

# Apple varieties

*Cultivars I know and love  
and others that I don't???*

Jon Clements

Maine Preseason Tree Fruit Meeting  
March 22, 2023

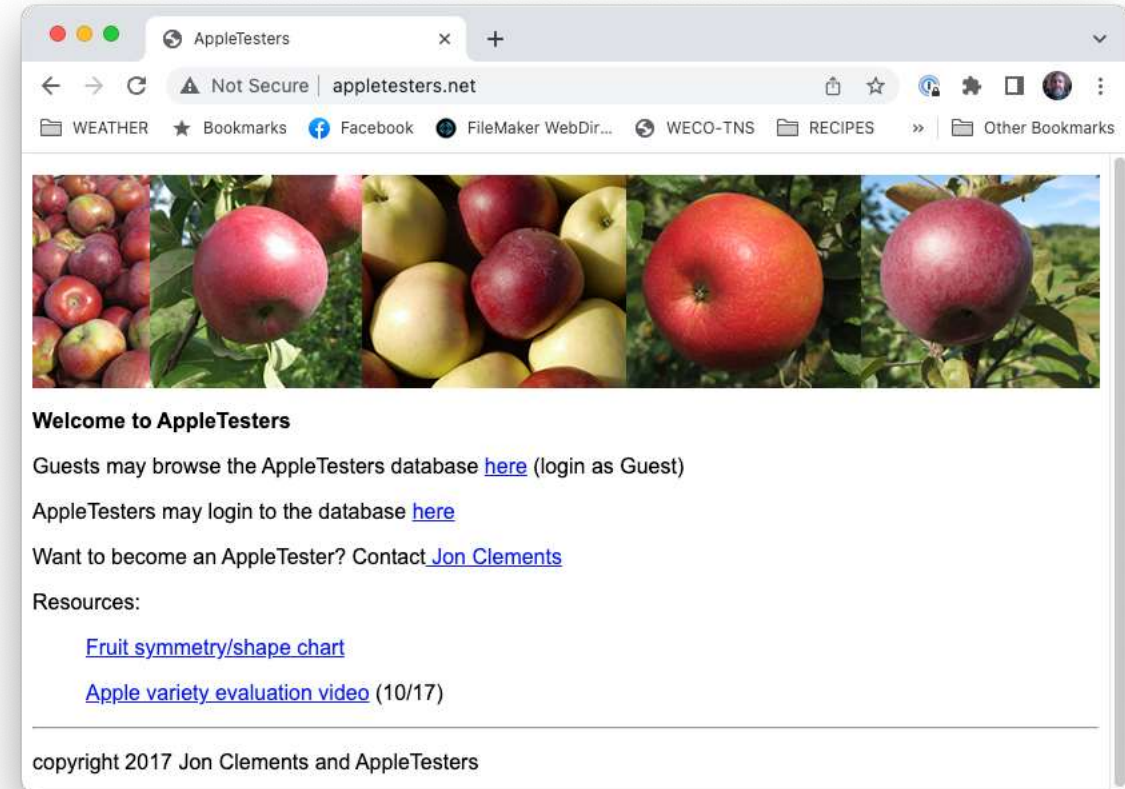
UMassAmherst

Extension Agriculture Program



# *Who am I to speak on this?*

- appletesters.net database
  - NE SARE initially funded
  - Currently 1,111 records (individual observations) going back to 2009
- Apple variety evaluation at UMass Orchard in Belchertown
- Maturity testing
- ‘Managed’ variety evaluation



# Apple variety “sources”

- Open (unrestricted)
- Semi-managed (variety not restricted but trade named)
- Club (MAIA, Crunch Time, ongoing payments)
- Managed (heavily restricted)



**Honeycrisp**



**Pink Lady®  
Brand  
Barnsby**



**Evercrisp®  
cv MAIA 1 –  
MUST BE A  
MAIA  
MEMBER TO  
ORDER**



RubyMac®  
(B.ThomeMacCv)  
PP#19891

- Harvest *early-mid*
- Size *small-medium*
- Color *full red blush*
- Firmness *medium-firm*
- Brix *12*
- Flavor *tart*
- Storage *good*

*sets heavy, rather un-mac-like?*



# Dandee Red<sup>®</sup>

- Harvest *September 1*
- Size *medium-large*
- Color *full red blush*
- Firmness *medium*
- Brix *?*
- Flavor *tart*
- Storage *medium (3 months)*

*fire blight! On M.9*



# Zestar!

- Harvest *September 1*
- Size *medium*
- Color *pink-red blush*
- Firmness *medium*
- Brix *13-14*
- Flavor *sweet-tart*
- Storage *no*

*Scab, don't plant too many*



# Honeycrisp

- Harvest *early-mid*
- Size *medium-large*
- Color *50% striped*
- Firmness *crisp*
- Brix *14*
- Flavor *tart-sweet*
- Storage *excellent*

Bitter pit, biennial, rots, etc.



