

MSU Fruit Team Apple Maturity Report 2010

Grand Rapids Area Report Number 1

August 26, 2010

Degree day accumulations continue to run several weeks ahead of normal averages. For Base 42, they are 20 days ahead and for Base 50 nearly 25 days ahead of normal 30 year averages. Even though the degree day accumulations continue to move farther ahead of normal, the predicted harvest dates will stay the same. We use the weather data shortly after bloom to determine these harvest dates and the weather for the rest of the summer usually has only a small effect on changing harvest dates. The one exception is Gala. This variety can move ahead in harvest with hot, sunny weather and that's just what it seems to be doing this year. In early testing of several Gala strains on the Ridge, we are noticing that they seem to be moving along very quickly in their maturity development and some redder strains are just about ready now. The SW and SE apple growing areas in Michigan are reporting the same thing in Gala. The hot weather tends to make Gala more greasy or waxy and current thoughts are that it might not have a lot of shelf life if not picked early enough. There seems to be quite a bit of variability from block to block with Gala this year and growers are encouraged to keep a close eye on this variety so as to pick it before it gets too far in its maturity to be stored well.

For other apple varieties, we are noticing that many have brown to black seeds already - even those with later harvest dates. Golden Supreme harvest will most likely begin over the weekend or early next week. McIntosh are very green yet – both inside and out. Honeycrisp have some fruits turning red here and there, but are mostly immature.

There is some drop being reported in earlier varieties. Apples are reported as being very loose in some blocks.

Various annual predicted harvest dates for apple varieties in the Grand Rapids area

Variety	Normal date	2010 predicted harvest date	2009 predicted harvest date	2008 predicted harvest date	2007 predicted harvest date
Paulared	24-Aug	24-Aug	31-Aug	24-Aug	14-Aug
Gingergold	26-Aug	26-Aug	2-Sep	26-Aug	14-Aug
Gala	10-Sep	29-Aug	17-Sep	11-Sep	28-Aug
McIntosh	15-Sep	2-Sep	22-Sep	14-Sep	1-Sep
Honeycrisp	18-Sep	6-Sep	25-Sep	18-Sep	4-Sep
Empire	22-Sep	10-Sep	29-Sep	21-Sep	8-Sep
Jonathan	28-Sep	16-Sep	5-Oct	27-Sep	19-Sep
Jonagold	28-Sep	16-Sep	5-Oct	27-Sep	19-Sep
Golden Delicious	2-Oct	20-Sep	9-Oct	30-Sep	21-Sep
Red Delicious	5-Oct	22-Sep	12-Oct	3-Oct	26-Sep
Idared	10-Oct	28-Sep	17-Oct	9-Oct	2-Oct
Rome	15-Oct	3-Oct	22-Oct	14-Oct	7-Oct
Fuji	25-Oct	13-Oct	1-Nov	25-Oct	18-Oct
Braeburn	25-Oct	13-Oct	1-Nov	25-Oct	18-Oct
Goldrush	1-Nov	20-Oct	8-Nov	30-Oct	22-Oct

If you are looking for more apple maturity information, go to www.apples.msu.edu and click on "maturity & storage" along the left side. All 2010 apple maturity reports will be posted there.

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