

PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

FRUIT EDITION \$1.50

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Apple Maturity Update for North-Central New Jersey

Win Cowgill, Agricultural Agent and Martha Maletta, Research Associate, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Hunterdon County

North Jersey growers are moving into Gala harvest with spot picking and harvest of early maturing cultivars like Fulford. McIntosh is ready to spot pick in central NJ. Cool night temperatures have greatly enhanced red color in Macs, Cortlands and Honeycrisp as well as most Gala strains.

Cooler temperatures with cloudy rainy weather has slowed maturity. We are only 1-2 days ahead of normal harvest at this point at the Rutgers Snyder Farm.

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 can be a guideline as well. I like to harvest Gala at above 12% brix and over 16 lbs pressure. Multiple pickings must be used on Gala to get consistent fruit quality and size; the first pick is usually a skim of the ripest fruit.

The high-colored strains are showing good color. Fruit has sized extremely well in most blocks even with the drought for the first 3.5 weeks in August. The recent rains since last Friday night have caused some stem end cracking in non-Retained Galas in several blocks observed.

The ground is currently saturated, with more rain forecast this week. Of concern will be Tropical Storm (or Hurricane) Ernesto forecast to hit our area Friday/Saturday. Excessive rain and soil moisture combined with high winds can topple apple trees that are not well supported and enhance cracking of fruit.

Morris- Harding Twp	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Fulford Gala	8/28	no	13.8	13%	9
Hunterdon- Snyder	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Brookfield Gala	8/28	yes	24	11.4%	1.6
Stark Galaxy	8/28	yes	20	10.2	3.5
Hunterdon- Pittstown	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Gala	8/28	no	22	11.5	2.3

SEE APPLE MATURITY ON PAGE 2

McIntosh

Growers in Central and North Jersey should watch their Mac's closely for maturity development and drop. It is too late to treat Macintosh blocks with Retain. Applications of NAA can be used instead for stop drop. Many blocks in North Jersey have colored nicely; sugars are developing ranging between 9-12 brix. Central Jersey Mac harvest may begin with some spot picking this week. Hudson Valley, NY is picking Macs heavily as well.

Hunterdon-Snyder Farm	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch-Iodine
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McIntosh-Rogers Red	8/28	Yes	17.	11%	3
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Hunterdon-Pittstown	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch-Iodine
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McIntosh	8/28	no	15.5	11	5.5
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Morris-Harding Twp.	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch-Iodine
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McIntosh-RedMax	8/28	Yes	13.6	10.5	6
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Warren-Hackettstown	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch-Iodine
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McIntosh-MacSpur	8/28	yes	16	10.5	3.3
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McIntosh-Marshall Mac	8/28	yes	16.5	11	4
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HoneyCrisp

The three Honeycrisp blocks I visited have developed good color but have not developed the good varietal flavor necessary to command the premium prices.

Non-Retained Honeycrisp may be ready for spot picking by the end of the week. As of Monday they were judged not ready for spot-picking. One block will probably be ready next week, while the other will be further delayed.

This appears to be a year with significant variability in fruit ripening, even on individual trees. Growers should be picking Honeycrisp 4-5 times this year in order to adequately harvest mature, highly colored fruit.

The recommended maturity for the harvest of Honeycrisp in NJ is starch=7.0, internal pressure > 13.5 pounds, soluble solids > 13 brix, and the presence of good varietal flavor. A lousy eating Honeycrisp is a lousy apple.

However, monitoring varietal flavor and background color change from green toward cream may be more useful when timing the harvest of Honeycrisp. Late harvest of Honeycrisp will increase the incidence of soft scald during storage but most of our NJ growers do not store Honeycrisp.

Milke Fargione, Cornell, Hudson Valley, NY reports that Honeycrisp gets the prize for the most problems

again this season! Sunburned and heat damaged ("cooked apple" appearance) fruit seem to be rapidly invaded by **bitter rot**, **black rot** and other **pathogens**. Fruit in one block had a dry, calyx-end rot that Dr. Rosenberger believes was caused by *Botrytis* infections that occurred at petal fall. An effective fungicide, like Pristine (PHI = 0), may be useful in reducing further rots on this high-value variety (However, it won't help with the calyx-end infections).