# Premier™ Honeycrisp

DAS 10 cv., USPP 24,833

- Harvest *early!*
- Size *medium-large*
- Color *50%+ striped*
- Firmness *crisp*
- Brix *14*
- Flavor *tart-sweet*
- Storage *excellent*

*May be too early? I have yet to find a significant fault with it?*





# Royal Red Honeycrisp

- Harvest *early-mid*
- Size *medium-large*
- Color *90% solid blush*
- Firmness *crisp*
- Brix *14*
- Flavor *tart-sweet*
- Storage *good?*

*Low vigor tree, don't plant on G.935  
(virus issue?)*



# Honeycrisp honorable mentions?

**MINNB42**

Roseland Red Honeycrisp  
(Simmons cv., PPAF)



Photo courtesy Summit Tree Sales

Firestorm™ Honeycrisp  
(BAB 2000 cv.)



Photo courtesy Summit Tree Sales

# 'NY 109' Firecracker®

- Harvest *early-mid October*
- Size *small-medium*
- Color *bright orange-red*
- Firmness *firm*
- Brix *13-15*
- Flavor *complex, cider*
- Storage *?*

*Biennial tendency,  
don't overcrop*



# 'NY73' PPAF Pink Luster®

- Harvest *mid-September*
- Size *large*
- Color *pinkish blush*
- Firmness *medium-firm*
- Brix *12-14*
- Flavor *sweet-tart*
- Storage *?*

*Attractive, good for PYO*



# Cordera (NY56)

- Harvest *mid-late*
- Size *large*
- Color *a bit dull*
- Firmness *medium*
- Brix *12-13*
- Flavor *meh*
- Storage *?*

*Prone to bitter pit, rots,  
mediocre at best*



# Ashmead's Kernel

- Harvest *mid-late*
- Size *medium*
- Color *bronze*
- Firmness *hard*
- Brix *high*
- Flavor *complex, sweet*
- Storage *???*

*Cider, biennial tendency*



# Goldrush

- Harvest *very late*
- Size *medium*
- Color *yellow-bronze*
- Firmness *hard*
- Brix *high*
- Flavor *complex, sweet*
- Storage *yes*

*cider*



# Golden Russet

- Harvest *late*
- Size *small-medium*
- Color *yellow-bronze*
- Firmness *hard*
- Brix *high*
- Flavor *complex, sweet*
- Storage *?*

*cider*





# Roxbury Russet

- Harvest *late*
- Size *small-medium*
- Color *yellow-bronze*
- Firmness *hard*
- Brix *high*
- Flavor *complex, sweet*
- Storage *?*

*cider*



# CrimsonCrisp<sup>®</sup>

- Harvest *mid-late*
- Size *medium*
- Color *dark red*
- Firmness *medium-hard*
- Brix *NA*
- Flavor *tart*
- Storage *?*

*Might be a sleeper*



<https://newenglandapples.org/apples/crimsoncrisp/>

# Crimson Gold

- Harvest *medium-late*
- Size *medium*
- Color *orange-red w/  
yellow background*
- Firmness *medium-hard*
- Brix *14-16*
- Flavor *complex, sweet*
- Storage *?*

*Very attractive, good flavor*



# RubyRush

- Harvest *mid-season*
- Size *very large*
- Color *50% red on green-yellow*
- Firmness *medium-firm*
- Brix *13-14*
- Flavor *just OK*
- Storage *?*

*Very large, attractive, PYO*



# Ambrosia

- Harvest *mid-late*
- Size *medium*
- Color *very attractive*
- Firmness *firm*
- Flavor *fruity-sweet*
- Storage *1-MCP*

*Scab-susceptible,  
harvest timing, growth habit*



# Jonagold

- Harvest *mid-late*
- Size *large*
- Color *red blush*
- Firmness *firm-crisp*
- Flavor *sweet-tart*
- Storage *yes, 1-MCP*

*Under-planted, as good or better than Honeycrisp IMHO*




starranch.com/juici-apples/

WEATHER Bookmarks Facebook FileMaker WebDir... WECO-TNS RECIPES DSS's GNU Mailman-Inst... Pest and Benefici... Other Bookmarks

**STARR RANCH**  
*growers*

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## TAKE A BITE OUT OF LIFE WITH JUICI.

The JUICI® offers a wonderful balance of sweet, tart flavors, plus an amazing crunch. It's a thinner-skinned apple with an incredibly long shelf-life. Between its ease of storage, delicately balanced taste, JUICI® is truly the perfect apple!

