

Frost tolerances - Fall 2017 #6  
October 17, 2017  
Final posting for 2017

On October 17, photos of Stevens and Howes were taken at Rosebrook Bog. Early Black and Ben Lear at that location and all varieties at State Bog have been harvested. For guidance regarding Early Black, Ben Lear and new hybrids, see the October 3<sup>rd</sup> posting; tolerances for those varieties do not change beyond those posted on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Fall frost tolerance is estimated based on the color of the fruit. That color development is a reflection of the internal biochemical changes in the fruit that lead to a tolerance of increasingly lower temperatures during the fall. Tolerance should be estimated by looking down into the canopy - do not remove fruit for examination. The photos below represent what you would see looking down at the fruit. Photos were taken using the camera on an iPhone.

At the maroon stage as seen below, Stevens tolerance is 22°F. Howes tolerance at this stage is at least 23°F. In some years, Howes at this stage have tolerated temperatures as low as 20°F but this was not always the case. By the end of October, as Stevens became very ripe, their tolerance rose back to 23°F in previous testing.

ALWAYS CHECK THE TOLERANCE ON YOUR BOGS.



Stevens, 22°F, Rosebrook Bog, 10/17.  
Maroon stage. After 1-2 weeks (end of October) tolerance will rise to 23°F due to extreme ripening.



Howes, 23°F, Rosebrook Bog, 10/17.  
Maroon stage. At this stage Howes *may* tolerate as low as 20°F.