

PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

FRUIT EDITION \$1.50

SEPTEMBER 23, 2008



Apple Maturity Update for North-Central New Jersey

Win Cowgill, County Agricultural Agent

North Jersey has dried out after some early September rains. But overall we have had enough rain to size the apple crop. Cool night temperatures this week have brought on the color in Jonagolds and late maturing Retained Honeycrisp.

HoneyCrisp

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. Honeycrisp is done except for last picks on Retained blocks in North Jersey.

Cortland

Has been selectively picked for the last two weeks even though the SI index has been low. Full varietal flavor has not developed.

Cortland is usually picked around mid-September at the Rutgers Snyder farm but it is running behind, we have let it hang to develop flavor. They do not starch test well but SI testing can be used as guideline, target a starch of 5-6.

Morris-Harding Twp	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Cortland-RedCort	9/15	yes	14.4	12.4	1.1
Cortland-RedCort	9/22	yes	14.6	12.8	1.8
Hunterdon-	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Snyder Farm RedCort	9/21	no	14.3	12	1.6
Pittstown -RedCort	9/20	no			
Warren-	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Hackettstown-RedCort	9/14	no	17.5	12	1.5
Hackettstown-RedCort	9/14	no	15.5	13	2.8
Macoun - no Macouns tested had full varietal flavor yet and were not ready to be harvested, when not fully ripe they have an off flavor.					
Warren-	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Macoun- Hackettstown	9/14	yes	17.5	12.9	2
Macoun- Hackettstown	9/21	yes	18.9	13.4	2.3
Macoun-Blairstown	9/21	no	16.2	12.2	3.2
Hunterdon	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Macoun-Snyder Farm	9/21	no	14.4	12	3.3
Macoun-Pittstown	9/20	no	14.4	12.4	4.6

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Jonagold - is ready at most locations. We like to see a 6 on starch for retail sales and 14-16% brix. We are harvesting Jonagold today at Snyder.

Hunterdon	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
JonaGoRed	Snyder	9/21	no	14.4	14.6	6.8
Morris	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Jonagold	Harding Twp	9/22	yes	15.5	15	4.6
Warren-		Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch-Iodine
Jonagold-	Blairstown	9/21	yes	14.5	12.2	7.5

Liberty

Hunterdon	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Liberty	Pittstown	9/20	no	19	13	3.4

Early Fuji Strains - Most early Fuji blocks have now been harvested

Empire - is coming along nicely, ready to harvest in Hunterdon, Morris and Warren Counties in non-Retained blocks. We would look for starch of 5-6, brix of 13-14%, pressure 16 lbs.

Hunterdon	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Empire	Snyder	9/23	no	14.5	11.8	6.2
Tome Empire-	Snyder	9/23	no	14.7	11.8	6.6
Empire	Pittstown	9/23	no	15.7	12.3	3.8
Warren-	-	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Empire-Hackettstown		9/21	yes	17.5	11.2	2.8
Empire-Tome-	Blairstown	9/21	no	16.2	12	4.6
Morris	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Empire-	Harding Twp	9/22	yes	16.2	13	4.9

Golden Delicious - golden's are moving along as well. Non-Retained fruit is a bit ahead of normal.

Hunterdon	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Gibson Golden	Snyder	9/21	no	16.5	14.8	4.3
Warren-	-	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Golden Delicious-	Hackettstown	9/21	yes	17.3	12.8	3.3

Ambrosia - A clubbed variety from British Colombia - some growers have it planted before it was restricted. It is a beautiful red blush sweet apple.

Hunterdon	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Ambrosia	Snyder	9/21	no	16.3	13.6	6.6

Red Delicious

Hunterdon	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Red Chief-RedDel	Pittstown	9/21	no	15.8	11.3	2.2
Morris	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
RedChief-	Harding Twp	9/22	yes	16.8	11.2	7.2
Warren-	-	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
RedChief	Blairstown	9/21	no	14	11.2	4.2

Retain®: it is too late to apply retain on apples.

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who suffered 30 percent or more on losses directly due to the harsh weather eligible to be considered for low-interest emergency loans from Farm Services Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. The loans can cover up to 100 percent of the dollar value of the losses. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability.

