On April 18 (Rosebrook) and April 19 (State Bog), buds were examined from the following cultivars: Early Black (EB), Howes (H), Ben Lear (BL), Stevens (ST), Gregleski #1 (GH), Demoranville (DE), Mullica Queen (MQ), and Crimson Queen (CQ). At Rosebrook, H, BL, and ST had advanced to white bud, EB had reached bud swell. At State Bog, all cultivars except BL and EB were at white bud, EB and BL were at bud swell.

At the white bud stage, tolerance for EB and H is 20°F; tolerance for ST, BL, GH, MQ, CQ, DE is 22°F.

At the bud swell stage, tolerance for EB is 22°F; tolerance for BL is 25°F.

Based on appearance, new hybrids should be assumed to have the same tolerance as BL. Tolerance for the CCCGA frost warning is based on Rosebrook observations.

ALWAYS CHECK THE TOLERANCE ON YOUR BOGS.

We next plan to check tolerance and update photos if necessary on April 22.
BL bud swell, 25°F, State Bog 4/16

BL white bud, 22°F, Rosebrook 4/18.

no photo taken

ST white bud, 22°F, Rosebrook 4/18.

CQ white bud, 22°F, State Bog 4/18.

MQ bud swell, 25°F, State Bog 4/19
Comparison of white bud and bud swell stages.

In both stages, the bud appears white when looking down into the vine canopy. However, at white bud, the bud remains tight with the scales overlapping and covering the bud. At the bud swell stage, the bud has begun to enlarge and the scales are separating. Compare the two photos below.