Some orchards of McIntosh have reached a stage where they are too ripe long-term storage, with signs of fruit drop and a change in ground color to yellow-green. Starch breakdown is erratic at this time and probably due to the cooler temperatures. Where fruit were not previously treated with ReTain, expect fruit drop to begin shortly.

Outlook (no account for crop load, drought, or other stresses) for when drop of healthy non-spur McIntosh apples might reach 10% of crop is September 9–18 in Monmouth, and September 14–23 in Turner.
McIntosh and Cortland picked at this time and stored longer than four months will develop superficial scald.

Cortland should still be suitable for long-term storage, but the ground color has changed to yellow-green in some fruit, which is a sign of ripening. Weather conditions that promote optimum fruit color began in Monmouth and Turner on Monday September 17.

Honeycrisp, in the Monmouth area, are prone to chilling injury (soft scald) if picked at this time and put in cold storage. Preconditioning or holding fruit at ambient temperatures for five to seven days will prevent chilling injury to some extent. Ambient temperatures can be in the range of 50 to 70 °F. Storage at temperatures in the range of 36 to 38 F will also reduce the chance of soft scald, but leads to loss of flavor, skin greasiness and bitter pit. Honeycrisp apples will develop unpleasant “off”-flavors if left on the tree too long.

There have not been enough cumulative chilling hours below 50F at Sanford, Monmouth, Turner, Madison, or Levant to reduce scald risk.

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**Honeycrisp & Cortland Starch index**

2012 Highmoor Farm, Monmouth ME

Fruit NOT treated with ReTain or other growth regulators

![Honeycrisp & Cortland Starch index graph](chart.png)
Stink bugs are not normally much of an apple pest in Maine, but there are a number of reports of noticeable stink bug populations on apples this year. Late harvested cultivars may need protection if stink bug feeding damage begins to accumulate.

Stink bug feeding appears as small shallow pits, usually in a linear pattern, on the side of the apple. The damage will result in brown corky tissue under the skin. Stink bugs are more likely to be a problem where there is unmowed broadleaf vegetation near fruit trees, and when alternate host plants become less suitable due to dry conditions.

Insecticide application in the evening may be more effective because stink bugs are more likely to migrate and feed at night.

If you have a stink bug problem, please catch a few and send them to Glen Koehler. It is almost certainly the case that this year’s population is a combination of one or more of the three common native species (Brown stink bug, Dusky Brown stink bug, and Green stink bug). However, with Brown Marmorated stink bug becoming established as a pest in the Hudson Valley and already moving into southern New England, I would like to confirm the species of any stink bugs causing problems in Maine.

Insecticide options for late season stink bug control:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Efficacy against stink bugs</th>
<th>Days Preharvest Interval on Apples</th>
<th>Reentry Interval (Hours)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leverage* – cyfluthrin &amp; imidacloprid</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baythroid*, Tombstone* – cyfluthrin</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danitol* – fenpropathrin</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beleaf – fonicamid</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asana*, Adjourn* – esfenvalerate</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thionex* – endosulfan</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>96* see label</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deltamethrin – Battalion*, Decis*, Delta Gold*</td>
<td>Fair to Good</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assail – acetamiprid</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provado*, Pasada*, Sherpa* – imidacloprid</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avaunt – indoxacarb</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Berries and peaches are still susceptible to spotted wing drosophila that are now being found in high numbers through central and southern Maine locations.
Other News


Neonicotinoid residues are found in pollen and nectar consumed by pollinators such as bees and butterflies. The residues can reach lethal concentrations in some situations.

Products approved for homeowners to use in gardens, lawns, and on ornamental trees have manufacturer-recommended application rates up to 120 times higher than rates approved for agricultural crops.

There is no direct link demonstrated between neonicotinoids and the honey bee syndrome known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). However, recent research suggests that neonicotinoids may make honey bees more susceptible to parasites and pathogens, including the intestinal parasite Nosema, which has been implicated as one causative factor in CCD.

Many neonicotinoid pesticides that are sold to homeowners for use on lawns and gardens do not have any mention of the risks of these products to bees, and the label guidance for products used in agriculture is not always clear or consistent.

The report recommends that regulators reassess the bee safety of all neonicotinoid pesticide products, reexamine or suspend all conditional registrations until we understand how to manage risks, and require clear labels so that consumers know that these products kill bees and other pollinators. The report also recommends that the US Environmental Protection Agency adopt a more cautious approach to approving all new pesticides, using a comprehensive assessment process that adequately addresses the risks to honey bees, bumble bees, and solitary bees in all life stages.

Closing Words

“There is a difference between happiness and wisdom: he that thinks himself the happiest man is really so; but he that thinks himself the wisest is generally the greatest fool.”

~ Francis Bacon

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If you are a person with a disability and will need an accommodations to participate in this program, please call Highmoor Farm at 933-2100 to discuss your needs. Receiving requests for accommodations at least 7 days before the program provides a reasonable amount of time to meet the request, however all requests will be accepted.