

MSU Fruit Team Apple Maturity Report 2013
Northwest Region, Report Number 6: October 9, 2013
Nikki Rothwell and Emily Pochubay, Extension Fruit Educators

This is the sixth week of 2013 apple maturity testing at NWMHRC. 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#NWMIAppleMaturityReps Reports for other regions around the state can be viewed at http://msue.anr.msu.edu/resources/apple_maturity_program_and_reports.

Apple harvest continues in northwest Michigan after a lull in picking with the past few days of wet conditions. At the NWMHRC, we received 2.8" of rain, but some growers reported substantially more rain at area farms. The rain really slowed harvest this past week, and the predicted forecast of warm and seasonable conditions will be welcomed following the soggy weekend. Growers are finishing up HoneyCrisp and moving to Jonagold and some are starting to move to Golden and Reds for long-term storage. Some farms are light on labor, and some pickers are new to apples, which has slowed the 2013 harvest.

Summary of northwest Michigan apple maturity samples taken on 8 October 2013

Variety	Color % (range)	Firmness lbs. pressure (range)	Starch (range)	Brix (range)
Red Delicious	100 (100)	17.2 (15 - 21)	3.3 (2 - 7)	12.9 (12 - 14.2)
Jonagold	86 (70 - 100)	15.8 (13 - 19)	6.2 (2 - 9)	14.7 (12.6 - 16.2)
Golden Delicious	28 (5 - 50)	18.2 (15.5 - 20.5)	3.8 (2 - 7)	15.5 (14.6 - 16.6)
IdaRed	87 (60 - 100)	17.3 (15 - 23)	4.0 (3 - 7)	13.8 (12 - 16.8)

HoneyCrisp – Mature (no samples). Many HoneyCrisp blocks have been harvested while some growers on their third picking. Overall, this variety looked very good this season. Some bitter pit has been seen in orchards with light crops, but growers have been pleased with color and yield.

Jonagold – Mature Mid-term CA (3 samples). Firmness is at 15.8 lbs., down from 16.6 lbs. Starch index is at 6.2, up from 4.2. Brix level is 14.7 and color is 86%, both up from last week. Color has really advanced, and apples are starting to eat better this week.

Golden Delicious - Mature Long-term CA (2 samples). Firmness is at 18.2 lbs this week. Starch index is at 3.8, up from 1.6. Brix level is 15.5 and color (blush) is at 28%.

Red Delicious – Mature Long-term CA (2 samples). Firmness is at 17.2 lbs. with the starch index at 3.3. Brix level is at 12.9 and the color is at 100%.

IdaRed – Mature Long-term CA (2 samples). Firmness is at 17.3 lbs., down from 17.8 lbs. Starch index is at 4.0 up from 2.7. Brix level is at 13.8 and the color is at 87%.