

CPC International Apple Co Quincy, Washington Cesar Cuevas, Fall 2020

Introduction:

My 2020 fall internship was focused on learning about apple maturity tests done on apples to determine a harvest timing. I also had the chance to learn about post-harvest processes that occur in the orchards like pruning.

Job Description:

My main duties during my internship with CPC was to conduct maturity on samples I would collect from different orchards and varieties. I would conduct a pressure, weight and starch iodine test on each of the samples. I would then input the data collected into the web so my superiors could see the data and decide when to pick as well as where to store the fruit. I also would check the quality of the apples being harvested

Summary:

Overall, I believe that my internship was a success. I completed the goals I had set for my internship and learned many skills that I will need to be a future apple grower. I really enjoyed taking samples and doing maturity test on apples and seeing how they would change week by week.



In the picture there is red bags containing apple samples that I took from different orchards as well as a scale to measure the weight of the fruit and determine the size. There is also a penetrometer which tells you the pressure of the apple once pressed.

This picture below contains apples that have been cut in half and sprayed with iodine to see the starch levels. The dark purple indicates the fruit the more starch it contains. Once the fruit is mature it will break down starch converting it to sugars and will have less color when sprayed with iodine.



In the picture above I suggested to use a sprayer and to blow only air into the tree canopy to remove leaves from the trees so that a pruning crew could start pruning that area and not have to wait for the leaves to fall for themselves. There was great percentage of leaf removal with the blower.

In the picture below we covered the bin piles with tarps as well as putting smudge pots around the bins to keep them warm because temperatures were going to drop below freezing point during late harvest for Fuji apples.

