



Healthy Fruit

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Prepared by the University of Massachusetts Fruit Team

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Insects and Diseases

Just a reminder that with the continuous wet weather we have had, both **apple maggot fly** and **sooty blotch** and **flyspeck** are still active and of concern. You should have insecticide and/or fungicide coverage in blocks with a history of either of these pests. Late-harvested apples will definitely need fungicide coverage for summer diseases into September. As always, be particularly aware of the pre-harvest interval for any pesticide application at this time.

Horticulture

In the last Healthy Fruit we alluded to the possibility that apple maturity may come earlier than average. Certainly, we will be ahead of last year. Cool temperatures forecasted for this week will help delay maturity but improve color. Be forewarned and keep an eye on things. Certainly you are in the best position to judge when fruit is ready to pick. Pay particular attention to blocks with mite and/or leafminer infestations – they will mature first.

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.

Although most growers have already applied **ReTain**, recent research has suggested that it can be applied up to 2 weeks before ‘normal’ harvest and still work to control drop and delay maturity. Some McIntosh, Gala, and Macoun blocks could still benefit from ReTain treatment now, particularly in pick-your-own orchards. The only caveat is ReTain has a 21 day pre-harvest interval, so fruit cannot be picked until 3 weeks have passed from application. Of course the timing is just about right for ReTain treatment of later maturing varieties such as Empire and Delicious.

Here are the results from recent apple maturity testing of ‘summer’ apples. 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/2004harvest/2004harvest.html>

Date	Location	Cultivar	Drop	Size (in.)	Color (% red)	Firmness (lbs.)	Soluble Solids	Starch Index*	Taste	Disorders	Comments
8/23	Belchertown	Sunrise	some	3.0	55	13.5	13	5.5	on it's way out, but still acceptable		over-mature
8/23	Belchertown	Sansa	nil	2.9	75	14.5	13	4	acceptable; good		ready for 1 st pick
8/23	Belchertown	Akane	nil	3.0	80	16	13	7	good – OK to pick	10% watercore	nice
8/23	Belchertown	Gingergold	nil	3.2	yellow	18	12.5	2	eats fine, ready to go	birds	does not starch test well
8/23	Belchertown	Paulared	few	3.0	65	13	12	6	OK, a little off flavor		mature, tail end of pick
8/23	Belchertown	Zestar!	few	3.2	60	14	14	4.5	OK		mature, ready to go

* using the Cornell 'Generic Starch-Iodine Index Chart for Apples'

Updated Cider Regulations

This month the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Food Protection Program (FPP) published new guidelines and regulation for cider makers. They include:

- [Guidelines for the Operation of Sanitary Cider Mills](#)
- License, Permit and Inspection Requirements for Massachusetts Juice and Cider Processors
- 21CFR 120 – Hazard Analysis And Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems (FDA)
- Procedures for the Safe and Sanitary Processing and Importing of Juice
- Is Fresh Cider Safe?

Links to these publications are on the Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association website, <http://www.massfruitgrowers.org>. Thanks to Steve Ware of Bolton Orchards for alerting us to these important documents for all Massachusetts cider producers.

Note: The next Healthy Fruit will be published September 8.

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