

MSU Fruit Team Apple Maturity Report 2013

Northwest Region, Report Number 2

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General Comments - The NWMHRC will be testing apples for maturity for 2013, and 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.

Weather conditions remain dry across the region. We received just under ¼" of rainfall on 30 August-1 September and a very small amount (<0.05") on 7 September. Apples without irrigation would benefit from rain to help them size. Color has improved in the past week on many varieties, but cooler nights are needed to really put some color on the fruit. The current conditions across the northwest are hot and humid, and nighttime temperatures have remained in the mid-50s to mid-60s. However, temperatures are predicted to cool down over the weekend. Honeycrisp vary in color, but most fruit are still on the green side. Some growers have placed white reflective material in between rows to improve color, particularly in orchards adjacent to wood lines. Insect and disease issues on fruit are minimal at this time, and overall growers are pleased with the crop load and quality of the fruit.

Summary of northwest Michigan apple maturity samples taken on 10 September 2013

Variety	Color % (range)	Firmness lbs. pressure (range)	Starch (range)	Brix (range)
Gala	70 (40 - 95)	20.6 (17 - 23.5)	1.4 (1 - 4)	10.8 (9.4 - 12.6)
McIntosh	66 (20 - 95)	18.1 (14 - 23)	1.6 (1 - 3)	11.7 (11 - 13)
HoneyCrisp	44 (10 - 90)	18.0 (16 - 21)	1.7 (1 - 6)	11.9 (10 - 15.6)

Gingergold - Mature (no samples tested). Harvest is continuing. Background color should just be starting to turn yellowish at the time of harvest. Fruit that ripens to the point of full yellow will not hold up well in storage.

Gala - Immature (2 samples). Firmness is at 20.6 lbs., down from 21.8 lbs. Starch index is at 1.4, up from 1.1 and brix levels are up slightly to 10.8. Color has improved to 70%.

McIntosh - Immature (2 samples). Firmness is at 18.1 lbs., down from 19.2 lbs. Starch index is at 1.6, up from 1.4 and the brix level has increased to 11.7. Color has improved 66%.

HoneyCrisp - Immature (3 samples). Firmness is at 18.0 lbs., down from 19.3 lbs. Starch index is at 1.7, up from 1.4 and the brix level has increased to 11.9. Color has improved slightly to 44%. This variety needs multiple pickings over several weeks for premium quality fruit. Watch for first 2 to 3 apples per tree to color for the first picking.