

PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

FRUIT EDITION \$1.50

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Apple Maturity Update for North-Central New Jersey

Win Cowgill, County Agricultural Agent

North Jersey had 2 inches of rain over the weekend. More cool nights are expected as the cold front continues to move down from Canada.

Honeycrisp and Cortland are about complete, Jonagold and Cortland harvest is winding down as well.

Macoun - the Macouns tested are just developing full varietal flavor.

Warren Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Macoun- Hackettstown	9/21	yes	18.9	13.4	2.3
Macoun- Hackettstown	9/28	yes	16.8	13.1	4.2
Morris Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
MacounHarding Twp	9/29	yes	14.3	13	5
Hunterdon	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Macoun-Snyder Farm	9/29	no	15.7	12.2	4

Liberty - 'Liberty' resulted from a cross, 'Macoun' x Purdue 54-12, made in 1955.

Its apple scab disease resistance comes from *malus floribunda*. The fruit of 'Liberty' is a deep dark red over 90 per cent of the surface. The ground color is yellowish. Fruit quality -- 'Liberty' is a very tasty apple when -- pay attention here! -- picked fully ripe. It has a flavor reminiscent of freshly-squeezed apple cider, and is hard to put down when you start eating one. I sometimes refer to it as the 'cider apple.' I suspect it has inherited some of its great flavor and crunch from 'Macoun,' which if you are not familiar, has developed a 'cult-like' following in some areas of New England. 'Liberty' also makes excellent fresh and hard cider.

Because of its taste and crunch it is drawing a following in New York City at the Green Markets. For the full description and Cornell release fact sheet on Liberty go to:

<http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/pubs/fls/OCRPDF/73.pdf>

Liberty's one draw back is that it tends to ripen unevenly. The plant growth regulator Retain solves this problem. Liberty should not be grown unless you use Retain to even out harvest. Just like Macoun it is essential that Liberty is harvested at optimal maturity. A few weeks in storage enhances the flavor as well.

SEE APPLE MATURITY ON PAGE 2



'Mr. Liberty' a.k.a. Jon Clements, Extension Educator; UMass Amherst stands next to a 3rd leaf Liberty apple tree at the UMass Cold Spring Orchard in Belchertown, MA. Clements is a believer that Liberty is an under-rated apple that deserves more attention as the fruit quality is extremely high when properly grown.

Hunterdon	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Liberty	Pittstown	9/28	Yes	17	13.2	3.5

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

Empire - Is being harvested in Hunterdon, Morris and Warren Counties. We would look for starch of 5-6, brix of 13-14%, pressure 16 lbs.

Hunterdon	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Empire	Snyder	9/28	no	15	11.6	6
Warren	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Empire	Hackettstown	9/28	yes	16.7	12	3.5
Morris	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Empire	Harding Twp	9/29	yes	14.3	13.7	5.5

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	9/29	no	18	13.2	4.1
Warren-	-	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Golden Delicious-Hackettstown		9/28	yes	15	13	2.8
Morris	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Golden Del.Harding Twp		9/29	yes	16	15.8	4.9

Red Delicious

Hunterdon	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
OregonSpur -RedDel	Snyder	9/29	no	14	11.4	3.6
Morris	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
RedChief-	Harding Twp	9/29	yes	15.8	11.6	2.8

Idared

Morris	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
IdaRed-	Harding Twp	9/29	yes	16.2	13.7	2.5

Mutsu/Crispen

Morris	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Mutsu	Harding Twp	9/29	yes	16.9	13.4	2
Hunterdon	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Mutsu	Snyder	9/29	no	18.2	13.4	2.8

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

Agriculture Secretary, Food Pantry Volunteers, Farmer Team up to Help the Hungry

New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Charles M. Kuperus and a group of volunteers from the Interfaith Food Pantry in Morristown gathered boxes of vegetables today at Union Hill Farms in Denville that will be distributed to clients of the food pantry.

Such an effort is referred to as a "gleaning," which redirects surplus food items donated by local farms to feed the hungry of New Jersey. The Interfaith Food Pantry works with several local farmers – including Jeff O'Hara of Union Hill Farms -- to either pick the produce themselves or collect and transport the donated items to distribution points.

"Fresh vegetables are an important part of any diet and should be available to all, including those in need of help at local food pantries throughout the state," said Secretary Kuperus. "We are proud of the many farmers throughout the state who generously donate some of their produce to the hungry to ensure they have access to these nutritious items."

In total, Interfaith Food Pantry received 6,300 pounds of fresh produce from July of 2007 to July of 2008 from local farms, more than half of which came from Union Hill Farms. The other farms that donated food were Riamede, Parks and Alstede Farms, all in Chester, Three Meadows Farm in Bedminster and Morangie Farm in Far Hills.

"The produce we receive from the farms is very much appreciated by our clients," said Katy Galton, part-time Nutrition Educator for the Interfaith Food Pantry. "Many low-income citizens who rely on the food pantry for supplemental food often must make the difficult choice between quality and quantity when it comes to feeding their families. The fresh produce we have received from this program has given our clients access to healthier foods they might otherwise not have had."

Union Hill Farms has been a regular contributor of produce to the pantry for the past six years and also has donated to the Morristown Soup Kitchen for many years. O'Hara, who started his farm in 1986 and now grows 35 acres of assorted vegetables and participates in three community farmers markets as well as running his own roadside stand, said it is important to give back to the community that has supported his business.

"The people who buy at my stand regularly are all local residents, so without the community we would have nothing," said O'Hara. "We hate to see anything we grow go to waste. The pantry comes to us, picks up the surplus items and it helps others."

Interfaith Food Pantry was one of three organizations in the state in March that received a grant through

the New Jersey Department of Agriculture State Food Purchase Program – Gleaning Support Program for collection, distribution, and administrative costs to support gleaning efforts. The \$5,494 was used to pay transportation costs for the gleaned produce.

Besides its gleaning operation, Interfaith Food Pantry participates in the State Food Purchase Program (SFPP), developed under Governor Jon S. Corzine's Hunger Initiative. The program will distribute \$4 million this year to emergency feeding operations to buy nutritious foods for the hungry. Interfaith, a non-profit that serves more than 3,700 qualifying Morris County residents, distributed more than 53,000 pounds of SFPP food this past year.

Emma Davis-Kovacs, Director of the Department of Agriculture's Division of Food and Nutrition, said the SFPP will be even more vital this year than in the past, due to the shaky economy.

"Our emergency feeding operations in the state are reporting an increase in participation, while at the same time there has been an increase in students eligible for the free and reduced price lunch program," said Davis-Kovacs. "In addition, with less United States Department of Agriculture-donated items coming in to the state, Governor Corzine's Hunger Initiative funding will help emergency feeding operations meet the needs of their growing clientele."

SFPP funds are distributed to the six emergency feeding operations in the state on a quarterly basis. The next distribution is scheduled for November. □

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