



Healthy Fruit

Volume 13, 2005

Prepared by the University of Massachusetts Fruit Team

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Upcoming Meetings/Events

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Time	Information
December 13-15, 2005	New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference	Center of New Hampshire Radisson Hotel, Manchester, NH	--	Jon Clements, 413-478-7219

Horticultural update

Growers are currently in the thick of peach harvest, and so far, it looks like an excellent peach year. Of course peaches like hot weather, but I am not so sure the same could be said for apples. Not to be alarmist, but the hot weather of this summer may have some ramifications on the fall apple harvest. In particular watch out for pre-harvest drop, uneven maturity, and rots and disorders such as moldy core, water core, and sunburn. Keep a close eye on fruit maturity, the starch-iodine test being useful for that purpose. (More on the starch-iodine test below.) Indications are maturity may (overall) be a little late, but I expect to see considerable variation on the tree and between blocks because of the extended bloom and fruit set period. It's probably not too late to apply ReTain this week to McIntosh, Gala, and Cortland, however, remember it has a 21 day PHI. Where it's dry, keep irrigation running until September 1st.

Starch-iodine maturity test

The starch-iodine maturity test is one of the best methods for assessing fruit maturity. The starch-iodine maturity test has been described in previous issues of Healthy Fruit on the UMass Fruit Advisor:

- <http://www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/clements/articles/sitest.htm>

If you need starch-iodine solution, let us know and we can supply for a small fee.

Apple maturity report

Here are the results from recent apple maturity testing of ‘summer’ apples. In general, maturity is running about a week behind last year, however, I expect with cooler weather things will accelerate. Note that apple maturity test results will also be posted on the UMass Fruit Advisor as they become available:

- <http://www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/clements/articles/2005harvest/2005harvest.html>

Date	Location	Cultivar	Drop	Size (in.)	Color (% red)	Firmness (lbs.)	Soluble Solids	Starch Index*	Taste	Disorders	Comments
8/23	Belchertown	Sunrise	Few	3.0	45	15	12	4	Very nice	None	Nice summer apple, under-planted; ready to pick
8/23	Belchertown	Sansa	Few	3.0	55	16	12	3.5	Acceptable, but will get better	Watercore	Needs another week for flavor
8/23	Belchertown	Akane	Nil	2.8	75	18	NA	5	A touch green	Watercore	Ready next week
8/23	Belchertown	Gingergold	nil	3.2	yellow	20	11	NA	Ready for select pick, good		
8/23	Belchertown	Paulared	Some	3.2	65	14	13	3.5	Fair	Significant watercore	Being harvested
8/23	Belchertown	Zestar!	Few (loose)	3.0	30 (weak)	15	13	2.5	Green		Needs another week

Note: the next Healthy Fruit will be published September 7, 2005.

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