

Chill Out: Managing Spring Frost



Cold Out? Keep Your Cool!

Aaah, spring! It's an exciting time of year. It can also be a challenge for cranberry growers. This season, beware of cold temperatures. Even when days are warm and sunny, night can get cold. This can lead to frost.

Keep a sharp eye on your marsh and the forecast. This will help you know when it's time to take action and turn

on your sprinklers. The ice that forms around the buds will protect them from even harsher cold.

A Risky Situation? You Decide!

To help you decide whether you have a risky situation, consider these questions:

- What type of cranberry are you growing?
- What stage are the cranberry buds in?
- What is the danger temperature for this stage?
- Does the forecast predict that the temperature will drop to the danger point?
- When will you act? (*Calculate the temperature for taking action – turning on the sprinklers.*)

Hey Bud!

Here are some things to keep in mind as you manage spring frost threats.

- Different cranberry varieties and different bud stages are sensitive to different temperatures.
- Turn on the sprinklers when the temperature is 5 degrees warmer than the danger point, before temperatures get all the way down to the danger point.
- Different parts of your bog can have very different temperatures. For example, the uplands are often warmer than the lower area that is planted with cranberry vines.
- Be careful not to over-water. Watering when you don't need to can set you up for problems with pests late in the spring.