Frost tolerances - Spring 2011
Edition #6

On May 10, buds were examined from the following cultivars: Early Black (EB), Howes (H), Ben Lear (BL), and Stevens (ST). These buds were collected at Makepeace Rosebrook Bogs in Wareham. EB, H, and ST buds were all fully in the elongation stage, not just expanded radially (rounding), but growing upward. BL was at early roughneck with new growth ~1/4 inch long.

At the elongation stage tolerance for EB and H is 27°F; tolerance for BL and ST (and new hybrids) is 29.5°F. However, once the buds have reached elongation stage, they advance to the roughneck-stage tolerance after 5-7 days even if appearance has not changed. At Rosebrook, the appearance of all but BL was not much changed compared to May 5 (last photos) but since 5 days have passed, all cultivars would be considered to have reach rough-neck stage tolerance of 29.5°F. At any stage, cranberry plants will tolerate 29.5°F, so this will remain the tolerance until fall, when the fruit begin to change color. Growth stage photos will be posted over the next few weeks but frost tolerance will not change further.

ALWAYS CHECK THE TOLERANCE ON YOUR BOGS.
BL early roughneck (~1/4 inch growth), 29.5°F, Rosebrook 5/10

ST early roughneck (~1/4 inch growth), 29.5°F, Rosebrook 5/10

BL early roughneck, 29.5°F, Rosebrook 5/10, note multi-buds