PREDICTED 2013 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. This season began with a roller coaster of weather across the state. A late winter extended cool period delayed spring and then followed by alternate periods of warm and cold weather surged tree development forward and backward. Some areas experienced a severe frost. This unusual spring was also characterized by considerable seemingly unending record precipitation in some state locations. At times apple tree development was 2 to 3 weeks behind normal but in the end most of the state bloomed near normal to slightly behind normal dates. SW and SE Michigan bloomed 2 to 3 days behind normal and the rest of the state bloomed near normal to slightly late. In some parts of the state, the severe frost killed some primary bloom (bloom on 2 year wood and older) but the late primary and secondary bloom (bloom on 1 year old wood) was not hurt and a heavy fruit set resulted.

Last year's early bloom (about 30 days early) resulted in record early predicted harvest, about 20 to 30 days ahead of normal. The 2013 predicted harvest dates (Table 1) are between 1 to 7 days behind normal depending on the area. These predicted harvest dates are for the center or peak harvest of these varieties for CA storage. Gala is notorious for ripening early when late summer temperatures are above normal. Heavy crops will mature a few days later. Other varieties are less prone to hot temperatures advancing fall maturity. Still other varieties ripen when triggered by cold temperatures that occur near harvest time. The normal harvest dates for other varieties are listed in Table 3 for the Grand Rapids area. This year's 2013 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. Use a 30 days before harvest 2013 predicted harvest date to time applications of ReTain for stop drop management.

Table 1: 2013 predicted peak harvest dates

	Full bloom date			**Predicted harvest date**			
Station	**McIntosh**	**Jons**	**Reds**	**McIntosh**	**Jons**	**Reds**	**Observer**
SWMREC	9-May	13-May	14-May	11-Sep	27-Sep	3-Oct	Shane
Deerfield	8-May	9-May	10-May	9-Sep	26-Sep	4-Oct	Tritten
Romeo	15-May	16-May	16-May	15-Sep	2-Oct	8-Oct	Tritten
Peach Ridge	15-May	16-May	17-May	15-Sep	29-Sep	5-Oct	Schwallier
Hart	19-May	20-May	20-May	20-Sep	5-Oct	11-Oct	Schwallier
NWMHRS	21-May	21-May	22-May	23-Sep	8-Oct	16-Oct	Rothwell