



Healthy Fruit, Vol. 26, No. 23, September 25, 2018 - Apple Maturity Report

Jon Clements, Author (unless otherwise noted) and Editor

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The way I see it

Jon Clements

More slog weather. 1.32 inches rain yesterday in Belchertown. 7.13 inches in past 30 days. Dew point 70 as I write this. A brief fall intro last weekend, more to come. No frost/freeze in forecast, and the [30-day outlook](#) (as of September 20) calls for an equal chance of above or below normal temperatures.

Honeycrisp are pretty well picked at the UMass Orchard (unless they had ReTain), Cortland and Macoun being actively worked on. Some late Macs (Rogers) left to pick. Flavor, quite frankly, has been a bit bland, too much water.

Disease issues continue to be a bit onerous. Sooty blotch and flyspeck showing up regularly, and suspicious case of leaf spotting on Fuji that I suspect is [Marssonina](#). Significance not clear, but I don't like it...if anyone else is seeing similar (see pict below) I'd like pics and variety from you.

Finally, NIFA wants to hear from you: <https://nifa.usda.gov/nifalistsens> And see the [NIFA Listens slides](#) at the end of this Healthy Fruit.



Sooty blotch and flyspeck on Morning Mist Fuji, 26-September, 2018



Suspect Marssonina infection of Fuji leaves, 26-September, 2018

Horticulture (apple maturity report)

Jon Clements

Note that apple maturity report also continuously updated here: <http://ag.umass.edu/fruit/resources/apple-maturity-reports>

Date	Variety	Drop	Diameter (inches)	Color (% red)	Firmness (lbs)	Brix	Starch Index	DA Meter	Comments	Picture
9/26/18	Morning Mist Fuji	nil	3.5	65	12.6	11.8	7.5	0.87	Variable maturity depending on crop load, ready for 1st pick	
9/26/18	Jonagold	nil	3.5	70	14	13.2	5 to 7.5	0.69	Some water core; ready for 1st pick, very nice	
9/26/18	Rogers Red McIntosh	yes	3.5	65	13.6	12.2	6 (5 to 7)	NA	Final call for CA McIntosh	
9/26/18	Macoun	some	3.1	70	17.5	11.6	3 to 4, maybe more	NA	Could use a little more time on tree for brix to be over 12	
9/26/18	Cortland	nil	3.5	75	15.7	12.5	3 to 4, don't starch test well	NA	Bitter pit, may have had ReTain	

9/25/18	Honeycrisp	some	3.4	60	12.8	11.4	0.71	0.71	Flavor is bland, likely had ReTain	
9/20/18	Modi	few	3	90	19.2	13.4	4 (1.5 to 6)	1.15	Sweet and crisp; ready to pick, but maturity is variable; too bad we can't grow this scab-resistant one!	
9/20/18	Liberty	none	3	90	21.5	10.9	2 to 3, one a 6	NA	Needs another week	
9/13/18	Rogers Red McIntosh	nil	3.4	50 dull	15.6	11.4	5 (4 to 6)	NA	Rogers is a late McIntosh, could use another week on tree for sure for red color	NA
9/13/18	Honeycrisp	nil	3.1	55	14	10.8	2 to 7, big range	0.89	Over-cropped Honeycrisp = poor quality apples	NA

Guest article

Harvesting apples in the heat

The starch iodine test doesn't tell the whole story...

September 19, 2018 - Author: Randy Beaudry, Michigan State University Extension Fruit & Nuts

We are beginning to assess the maturity of some of the traditional “October” apples in the Michigan State University Apple Maturity Program. I have been surprised by the high starch index of some of these varieties that we normally do not expect to see ripening for another two to three weeks (e.g., Red Delicious, Cortland, Mutsu). The ethylene levels, however, are very low—in the parts-per-billion range! This suggests to me that, unlike our earlier apples like Honeycrisp and Gala, which should be headed out of the orchard in the southern half of Michigan, the later varieties are suffering from heat-based dilution of the starch. [Read the full article here...](#)

Useful links

UMass Fruit Advisor: <http://umassfruit.com>

Scaffolds Fruit Journal: <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/ent/scaffolds/>

Network for Environment and Weather Applications (NEWA): <http://newa.cornell.edu>

Follow me on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/jmcextman>) and Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/jmcextman>)

[Acimovic Lab at Hudson Valley](#)

[Peter Jentsch's Blog](#)

The next Healthy Fruit -- if there is one, otherwise see you next year -- will be published on or about October 16, 2018. In the meantime, feel free to contact any of the UMass Fruit Team if you have any fruit-related production questions.

Thank you sponsors...



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[Nourse Farms](#)



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NIFA Listens: Investing in Science to Transform Lives

A listening opportunity invites stakeholders to provide feedback on the following questions:

- What is the greatest challenge that should be addressed through NIFA's research, education, and extension programs?
- In your field, what is the most-needed breakthrough in science/technology that would advance your agricultural enterprise?
- What is your top priority in food and agricultural research, extension, or education that NIFA should address?

<https://nifa.usda.gov/nifalistsens>



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How will the Stakeholder Input be Used?

- Inform prioritization of science emphasis areas
- Identifying gaps in programming
- Determine which programs may be redundant or underperforming
- Combined with input from NIFA employees, feedback gathered throughout the initiative will be used, in the context of NIFA's current science emphasis areas, to identify gaps in current portfolios and potential investment opportunities



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How to provide feedback?

Electronic –

- Stakeholder Input Form on website - <https://nifa.usda.gov/nifalistsens>
- NIFAlistsens@nifa.usda.gov
- Comment period closes Nov. 30, 2018

In-Person – Please RSVP one week prior to in-person event

- Hartford, CT - Oct. 11
- New Orleans, LA - Oct. 18
- Minneapolis, MN - Oct. 25
- Albuquerque, NM - Nov. 1



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In 2017, we hear the following from stakeholders:

- Importance of interconnected systems - including economic, social, agricultural, ecological, and technical systems
- Data and technology were the most frequently cited priority to better manage and understand agricultural systems
- Extension, education, and community development were reported to be central to improving agriculture
- Strengthening communication between research and extension was emphasized