal and last year. Tables 3 and 4 lists a variety by variety guide based of Romeo and Deerfield locations.

Table 1. 2026 Full bloom dates and predicted peak harvest dates

Station	Full bloom date 2026			Predicted harvest date 2026			Observer
	McIntosh	Jons	Reds	McIntosh	Jons	Reds	
SWMREC*	15-Apr	16-Apr	16-Apr	23-Aug	7-Sep	13-Sep	MSU EW
Deerfield*	16-Apr	16-Apr	17-Apr	23-Aug	6-Sep	14-Sep	MSU EW
Romeo*	27-Apr	29-Apr	30-Apr	2-Sep	25-Sep	2-Oct	MSU EW
Sparta*	24-Apr	25-Apr	25-Apr	31-Aug	20-Sep	26-Sep	MSU EW
Hart*	6-May	9-May	11-May	9-Sep	30-Sep	6-Oct	MSU EW
NWMHRS*	19-May	22-May	22-May	19-Sep	6-Oct	12-Oct	MSU EW

**Dates indicated by model, not by actual observation.*



Table 2. 2026 predicted peak harvest dates compared to normal and last year.

Station	Days -/+ normal*				Days -/+ last year*		
	McIntosh	Jons	Reds		McIntosh	Jons	Reds
SWMREC	-8	-3	-4		7	9	7
Deerfield	-12	-3	-14		5	8	8
Romeo	-4	-3	-4		9	4	5
Sparta	-6	-3	-7		9	7	7
Hart	1	0	-1		11	10	10
NWMHRS	-3	3	-3		8	13	12

* - is days earlier, + is days later

*Normal harvest dates in this table were determined from average observations by industry members in the region.

Table 3. Normal and predicted 2026 peak harvest dates for varieties for Southeast MI based on Romeo, MI

Variety	Normal	Predicted
Paulared	22-Aug	11-Aug
Zestar	22-Aug	11-Aug
Gingergold	23-Aug	12-Aug
Gala	8-Sep	28-Aug
McIntosh	13-Sep	2-Sep
Honeycrisp	16-Sep	5-Sep
Empire	20-Sep	20-Sep
Jonathan	23-Sep	25-Sep
Jonagold	23-Sep	23-Sep
Early Fuji	25-Sep	25-Sep
Golden Delicious	29-Sep	29-Sep
Red Delicious	1-Oct	2-Oct
Idared	6-Oct	5-Oct
Rome	11-Oct	10-Oct
Late Fuji	22-Oct	21-Oct
Braeburn	23-Oct	22-Oct
Goldrush	31-Oct	30-Oct

Table 4. Normal and 2026 peak harvest dates for varieties for the SE area based on Deerfield, MI

Variety	Normal	Predicted
Paulared	22-Aug	4-Aug
Zestar	22-Aug	4-Aug
Gingergold	23-Aug	5-Aug
Gala	8-Sep	21-Aug
McIntosh	13-Sep	23-Aug
Honeycrisp	16-Sep	29-Aug
Empire	20-Sep	5-Sep
Jonathan	23-Sep	6-Sep
Jonagold	23-Sep	8-Sep
Early Fuji	25-Sep	10-Sep
Golden Delicious	29-Sep	14-Sep
Red Delicious	1-Oct	14-Sep
Idared	6-Oct	12-Sep
Rome	11-Oct	17-Sep
Braeburn	23-Oct	29-Sep
Goldrush	31-Oct	7-Oct