

Harvest Maturity Report #5-S



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This is a special supplemental harvest maturity report. A comprehensive report will be issued this Thursday afternoon (9/5), and on Wednesday afternoons most weeks starting next week (9/11).

Gala- There has been notable advances in maturity over the past several days. Some blocks of higher-coloring and earlier-maturing strains of Gala are now entering the harvest window for first spot pick. Please examine your Galas closely and decide if they warrant picking. In addition, young blocks, blocks with a light crop load, and blocks which contained stressed trees may also be ready for first pick.

In concert with acceptable flavor, Gala for long-term CA storage should be picked when the background color is changing from light green to cream. Fruit intended for short term CA or regular storage should be picked with cream to light yellow background. Fruit that are bright yellow are over-mature and should not be put in storage- i.e. market those immediately. As your block gets close to first pick, check blocks every two to three days for color and varietal flavor development.

The 10 blocks of untreated (no Retain) Galas I looked at in Niagara & Orleans counties today averaged 10.8 % brix (range 9.5-11.9), had an average starch index of 3.2 (range 2.0-4.1), and had an average firmness of 19.1 pounds (range 17.3-20.0). Keep in mind it is not uncommon for the starch ranges in a ten apple sample of Gala from an individual block to range 5-7 points.

Reminders

Please follow recommended maturity indices for each variety in addition to consulting with your marketer. Make sure there is adequate varietal flavor prior to harvest. **While I realize inventories are very low and the large demand for fresh apples have marketers screaming for fruit, picking under-mature fruit will only kill repeat sales.**

The harvest maturity report for this Thursday (9/5) will focus on testing data of Marshall Macs and Gala, while finishing Ginger Golds, along with starting Jonamac, regular strains of McIntosh, and Honeycrisp.