

PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

FRUIT EDITION \$1.50

SEPTEMBER 2, 2003



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Apple Maturity Update

*Win Cowgill, Agricultural Agent, and Meredith Compton,
North Jersey Tree Fruit Program Associate*

Continued temperatures in the 50's and low 60's this past week stimulated some good red color development on Gala, Macs and Honeycrisp. Empire and most Red Delicious strains have significantly increased red color this past week as well.

Gala harvest has begun in Central Jersey and McIntosh harvest in Central and North Jersey will begin soon. Apple maturity appears to be getting back on schedule as we enter September, running only 5-6 days behind "traditional" harvest dates and the later varieties seem to be on time which may compress the September apple harvest. Gingergold was harvested September 31 at the Rutgers Snyder Farm @14.5 lbs pressure, 9.5 brix. Starch Iodine is not effective on Gingergold.

We anticipate spot picking TRECO 42 Gala at the Snyder Farm on September 5th or 6th, depending on how cool the weather stays this week.

McIntosh

Growers in Central and North Jersey should watch their Macs closely for red color development and drop. Applications of NAA can be used instead. We like to target Macs for fresh market harvest at Starch of 5-6. They taste best at 6.

Location County/Town	Cultivar	Sample Date	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Sussex-Newton	Mac	8/29	18	10	2.6
Warren-Blairstown	Mac	8/29	17	5	2.8
Hunterdon- Glenn Gardener	Rogers Red	8/29	17	9	2.9
Hunterdon- Rutgers Snyder	Rogers Red	9/1	17	9	3
Hunterdon- Pittstown	Hilltop Red Mac	9/1	16.6	7	3

Gala

Background color has historically been one of the best indicators of maturity for Gala. Fresh market Galas should be harvested when the background color is turning from a yellow to a cream color. SI index with the Gala Starch chart from UMASS can be a guideline as well:

<http://www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/clements/articles/gala.jpg>

SEE APPLE MATURITY ON PAGE 2

Sustainable Horticulture Research Twilight Meeting

September 10, 2003

6:00-9:00 pm rain or shine

Rutgers Snyder Research and Extension Farm
140 Locust Grove Road, Pittstown, NJ

Sponsored by Rutgers Cooperative Extension
In cooperation with the Northeast Organic
Farming Association of NJ

Participate in informal tours and discussions of the following research projects led by Rutgers Cooperative Extension/NJAES Agricultural Agents and Specialists:

Vegetable ♦ Specialty & Heirloom tomato cultivar showcase ♦ Organic insect control trial for sweet corn ♦ Ornamental kale and cabbage cultivar trial ♦ Kaolin Clay Formulation Research on Vegetables and Grapes for insect control ♦ Broccoli cultivar trial ♦ Organic methods and cultivar trials for edamame & tofu soybeans, popcorn

♦ Organic insect control for white potatoes ♦ Calabaza (tropical pumpkin) variety & disease resistance trial
Fruit ♦ **Fruit Variety Showcase:** over 60 selections of apple and peach grown at the Rutgers Snyder Farm will be on display. Apple cultivars from the NE183 cultivar trial harvested to date will be on hand. Peach cultivars from Dr. Joe Goffreda, NJAES/Rutgers program will be observed including some of his new Pentu (donut peach) selections. Also selections from the Fruit Acres and Jim Friday Programs in Michigan. ♦ **Super Slender Spindle:** also featured will be a tour of a High Density Apple Planting trial. Over 15 cultivars/rootstock combinations were established last spring at a spacing of 2' x 10' Many of these selections have high quality fruit on them to observe.

Precision Agricultural Instrumentation

Core Training ♦ Personnel Protective Equipment for Pesticide Application and NJ Pesticide ♦ Certification Update

NJ pesticide recertification credits will be awarded

For more info contact: Win Cowgill at Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Hunterdon County at (908) 788-1339 or cowgill@aesop.rutgers.edu. □

APPLE MATURITY FROM PAGE 1

Location County/Town	Cultivar	Sample Date	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Sussex-Newton-	Gala	8/29	17.6	7	1.6
Hunterdon-Glenn Gardener	Crimson Gala	8/29	25	9	1
Hunterdon-Rutgers Snyder	TRECO 42	9/1	22.5	8	2.8
Mercer-Princeton	Royal Gala	9/1	22	10.5	2

Gala strains traditionally come into maturity around Labor Day for Northern New Jersey. While somewhat delayed, the season seems to be compressing. Gala in Hunterdon will be ready this week. Gala does not have a long storage life, so growers need to be conscious of its maturity stage if they have plans to hold it for any length of time. Multiple pickings based on background color and over color must be used get consistent fruit quality and increased size.

Honeycrisp

Location County/Town	Cultivar	Harvest Date	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Hunterdon-Glenn Pittstown	Honeycrisp	9/1	16	7	1.2
Hunterdon-Rutgers Snyder	Honeycrisp	9/1	20.6	7.8	1
Mercer-Princeton	Honeycrisp	9/1	14.6	9.2	5.7

According to Jon Clements, Tree Fruit Specialist in UMASS, Honeycrisp should be harvested at 16- 18 lbs pressure and 4-6 on the Cornell Starch Iodine Chart

Cortland

Cortland is usually picked one week after Macs (remember Macs can be picked over 3 weeks if stop drop is used). My guess would be around September 18 at the Rutgers Snyder farm. They do not starch the best but it can be used as a guideline; target a starch of 5-6.

Location County/Town	Cultivar	Harvest Date	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Hunterdon-Glenn Pittstown	RedCort	9/1	16.6	10	1
Mercer Princeton (Retain®)	Cortland	9/1	18.6	9	1
Mercer-Princeton (no Retain)	Cortland	9/1	13.5	10	1

NOTE: the five pounds increase in pressure on this Mercer County block of Cortland's with Retain®.

Retain® Reminder: Retain® must be applied 28 days before anticipated harvest. If blocks were not treated with Retain®, it is too late for this season to apply for all but our October maturing apples, Suncrips®, Stayman, etc. □

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