

Predicted 2014 Apple Harvest Dates

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The predicted harvest dates for every MAWN weather station is now available on Enviroweather web site at Michigan State University. In general, 2014 Predicted Harvest Dates are roughly a week behind normal and a week behind last year. Bloom dates this spring were also behind normal across the state.

As always, the weather seems to be unusual each year and 2014 was no different. It began after an extremely long cold winter with a late cool spring that eventually became somewhat normal in May and June. Little to no frost events occurred. This unusual spring was also characterized by considerable and seemingly unending record precipitation in most state locations. Most apple growers were successful in thinning the crop with most growers under thinning slightly. This moderate to heavy crop will mature close predicted dates. Blocks with light croploads will mature 3 or 4 days sooner.

The normal harvest dates for other varieties are listed in Table 3 for the Grand Rapids area. This year's 2014 predicted dates and adjusted 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. ReTain application should be applied 30 DBH (days before harvest). Use Table 3 2014 predicted harvest dates to time ReTain applications and adjust for varieties and locations.

Table 1. 2014 predicted peak harvest dates

Station	Full bloom date			Predicted harvest date			Observer
	McIntosh	Jons	Reds	McIntosh	Jons	Reds	
SWMREC	12-May	13-May	13-May	11-Sep	1-Oct	7-Oct	Shane
Deerfield	12-May	14-May	16-May	12-Sep	30-Sep	7-Oct	Tritten
Romeo	15-May	17-May	17-May	14-Sep	1-Oct	7-Oct	Tritten
Peach Ridge	21-May	22-May	23-May	19-Sep	2-Oct	10-Oct	Schwallier
Hart	23-May	24-May	25-May	23-Sep	8-Oct	14-Oct	Irish-Brown
NWMHRS	27-May	31-May	31-May	26-Sep	13-Oct	19-Oct	Rothwell

Table 2. 2014 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	-8	-7	-7	-6	-8	-8
Deerfield	-7	-7	-8	-4	-9	-5
Flint	-6	-5	-4	-1	-6	-4
Peach Ridge	-9	-8	-9	-5	-5	-6
Hart	-7	-5	-6	-5	-5	-4
NWMHRS	-7	-10	-9	-4	-7	-6

Table 3. Normal and 2014 peak harvest dates for varieties for the Grand Rapids area

Variety	Normal date	2014 predicted date
Paulared	24-Aug	28-Aug
Gingergold	26-Aug	30-Aug
Gala	10-Sep	14-Sep
McIntosh	15-Sep	19-Sep
Honeycrisp	18-Sep	22-Sep
Empire	22-Sep	26-Sep
Jonathan	28-Sep	2-Oct
Jonagold	28-Sep	2-Oct
Golden Delicious	2-Oct	6-Oct
Red Delicious	5-Oct	10-Oct
Idared	10-Oct	14-Oct
Rome	15-Oct	18-Oct
Fuji	25-Oct	28-Oct
Braeburn	25-Oct	28-Oct
Goldrush	1-Nov	4-Oct