

SW MICHIGAN APPLE MATURITY REPORT

ISSUE 7 – October 6, 2010

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Note: this will be the last week for the SW Michigan Apple Maturity Report. Nearly all Golden Delicious and Red Delicious destined for CA storage has been harvested. This week's report will be restricted to Braeburn, Fuji, and Rome.

See the Michigan State University apple web site (apples.msu.edu) for more information, including reports from other regions, past season reports, and additional information about apple maturity and apples in general.

Jonathan, Golden Delicious, Red Delicious, and IdaRed – No more samples.

Fuji (6 sampled, 4th week of sampling). Flesh firmness is averaging 16.2, about a two pound drop since last week's 18.3 lb. Starch conversion average is 5.7, last week it was 5.2, brix is averaging 13.5, same as last week. The 2010 predicted date for peak harvest for longterm CA storage is October 12th and the longtime average is Oct 20th. Fuji firmness ranges from long term quality to several sites suitable only for short term storage. Fruit maturity is running ahead of the predicted value for 2010.

Braeburn (5 samples from 3 sites, 2nd week of sampling). Flesh firmness average dropped 3 lb to 19.5 lb, still in the excellent firmness range, with starch conversion averaging 4.7 compared to last week's 3.2, and brix averaging 12.8 compared to last week's 12.2. If the firmness drop is repeated again, Braeburn firmness will drop to the mid-term CA range by next week for some area farms.

Rome (4 sites sampled, 2nd week of sampling). Flesh firmness is averaging 19.7, compared to 21.5 lb for last week, starch is 4.1 compared to 3.6 for last week, and brix is 12.2 about the same as last week. Skin bleeding into the flesh and red color around the vascular bundles is showing up in a few Rome blocks. Firmness is still excellent for the most part and starch conversion is in the mature zone for all four blocks sampled.

This report and project is made possible by the support of our sponsors which include Greg Orchards Produce, Inc, Michigan Apple Committee, Michigan State Horticultural Society, Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station, Greg Orchards Produce, Mammoth Farms, Grandview Orchards, and Kevin Winkel Farms. SW growers providing apples include Grandview Orchards, Mammoth Farms, Oak Hill, Bixby Orchards, Dan Klug, Weber Farms, Meachum Farms, Kevin Winkel Farms, Weckwerth Farms, Willmeng Farms, and Czuba Farms.

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Figures 1 & 2. Apple maturity trends for SW Michigan. Each dot is the average for an orchard based on a 10 apple sample. Samples were taken in Berrien and Van Buren counties.



