Cranberry Vocabulary

- **acidic**
  having a pH less than 7.0 (opposite of basic)

- **bed**
  prepared land where the cranberries are grown; made of layers of clay, peat and/or sand (clay on the very bottom)

- **boom**
  floating plastic or wooden lengths used to coral fruit during harvest

- **cranberry blossom**
  the cranberry’s flower, which appears in June and resembles the head and neck of the sandhill crane, from which the word ‘cran[e]berry’ (cranberry) comes from

- **Cranberry ecosystem**
  wetland community of plants, animals, soil and water, whose acidic conditions support the cultivation of cranberries

- **dike**
  wall that holds water on the cranberry bed

- **erosion**
  the wearing away of soil

- **fresh berries**
  whole berries sold at roadside stands, farmers’ markets, or in grocery stores such as Shop ‘n Save, Shaw’s and IGA

- **habitat**
  area that provides food, water, shelter, and space for living organisms

- **harvester**
  machines used to remove the ripe fruit from the vines

- **IPM**
  abbreviation for Integrated Pest Management, which is a system of controlling pests that is based on many different factors such as cost (money) and environmental and human safety (are there safer materials that could be used?)

- **irrigation**
  supplying water to the beds by mechanical means

- **marsh (or wetland)**
  an area capable of holding water for a week or more at various times throughout the year

- **pemmican**
  Native American cake similar to mincemeat; made with cranberries

- **pollination**
  the process whereby cranberry plants are fertilized; greatly increased by the work of honey bees and bumble bees

- **processed berries**
  cranberries used in juices, jellies and other cranberry products

- **rake**
  long-handled tool that is helpful at corralling the berries during a wet-harvest; can also mean the wooden or aluminum scoop used to pick cranberries during a fresh harvest

- **reservoir**
  place where water is stored; basically a small man-made pond

- **runners**
  the stems of the cranberry plant that creep or ‘run’ (grow outwards) along the ground, as opposed to ‘uprights’ which are the stems that grow upwards and bear the blossoms and berries

- **staple**
  an important food basic to human diets (cranberries are high in vitamin C and antioxidants, which are wonderful at protecting our bodies from cancer and other serious diseases)

- **vine**
  perennial creeping plant on which berries grow