On March 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. Based on internal and external appearance, all buds were at the spring dormant stage.

At the spring dormant stage, tolerance for EB and H is 18°F; tolerance for BL and ST is 20°F. Based on appearance, new hybrids should be assumed to have the same tolerance as BL. Experiments this spring will seek to confirm that all the large-bud cultivars have similar tolerances at a given stage.

This edition has some photos that include Early Black or Ben Lear buds from both State Bog and Rosebrook Bog in the same picture. Rosebrook was re-flooded at the end of February for two weeks while State Bog was not. The comparison photos illustrate that at the end of March, the bud appearance at the two locations is similar, despite one having been re-flooded.

ALWAYS CHECK THE TOLERANCE ON YOUR BOGS.

EB spring dormant, 18°F, State Bog 3/29

EB spring dormant, 18°F, Rosebrook 3/29

EB - Rosebrook (top) and State Bog (bottom), 3/29.

Carolyn DeMoranville, UMass Cranberry Station 3.29.16
H spring dormant, 18°F, Rosebrook 3/29

ST spring dormant, 20°F, Rosebrook 3/29

BL spring dormant, 20°F, State Bog 3/29

BL - Rosebrook (left) and State Bog (right), 3/29.
Note: to my eye, the DE’s seem to be closest to moving out of the dormant state but still not quite there.