On May 6, 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. All buds had advanced to at least the bud loosening stage. BL at Rosebrook and a few MQ at State Bog had advanced to the cabbage head 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 cabbage head stage, buds are visibly swollen and approximately 2 mm in diameter but have not yet begun to elongate.

At the bud loosening stage, tolerance for EB and H is 22°F; tolerance for BL and ST is 25°F. At cabbage head stage, tolerance for EB and H is 25°F; tolerance for BL and ST is 27°F. Based on appearance, new hybrids should be assumed to have the same tolerance as BL.

ALWAYS CHECK THE TOLERANCE ON YOUR BOGS.


BL, cabbage head, 27°F, Rosebrook 5/6. Compare to photo to left.


MQ from State Bog 5/6.

CQ from State Bog 5/6.
EB from Rosebrook cut 2/3 into the bud. Note all interior structures are green. 5/6

H from Rosebrook 5/6. Interior structures are green.

BL from State Bog 5/6

EB from State Bog 5/6.

H from State Bog, 5/6

ST from State Bog 5/6. Note appearance remains darker than that of EB and H. At Rosebrook BL were at 27° but ST remained at 25° tolerance.
MQ bud showing damaged floral initial, 5/6. This is a structure that would have become a flower.

BL showing damaged floral initial, 5/6.