

Frost tolerances - Fall 2019 #1
September 4, 2019

On September 4, photos of Ben Lear, Stevens, Howes, and Early Black were taken at Rosebrook Bog. 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. There are two pictures of each cultivar shown below.

All cultivars had developed some red color, with the least color on Howes. Early Black and Ben Lear, with the most color developed - a deep blush over the entire surface - were estimated to have a tolerance 26°F. Stevens had blush on the fruit 'shoulders', thus their tolerance was estimated to be 27°F. The Howes bed had areas that were at the 27°F tolerance but also areas where there was almost no color on the fruit, thus a 28°F tolerance was assumed.

ALWAYS CHECK THE TOLERANCE ON YOUR BOGS.



Early Black, 26°F, Rosebrook Bog, 9/4.
Deep blush stage.



Early Black, 26°F, Rosebrook Bog, 9/4.
Deep blush stage.



Howes, 28°F, Rosebrook Bog 9/4. White to light bluish.



Howes, 27°F, Rosebrook Bog 9/4. Deep bluish on exposed surfaces.



Ben Lear, 26°F, Rosebrook Bog 9/4. Deep bluish stage.



Ben Lear, 26°F, Rosebrook Bog 9/4. Deep bluish stage.



Stevens, 27°F, Rosebrook Bog 9/4. Deep bluish on exposed surfaces.



Stevens, 27°F, Rosebrook Bog 9/4. Deep bluish on exposed surfaces.