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## 2010 Growing Season

Each growing season has its own characteristics and no two years are alike. The 2010 growing season got off to one of the earliest if not the earliest start since 1979. Rain fall for the months of April and May was well below average while temperatures were well above average. Temperatures for June were about average and rain fall however was 3 times above average which would help to explain some of the apple scab problems. Temperatures from June to the end of October continue to remain above average while rain fall was about average. The accumulated 5 degree heat units of 2087 were over 200 degree days above the 49 year average for this time period. The increase in heat units combined with the early start to the growing season resulted in the early start to the harvest season.

### 2010 Growing Season April 1- October 31

Month	Degree C			Heat Units		Rain	Sun
	Max	Min	Mean	5 deg	10 deg	mm	Hrs
April	23.4	-3.4	8.5	113.9	26.2	35.5	173.5
May	28.5	0.6	12.3	227.5	86.3	29.5	242.1
June	30.9	5.4	16.6	348.7	198.7	183.4	187.2
July	32.2	9.2	21.5	484	334	93.2	218.6
August	31.5	9.1	19.6	439	289	57.4	267.7
September	32.9	4.8	16.4	329.7	184.7	87.2	108.7
October	27.7	-1.5	9.6	144.6	43	136	NA
Total				2087.4	161.9	622.2	1197.8*

\*No data available from Sept. 20

### 2008 Growing Season and 49 year Average April 1- October 31

Month	Degree C		Heat Units				Rain		Sun	
	2009	48 yr	2009	48 yr	2009	48 yr	2009	48 yr	2008	48 yr
	Mean	Mean	5 deg	5 deg	10 deg	10 deg	mm	mm	Hrs	Hrs
April	6.7	4.7	76.8	40.4	18.8	5.9	118.	83.8	202.6	154.6
May	12.4	10.6	220	178.0	80.8	59.9	6 58.3	79.8	182.0	183.2

June	16.6	16.1	348.7	332.8	198.7	184.5	62.3	69.3	169.4	204.1
July	19.2	19.5	440.9	448.1	285.9	292.7	112.1	70.4	187.8	230.4
August	20.1	18.9	468.2	430.5	313.5	275.6	177.8	93.7	245.8	219.7
September	14.2	14.7	279.8	290.1	133.5	145.3	66.7	91.4	178.4	178.4
October	7.5	9.2	79.2	137.6	13.4	14.8	149.8	106.4	80.4	141.9
Total			1910.6	1857.5	1044.2	978.7	745.6	594.8	1246.4	1312.3

November got off to a very wet start with Kentville recording 183.7 mm (7.2 inches) for the first half of the month. The 49 year average for November is a 115 mm. We faired a bit better than Yarmouth which has recorded 223.6 mm of precipitation up to November 15. Resulting from the wet weather and water logged soils I will not be a bit surprised to see some collar rot problems as well as canker problems next summer.

### 2010 November Apple Holding

Cultivar	2010-2011	2009-2010	Difference
	1000 lbs	1000 lbs	%
Cortland	6,901	4,257	62.11%
Empire	853	759	12.38
Gala	1,185	964	22.92
Golden Delicious	2,349	1,571	49.52
Golden Russet	353	358	-1.4
Honeycrisp	4,752	5,166	-8.0
Idared	4,875	5,218	-6.57
Jonagold	2,287	2,645	-13.53
McIntosh	12,641	17,186	-26.44
Red Delicious	2,523	2,042	23.55
Spartan	1,044	1,182	-11.67
Spy	9,657	12,931	-25.32
Unspecified	5,380	674	698.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,808</b>	<b>54,945</b>	<b>-0.25</b>

As you will note the November storage holding for 2010 is very similar to those of 2009. The numbers may be a bit misleading in that the harvest season finished up a bit earlier than that of last year thus a greater percentage of the crop was accounted for in 2010 compared to 2009. The December holding should reflect this. The unspecified holding volume should change once the cultivars have been identified. My guess is that a fair volume of that number will go to Spy holdings. The 54,808,000 lbs is equal to 1,304,952 bushels. The volume of apples sent to juice combined with sales prior to November and the storage holdings should provide a fairly accurate figure of the apple crop size for 2010.

## **Honeycrisp Orchard Renewal Program (HCORP) 2011-2012**

If you have not already received information on the extension of this program by a NSDA mail out information on the extension of the program and an application form can be obtained from the following website:

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/prm/programs/honeycrisp%20program.shtml>. The deadline for getting applications in is November 30/2010. If you would like to discuss your orchard design or have questions with regards to the program feel free to give me a call: Bill Craig, HCORP Technical Advisor 678-7722 ext 224.

### **Mouse Control**

It has been several years since I have seen significant tree losses due to mouse damage. This may be due to a good population of predators or growers are doing a better job protecting their orchards. Deer browsing during the past two years has caused more problems than mice. Although that has not been major mouse problems growers should continue to follow a good mouse control program.

1) Mow the orchard to reduce vegetation to less than 10 cm. This will reduce suitable habitat for mice and expose them to predators.

2) To help prevent the movement of rodents into the orchard it is recommended that the borders of the orchard be kept clean as possible. One should not assume that good vegetation control is all that is required.

3) Prior to snow the whole orchard should be checked for signs of rodent activity (mouse tunnels, droppings and chewed apples) because populations can vary from one part of the orchard to another. If rodent activity is observed consider the use of poison bait to reduce the mouse population.

4) When using poison bait, growers are strongly urged to use baiting stations. Broadcasting poison baits such as zinc phosphide and Ramik Brown can end up poisoning non-target species. Bait stations will reduce the risk of this happening, as well as providing a longer period of control. The inverted T bait station is an effective station and can be made from 1 ½ inch ABS pipe. The recommended number of stations is 25 per hectare. Where there is not a resident population of mice within the orchard, you may wish to place bait stations on the perimeter of the orchard where there is a risk of mice moving into the orchard from bordering fields, fence lines or ditches. Bait stations are the recommended means of using poison under IFP guidelines.

5) On young tree place a mouse guard on the tree. The guard should fit well enough that mice cannot get behind it or there should not be gaps in it that allows for feeding.

### **Meetings That Maybe of Interest**

**December 7-9 Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable & Farm Market Expo, DeVos Place, Grand Rapids, Michigan [www.glexpo.com](http://www.glexpo.com)**

**NSFGA Annual Convention Jan 25-27, Production Techniques-Back to Basics and Beyond, Old Orchard Inn, Greenwich, Nova Scotia**

**54 th IFTA Annual Conference & Intensive Workshop (Sustainable Innovation) Feb. 26-Mar. 4 2011; Red Lion Hotel. Pasco, Washington, USA [http://ifruittree.site-ym.com/events/event\\_details.asp?id=134564](http://ifruittree.site-ym.com/events/event_details.asp?id=134564)**

**2011 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and vegetable Convention, Feb. 1-3, Hersey Lodge and Convention Centre <http://www.mafvc.org/html/>**

**Ontario Fruit and vegetable Convention; Feb. 23-24, Brock University, St .Catharines ON <http://www.ofvc.ca/>**

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