



Healthy Fruit, Vol. 29, No. 20, September 28, 2021

Prepared by the University of Massachusetts Amherst Fruit Team

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The way I see it...

Jon Clements

If you missed my apple maturity Zoom update today at noon, here are the highlights, and see the Apple Maturity Report below. You can also view today's recording here in your spare time. Note DA meter readings are missing, it went wonky on me, but we got it fixed for next week I hope!

Like the fall foliage, apple maturity is falling a little behind. Looking at the forecast, dry cool weather should move both the apples and your harvest crew along pretty quick now.

Honeycrisp harvest is wrapping up, color has been slow to develop in some blocks, and ReTain has worked quite well in preventing drop.

McIntosh harvest of non-ReTain treated Macs should be done by now. Starch index has progressed well into the 5-6 range, however, ReTain treated Macs are holding quite well both on the trees and in starch-index at 4-5. Harvest should be done within a week though.

Cortland is economically ripe, **Empire** and **Macoun** you should be holding off on as long as you dare. Macoun deep maroon-red color has not developed yet, but will probably be there this weekend. Empire harvest should start when you are done all your Honeycrisp, Gala, and Macs. Liberty could hold off until later this week, but watch closely as they go over the hill fast.

Early Fuji such as Morning Mist can be (and should be) harvested ASAP. Ambrosia on young trees with a light crop are ready for harvest, but heavily cropped mature trees are still “green.”

Golden Delicious as evidenced by ‘Golden Glory’ are getting there, but no rush to harvest IMHO.

Firecracker is one of three new Cornell introductions, and arguably the best, particularly for cider. Watch biennial bearing, while light cropped trees fruit was large and very mature, heavy cropped trees not nearly so much. (See picture below.)

Jonagold can be spot picked for color and are huge!

My 2 cents on a couple cider apples: **Redfield** is still very tart and astringent, does it ever get better?; **Ashmead’s Kernel** exhibits variable maturity, for fresh eating you don’t want to wait too long but you can for cider, and it drops when mature. **Caville Blanc** is almost ready to pick but goes punky fast if you want to eat it fresh. Thanks to Steve Wood for some of the advice.

Rampant **Marssonina** leaf spot showing up all of a sudden on Evercrisp (see picture below), good fungicide (7+11 FRAC preferably) coverage needs to be maintained season-long on late maturing varieties.

Bad news just out of MDAR, a **spotted lanternfly** population has been found in Fitchburg, keep your eyes out, for more information see this [press release](#).



Light cropped Firecracker (left) vs. heavy(?) crop on right. Hmm...










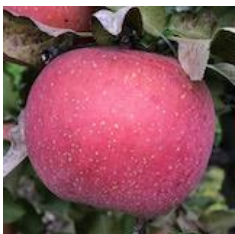
Marssonina leaf spot on Evercrisp resulting in premature leaf drop. Ugh...






Apple Maturity Report


Jon Clements

All observations from UMass Orchard, Belchertown, MA unless otherwise noted. Target maturity numbers: red color, >50%; firmness, >14 lbs.; soluble solids, >12; DA, 0.60 to 0.40 for Honeycrisp, 0.65 for Gala, 1.00 for Golden Delicious, 1.15 to 1.00 for Red Delicious (higher DA = more "green"); starch index, 4-6.

2021 Date	Variety	Drop	Diameter (inches)	Color (% red)	Firmness (lbs.)	Brix	Starch Index	DA Meter	Comments	Picture
9/27	Honeycrisp	few	3.2	75	13	11.8	7-8	NA	No good reason not to pick all as long as there is red color	
9/27	Lindamac McIntosh	some	3.2	85	13.5	11.2	4-6	NA	ReTain doing it's job	
9/27	Rogers Red McIntosh	significant	3.5	85	13	12.2	5.5-7	NA	No ReTain, right on schedule	

9/27	Cortland	nil	3.4	85	15	11.9	3-4	NA	Eating OK, economically ripe for sure	
9/27	Empire	none	2.9	95	16	10.8	3-5	NA	Need another week	
9/27	Macoun	yes	3.2	50 dull	12.1	12.1	3+	NA	I imagine harvest has already started, but... :-)	
9/27	Liberty	nil	2.9	80	21	12.3	2-3.5	NA	Need another 5 days but watch close	
9/27	Morning Mist Fuji	nil	3.2	75	10.5	11.5	7-8+	NA	Need harvest ASAP, heavy crop trees still green	

9/27	Ambrosia	none	3.2	55	16	12.1	5-6	NA	Light crop young trees, need harvest	
9/27	Golden Glory (Delicious)	nil	3.1	0-5	14	11.5	4-7+	NA	Could hold off harvest for a week	
9/28	Jonagold	nil	3.6+	55	13	12.4	7-8	NA	First spot pick on color, then wait 5-7 days	
9/27	Firecracker	nil	3.1	60	18	13.9	4-7	NA	Off light crop trees, heavy crop trees different look	
9/27	Redfield (cider)	none	2.8	95+	19	9.6	2-3	NA	Very tart and astringent	

9/27	Ashmead's Kernel (cider)	few	2.8	0	22	11.9	2-8	NA	Variable maturity, harvest could start for fresh eating, otherwise get punky	
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Horticulture

Jon Clements, Editor

See [apple maturity report](#)

Guest article

No Guest article this week...

Facebook Me

No Facebook Me this week...

Useful links

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

[UMass Extension Fruit Team YouTube Channel](#)

[UMass Fruit Loop IPM Podcast](#)

[Scaffolds Fruit Journal \(1995-2020\)](#). With the retirement of Dr. Art Agnello from Cornell University, this publication has come to an end. See Peter Jentsch's blog below.

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

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

[Acimovic Lab at Hudson Valley](#)

[Peter Jentsch's Blog](#)

This will be the last Healthy Fruit for 2021. Unless we decide to do a 2021 season wrap-up/summary and what to be on the lookout for in 2022. Expect that (maybe) in 2-3 weeks. In the meantime, feel free to contact any of the UMass Fruit Team if you have any fruit-related production questions.

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