**Fruit Maturity**

![Graph](image)

**COMMENTS:**
Weather trigger that favors optimum color development (high temperature over 68F followed by low temperature <42F and over 80% sunshine) met September 21.

**Spurtype McIntosh:** 25% are climacteric meaning they are ripe and will probably start to drop this week. OK for short-term storage. These are trees not previously harvested. Most of our trees have been spot-picked twice which interferes with starch breakdown.
Honeycrisp: Starch index 6.0. Still OK for short-term cold storage up to 3 months, but very susceptible to chilling injury. Precondition first. Also OK for short-term CA, up to 5 months is my guess, but precondition first and keep carbon dioxide below 1%.

Cortland: Starch index 1.4. OK for long and short-term storage. Very susceptible to storage scald, so drench with DPA or ethyoxquin first if Cortland will be stored longer than 3 months.

Macoun: Starch index 3.0. Ready for a first pick or for storage.

**Flyspeck update**

Apples in the Sanford and Monmouth areas that received a final fungicide application before the Irene rains on August 28 are at risk of developing visible flyspeck any day now. The stretch of warm and wet weather pattern that began Thursday, September 22 and that is forecast to continue through Friday September 30 is creating favorable conditions for growth of flyspeck and sooty blotch, and also for fruit rot fungi and any late season scab that may be present. These are the most threatening September weather conditions for flyspeck in the last 10+ years.

It seems far too late on the calendar to talk about another fungicide application. But it is worth noting that (depending on when they last received fungicide) with flyspeck appearance potentially beginning any day, the greater the number of days until expected harvest date of late cultivars, the greater the chance that updated fungicide protection might pay off with reduced flyspeck. Of course, consideration of any such application has to be extremely attentive to the required preharvest interval, the potential for visible residue on the fruit, and the seasonal maximum limits for total amount or number of applications. And of course the right decision for any orchard depends on history of flyspeck problems in previous years.

Estimates for forecast flyspeck dates that have not already been passed will continue to be updated at [http://pronewengland.org/AllModels/DecisionModels.htm](http://pronewengland.org/AllModels/DecisionModels.htm)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final application date</th>
<th>MONMOUTH Latest “safe” harvest date with low risk of flyspeck assuming continuous protection prior to final spray</th>
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<td>Captan or Ziram</td>
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Closing Words

The sooner you fall behind, the more time you’ll have to catch up.
- Steven Wright

Where brand names are used it is for the reader’s information. No endorsement is implied nor is any discrimination intended against products with similar ingredients. Always consult product label for rates, application instructions, and safety precautions. Users of these products assume all associated risks.

Orchard Radar weather and pest tracking models at [http://pronewengland.org/AllModels/DecisionModels.htm](http://pronewengland.org/AllModels/DecisionModels.htm)

Glen W. Koehler  
Associate Scientist IPM  
Email: glen.koehler@maine.edu  
Voice: 207-581-3882 (within Maine: 800-287-0279)  
Pest Management Office, 491 College Avenue  
Orono, ME 04473-1295  
[http://pmo.umext.maine.edu/apple/](http://pmo.umext.maine.edu/apple/)

Dr. Renae Moran  
Extension Tree Fruit Specialist  
Email: rmoran@maine.edu  
Voice: 207-933-2100 ext 105  
Highmoor Farm Ag. Exp. Station, P.O. Box 179  
Monmouth ME 04259-0179  
[http://extension.umaine.edu/agriculture/programs/tree-fruits/](http://extension.umaine.edu/agriculture/programs/tree-fruits/)

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