

**Figure S2.** Expression pattern of *MdFT1*, *MdFT2*, *AFL1*, *AFL2*, *MdAP1a*, *MdAP1b*, *MdSOC1-like* and *MdTFL1* during the growing season in 'Gala' apple trees measured by quantitative real-time PCR using spur apical buds harvested at day 118, 131, 151, 180 and 222.

Comparison was made between expression levels of spur apical buds of apple trees bearing no crop ('OFF'), heavy crop ('ON') in 2010. Graphics represent the average of the nine data points per date per treatment with associated standard deviation. Relative expression was calculated using the  $\alpha$ -ACTIN housekeeping gene.