On April 29, 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). These buds were collected at State Bog in East Wareham and Rosebrook Bog in Wareham. Some buds (ST, CQ, BL at State Bog) remained at white bud stage while the other cultivars had advanced to bud loosening stage. Bud loosening is characterized by a separation of the bud scales and a visibly 'lumpy' appearance to the buds. Most of the buds collected at this stage were about 1 mm in diameter. Cut buds were mostly green inside and some showed floral initials that were turning pink.

At the white bud stage tolerance for EB and H is 20°F; tolerance for BL and ST is 22°F. At the bud loosening stage, tolerance for EB and H is 22°F; tolerance for BL and ST is 25°F. Based on appearance, new hybrids should be assumed to have the same tolerance as BL.

 ALWAYS CHECK THE TOLERANCE ON YOUR BOGS.
H bud loosening 22°F, State Bog 4/29. Note that the bud does not look as white as that of the EB but scales are loosening, giving bud a 'lumpy' appearance.

BL, white bud 22°F, State Bog 4/29

BL, bud loosening, 25°F, Rosebrook 4/29

ST, white bud 22°F, State Bog 4/29


CQ white bud, 22°F, State Bog 4/29.


DE from State Bog 4/29.

CQ from State Bog 4/29.
EB from Rosebrook. Note all interior structures are green. 4/29

EB from State Bog 4/29.

H from State Bog 4/29. Note that most of the red has faded.

GH from State Bog, 25°F. 4/29

BL from State Bog 4/29. Note pink floral initials at top and bottom.

ST from Rosebrook 4/29. Note red appearance. At State Bog, ST were more green inside. At Rosebrook BL were at 25° but ST remained at 22° tolerance.