**A STARR RANCH  
EXCLUSIVE  
VARIETY**

**GLOBALLY  
DISTRIBUTED**

**AVAILABLE  
OCTOBER - APRIL**

# Cripps Pink cv. (Pink Lady<sup>®</sup>)

- Harvest *very late*
- Size *medium*
- Color *bright red-pink  
> 80%*
- Firmness *medium-hard*
- Flavor *sweet-tart*
- Storage *I'd 1-MCP them*

*'Maslin' and 'Barnsby' cvs.  
earlier maturing*





# Crunch Time Apple Growers

- SnapDragon and/or RubyFrost
- \$1,000 Share Purchase (up to 2 acres, \$500 per acre for more)
- \$875/acre (adjusted according to actual acreage)
- Tree royalty \$1.25 per tree
- Fruit royalty \$500/acre/year (no fee in year 1 or 2, \$250 in year 3, \$500 in year 4 +)



# MAIA apples

- Midwest Apple Improvement Association
- \$100 annual membership
- Tree royalty due nursery (or permission to graft)
- Trademark fees are 20 cents per tree for years 4-10, and 30 cents per tree for years 11-20



<https://maiaapples.com/>

# Evercrisp® (MAIA1)

- Harvest *very late*
- Size *medium-large*
- Color *red blush, dull*
- Firmness *firm, hard*
- Brix *14-16*
- Flavor *sweet*
- Storage *very long*

*Too late for a lot of you,  
can be shy bearing  
and dull color*



# SweetMAIA<sup>®</sup> (MAIA-SM)

- Harvest *early*
- Size *medium*
- Color *deep red burgundy*
- Firmness *firm*
- Brix *12-14*
- Flavor *sweet*
- Storage *no*

*Very attractive, early,  
a winner but don't store...*



# Summerset<sup>®</sup> (MAIA12)

- Harvest *early-mid*
- Size *large*
- Color *good but a bit dull*
- Firmness *medium*
- Brix *12-13*
- Flavor *sweet, mild*
- Storage *?*

*Purported Honeycrisp  
alternative, verdict is still  
out IMHO...*



# Ludacrisp<sup>®</sup> (MAIA-L)

- Harvest *mid-late*
- Size *medium-large*
- Color *50%+ red blush*
- Firmness *firm*
- Brix *14-16*
- Flavor *different!*
- Storage *?*

*Tastes like 'licorice,'  
truly different,  
should be a winner  
but might be over-hyped...*



# Rosalee<sup>®</sup> (MAIA11)

- Harvest *mid-late*
- Size *medium*
- Color *75-90% red*
- Firmness *medium-soft*
- Brix *sweet*
- Flavor *nothing special*
- Storage *no*

*I have not been overly impressed...*



# Sweet Zinger® (MAIA-Z)

- Harvest *late*
- Size *medium-large*
- Color *25-50% red blush*
- Firmness *medium-firm*
- Brix *13*
- Flavor *meh*
- Storage *?*





**MAIA apple tester****MAIA Selection** L-2-9

Date 5/18/2022

Name Clements

Location Belchertown MA

Observation type Bloom

Rootstock B9

Vigor Medium

Branching Many

Growth habit Spreading

Bearing habit Spur and tip

Blind wood No

Bloom time Middle-late

Bloom density Few-average

Crop load

Size

Red color

Overall appearance

Texture

Flavor

Overall flavor

Comments Look nice

Status?



Tree pict

Season



DateTimestamp 5/18/2022 10:58:42 AM

**MAIA apple tester****MAIA Selection** L-2-9

Date 9/23/2022

Name Clements

Location Belchertown MA

Observation type Harvest

Rootstock B9

Vigor Medium-strong

Branching Average

Growth habit Upright

Bearing habit Spur and tip

Blind wood No

Bloom time

Bloom density

Crop load Light

Size Medum-Large

Red color 50-75

Overall appearance Attractive

Texture Hard

Flavor Sweet-tart

Overall flavor Good

Comments 2nd-leaf, promising

Status? Keep testing



Tree pict

Season Middle-late (Empire)



DateTimestamp 9/23/2022 2:58:44 PM

# MN 55 'Rave'

- Harvest *very early*
- Size *medium*
- Color *red blush, 50%*
- Firmness *medium*
- Brix *12-14*
- Flavor *tart-sweet*
- Storage *?*

*Managed (by Stemilt?), grown  
as First Kiss in Minnesota (only)*



# 'Minneiska' cv. (SweeTango)

- Harvest *mid (w/ McIntosh)*
- Size *medium*
- Color *deep red*
- Firmness *medium-crisp*
- Brix *13-14*
- Flavor *sweet, fruity*
- Storage *?*

*!!!Comes off patent in 2026!!!*



# Modi<sup>®</sup> CIVG198

- Harvest *mid-late*
- Size *medium*
- Color *deep red  
nearly 100%*
- Firmness *firm-crisp*
- Brix 13-14-15
- Flavor *sweet-tart*
- Storage ?

*Scab-resistant Gala X Liberty,  
clubbed in California only (arghh)*