USDA has also made other programs available to assist farmers, including the Emergency Conservation Program, Federal Crop Insurance and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. Interested farmers may contact their local USDA Service Centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at:

<http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov> or www.nj.gov/agriculture/grants/disaster.html. □

Workshop: Diagnosis, Visual Assessment & Management of Plant Parasitic Nematodes of Vegetables and Small Fruits in the NE

Beth Gugino, Penn State Plant Pathology

Ever wonder what plant-parasitic nematodes do to your crops and profitability, or how you can manage them on an as-needed basis? Then plan on attending one of our NE-SARE funded workshops titled "Diagnosis, Visual Assessment and Management of Plant-Parasitic Nematodes of Vegetables and Small Fruit in the Northeast". This workshop has been designed to train participants (county extension educators, regional specialists, crop consultants, IPM practitioners, interested growers and other ag service providers) throughout the Northeast in nematode diagnosis and management and to provide hardcopy and electronic resources that can be used on-farm and in various outreach activities. The topics to be covered include: nematode biology and ecology (aka Nematology 101); signs and symptoms of nematode damage in the field and on vegetable, small fruit and some ornamental crops; soil nematode assessment (focusing on on-farm methods); and management options and managing nematodes on an as-needed basis. Workshop participants will receive a 3-ring binder containing printed resources, CD-ROM containing powerpoint slides, fact sheets, etc. for use as a future reference, and a soil nematode assessment that contains all the supplies necessary to conduct on-farm nematode assessments in several fields.

The three workshops will be held this fall on October 10th, 21st and November 18th in Newport, RI, Westampton, NJ and Allentown, PA, respectively. The New Jersey workshop will be held all day from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm on **October 21st** at the **Rutgers Cooperative Extension Office – Burlington County in Westampton, NJ.**

The workshop facilitators include George Abawi from Cornell University, Jim LaMondia from The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Deb Neher from the University of Vermont and Beth Gugino from the Penn State.

Although there is no fee to attend (and lunch and coffee breaks are provided), pre-registration is requested for planning purposes. The registration deadline is October 14th for NJ. For additional information or to register for the workshop please contact Beth Gugino at (814) 865-7328 or bkgugino@psu.edu. If you cannot attend any of these workshops, this workshop will be held 2 or 3 more times in the Northeast during spring 2009. For more specific information is also available at <http://www.ppath.cas.psu.edu/FACULTY/Gugino.htm>.

Funding for these nematode workshops is being provided through a grant from Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NE-SARE) Professional Development Program. □

Ten NJ Counties Declared Disaster Areas Farmers to Benefit after Harsh Weather Caused Losses

U S Secretary of Agriculture Edward Schafer has designated 10 New Jersey counties as natural disaster areas, following hail storms, drought, heat and other severe weather conditions that led to crop losses during the 2008 growing season.

On August 13, three days after hail storms damaged crops in Salem, Gloucester, Cumberland, Atlantic and Camden counties, Governor Jon S. Corzine requested the disaster designation, saying New Jersey farmers had experienced substantial agricultural production losses to important crops.

"A variety of inclement weather patterns this summer have had a devastating impact on some of our farmers," said New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Charles M. Kuperus. "We owe a great deal of thanks to Senators Robert Menendez and Frank Lautenberg and our Congressional delegation, who wrote letters to Secretary Schafer supporting Governor Corzine's request and helped us achieve the designation to bring relief to growers, some of whom suffered partial or complete crop loss."

The counties included in the primary disaster designation are: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean and Salem,. Hunterdon, Middlesex and Somerset counties were named as contiguous disaster counties.

"A number of growers were hurt this season due to hail, drought and heat," said Paul Hlubik, Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency in New Jersey. "The disaster designation makes them eligible for low-interest loans and plans are being finalized and rules developed to provide direct disaster aid to farmers, for the first time in any Farm Bill. I'm grateful to Secretary Schafer for providing this assistance and to Governor Corzine for seeking this aid on behalf of the farmers I serve."

Secretary Schafer designated Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean and Salem counties as primary natural disaster areas because of losses caused by the combined effects of high winds, excessive rain, flash floods and hail that occurred from May 12 through August 10, 2008; and also because of losses caused by drought and high temperatures that occurred during the period of June 10, 2008, and continuing.

The Secretarial Disaster Designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties

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