

MSU Fruit Team Apple Maturity Report 2014
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Apples are maturing slowly, growers are spot picking Honeycrisp, and McIntosh harvest is underway.

After our week of beautiful sunny and warm fall days, the weather has turned cooler with clouds and rainfall. Cool weather and more rain are predicted for the remainder of the week. The region could use another dose of sunshine to move fruit along in maturity. Last week's sunny conditions with the cool nights really improved color on all varieties, and fruit in well-pruned orchards has excellent color. Size in most varieties is also very good; some Honeycrisp apples that had a lighter crop on the trees are very large in size. Growers are really starting to dive into harvest this week as many were waiting for better color and maturity. Processing apples are coming off now, and fruit will be used for many different end products. McIntosh is testing mature, but there is still a green background on many fruits and flesh of some apples still appears slightly green. Honeycrisp is eating well at this time, and growers are doing a great job spot picking this variety this year. Galas are maturing very slowly this season, and starch index readings are still indicating immature fruit.

Summary of northwest Michigan apple maturity samples taken on 30 September

Variety	Color % (range)	Firmness lbs. pressure (range)	Starch (range)	Brix (range)
Jonagold	77.0 (60 – 95)	16.2 (14.5 – 18.0)	3.2 (2 – 8)	13.3 (12.0 – 14.0)
Jonna Prince Red Jonagold	100 (100)	20.2 (16.5 – 23.0)	2.4 (2 – 3)	14.7 (14.0 – 15.8)
Gala	77.0 (60 – 100)	19.9 (16.0 – 23.0)	1.5 (1 – 2)	11.8 (11.0 – 14.0)
McIntosh	69.0 (80 – 100)	15.3 (13.0 – 18.0)	5.9 (3 – 9)	13.2 (11.0 – 15.6)
Honeycrisp	71.5 (50 – 90)	14.6 (11.5 – 18.0)	4.8 (3 – 6)	12.4 (11.0 – 14.0)
Ida Red	75.0 (60 – 90)	17.9 (16.0 – 20.0)	1.8 (1 – 2)	12.3 (12.0 – 12.5)
Golden Delicious	10.7 (2 – 20)	17.3 (16.0 – 20.0)	1.9 (1 – 3)	12.9 (10.0 – 15.5)

Jonagold – Immature (2 samples). Firmness is down on Jonagolds this week. Brix levels are consistent with last week and although starch levels are increasing, these apples are not yet ready for fresh market.

Jonna Prince Red Jonagold – Immature (1 sample). These apples have excellent color and brix levels are looking good. Firmness is high at 20.2 lbs and starch levels indicate that these apples are not quite ready yet.

Gala – Immature (2 samples). Color and firmness are consistent with last week's samples. Starch levels and brix levels increased slightly.

McIntosh – Immature to mature (2 samples). We are continuing to see orchard to orchard and within orchard variability in percentage of color and starch levels on McIntosh. These apples are starting to soften and average brix levels remain low. Although testing parameters indicate maturity, many of these apples are still tasting green.

Honeycrisp – Mature (2 samples). Most honeycrisp samples are ripe or ripening and firmness is down compared with last week. There has been good color on honeycrisp and starch indexes indicate that these apples are ripe. Average brix levels are consistent with last week.

Ida Red – Immature (1 sample).

Golden Delicious – Immature (1 sample).