

FOGGY RIDGE

HARD CIDER

Orchard Notebook 2006

Foggy Ridge Cider's three orchards, located at 3000 feet in the Virginia Blue Ridge, experience all the vagaries of a southern mountain spring. Warm weather arrived early in 2006 bringing sunny hot days in April with most varieties in bud ten days sooner than 2005. Apples seemed to rush through bloom in anticipation of a lazy summer. Observing bloom dates is an inexact science—some varieties saunter from Silver Tip to Pink while others race through the cycle. A warm week pushes varieties into bloom by the hour. This Orchard Notebook records bloom stages based on orchard walks every two to three days in spring. We harvest at maximum Brix, and when pickers are willing.

Variety	Silver Tip	Green Tip	Half Inch Green	Early Pink	Bloom	Harvest
Ashmead's Kernel	4/5	4/10	4/15	4/18	4/22	9/9
Black Limbertwig	3/18	4/5	4/15	4/18	4/22	9/30
Burford Red Flesh	3/10	3/29	4/5	4/10	4/15	9/17—30
Cannon Pearmain	3/10	4/5	4/15	4/18	4/22	9/9—9/15
Cox's Orange Pippin	3/10	3/18	4/5	4/10	4/15	9/9
Dabinett	4/5	4/22	5/1	5/8	5/12	8/28
Dymock Red	3/28	4/10	4/15	4/22	5/1	8/14
Father Abraham	3/20	4/5	4/10	4/15	4/22	9/17—25
Foxwhelp (Geneva)	4/5	4/8	4/12	4/15	4/22	9/9
Golden Harvey	3/20	4/5	4/8	4/12	4/15	9/2
Graniwinkle	3/10	3/18	4/1	4/5	4/10	8/14
Grimes Golden	3/28	4/5	4/8	4/12	4/15	9/17—25
Grinstone	3/28	4/5	4/8	4/12	4/15	8/14
Harrison	3/20	4/5	4/15	4/18	4/22	9/17—10/5
Kingston Black	4/5	4/15	4/22	4/28	5/8	8/14—9/14
Kinnard's Choice	4/5	4/10	4/15	4/18	4/22	9/9
Mother	3/28	4/5	4/15	4/18	4/22	9/2
Muscadet de Berney	3/28	4/5	4/15	4/22	4/28	10/1—5
Nehou	3/28	4/5	4/10	4/18	4/22	9/9
Newtown Pippin	3/25	4/5	4/10	4/15	4/22	10/5—15

Variety	Silver Tip	Green Tip	Half Inch Green	Early Pink	Bloom	Harvest
Norfolk Beefing	4/5	4/12	4/15	4/18	4/22	9/30
Northern Spy	4/5	4/15	4/20	4/25	5/1	9/17
Parmar	3/28	4/5	4/10	4/20	4/25	8/5
Pitmaston Pineapple	4/5	4/12	4/15	4/18	4/22	9/9
Pomme Gris	3/28	4/5	4/10	4/15	4/22	9/17
Ralls Janet	4/15	4/22	4/25	4/28	5/1	9/30
Rhode Island Greening	4/5	4/10	4/12	4/15	4/22	9/30
Ribston Pippin	3/18	4/5	4/10	4/12	4/15	9/2
Roxbury Russett	3/20	3/30	4/5	4/22	4/25	9/17
Smith's Cider	3/18	3/28	4/5	4/15	4/20	9/17—25
Stoke Red	4/22	4/28	5/5	5/9	5/12	9/9
Tremlett's Bitter (Geneva)	4/5	4/15	4/22	4/28	5/5	9/1
Virginia Beauty	3/28	4/5	4/15	4/18	4/22	9/17
Virginia Crab	3/17	3/18	3/25	4/5	4/10	8/26
White Winter Pearmain	3/28	4/5	4/10	4/15	4/22	9/9
Winter Banana	43/28	4/10	4/15	4/18	4/22	10/15