Morris-Harding Twp.	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch-Iodine
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Honeycrisp	8/28	Yes	17.3	12.	2.7
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Hunterdon-Snyder Farm	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
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Honeycrisp	8/28	no	16.1	12.2	6.6
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Honeycrisp	8/28	Yes	16.5	12	4.8
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Hunterdon-Pittstown	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
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Honeycrisp	8/28	no	15	10.5	6.3
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Cortland

Cortland is an apple that has increased in popularity with newer strains being highly colored. Cortland is usually picked one week after Macs (remember Macs can be picked over 3 weeks if stop drop is used, normally around mid-September at the Rutgers Snyder Farm. They do not starch test well but SI testing can be used as guideline, target a starch of 5-6.

Hunterdon-Snyder	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
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Cortland-RedCort	8/28	yes	18.6	11.6	1
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Hunterdon-Pittstown	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
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RedCort	8/28	no	16	10	1
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Morris-Harding Twp.	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch-Iodine
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RedCort	8/28	Yes	16.7	11.5	2.1
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Mollies Delicious- is a Northern NJ favorite at roadside markets that came out of the NJAES breeding program. It was first introduced in 1966 as a cross between Golden Delicious and Gravenstein by Drs. Hough and Bailey. It has excellent eating quality. Mollies was harvested last week in Morris/Hunterdon, but is not quite ready in Warren.

Warren-Hackettstown	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch-Iodine
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Mollies Delicious	8/28	yes	15.2	11.5	4
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Retain®

Timing Retain Applications: The correct timing for applications of Retain to Empire fruit is expected to be the week of September 4th if you would normally pick fruit without Retain during the week of September 25th.

SEE RETAIN ON PAGE 3



Deer Fence Installation Demonstration Using Hi- Tensile Woven Wire

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

9 AM to 12:00 Noon

Rutgers NJAES Cream Ridge Research Farm
283 County Route 539, Cream Ridge, NJ
08514 (Monmouth County)

Landowners, landscapers, farmers, their employees and others who are considering installing their own deer fencing are invited to attend this free workshop. There are many alternative fencing options for landowners to construct for non-lethal exclusion of problem deer from their land. This brief workshop demonstrates hi-tensile woven wire wildlife exclusion fence as the strongest, longest lived, and most durable fencing method for farming operations. Topics covered include proper corner bracing, straight line bracing, safety, tensioning, entry points construction, necessary tools and hardware, post height and burial options, all directed to establishing a durable, effective, long-lived fence.

We will also demonstrate erecting a portable electric fencing option for seasonal protection of small fields. Fact Sheet information will be provided on other temporary and permanent fence alternatives.

For directions call Cream Ridge Research Farm at 609-758-7311.

Landowners are also invited to visit anytime our deer fencing methods demonstration site at the Rutgers NJAES Snyder Farm in Pittstown (Hunterdon County). It is a self-guided demonstration, with six fencing alternatives constructed for comparison and to view how they appear in a landscape. The fencing demonstration is located at the corner of Locust Grove Road and Pittstown Roads adjacent to the Rutgers NJAES Snyder Farm at 140 Locust Grove Road, Pittstown, NJ 08867. For directions, visit our website at: <http://www.snyderfarm.rutgers.edu/>. □

Calendar of Events

September 7, 2006 – Fall Variety Showcase, Lawrence, Michigan. Sponsored by International Plant Management. Contact: 800-424-2765.

Editor's Note: unless something noteworthy happens, the Fruit IPM updates are finished for the season.

RETAIN FROM PAGE 2

Reminder: Retain® should be applied 21-28 days before anticipated harvest on alter varieties, with a 7 day Pre Harvest Interval (PHI). If blocks were not treated with Retain®, it is not too late this season to apply for late September apples like Red Delicious and Empire, and too early for October maturing apples such as Suncrip, Fuji, Stayman. □

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