On September 14-15, berries from Rosebrook Bogs in Wareham and from State Bog in East Wareham were examined for frost tolerance. Note that the tolerance is more advanced at State Bog due to open canopy (more recent renovation). Tolerances on the CCCGA service are for Rosebrook, more indicative of bogs in the region.

The best way to evaluate frost tolerance is in the field looking down into the canopy. Do not separate the vines to look at the 'buried' fruit -- they have less color but are protected in the canopy. You are looking for color -- this is used as a visual cue to determine tolerance. Please note that it is not the color that makes the berries tolerant of cold but rather all the changes that occur along with the development of the red color.

Green berries do not tolerate cold - they should be protected for 29.5 °F. Once the fruit is white to slightly blushed, the tolerance drops to 28°F. A deeper blush on the exposed 'shoulders' of the fruit is a 27°F tolerance; deep blush on the whole fruit is 26°F; and all red is 25°F. As the red color deepens, tolerance drops further.

ALWAYS CHECK THE TOLERANCE ON YOUR BOGS.
STEVENS, Rosebrook. 27°F tolerance. Note deep blush color. When looking into the canopy from an angle (not clearly shown here) lower halves of many berries were not yet red.

HOWES, Rosebrook. 27°F tolerance. Note some fruit are white on the lower (calyx) ends - see the berry in the middle left.

STEVENS, State Bog. 27°F tolerance. Note berry along bottom - second from right has only a partial blush.

HOWES, State Bog. 27°F tolerance. Note lower halves that are not red.
EARLY BLACK, Rosebrook. 26°F tolerance. All fruit have a deep blush over the whole fruit.

EARLY BLACK, State Bog. 25°F tolerance. All fruit are red (but not dark red).