



BULB LOG 12.....21st March 2012



Rhododendron species

I grew this Rhododendron from seed collected on the ACE expedition to China. It produced its first few flowers last year and now it is covered in flowers. We have not worked out what species it is so suggestions are welcome.

The snow drop season is in its last stages in Aberdeen now with only a few flowers still around. This is an interesting one that I was allowed to collect from an estate wood a few years ago. I showed it last year and said I would need to wait and see if the feature that makes it different is stable.





Galanthus plicatus

In case you cannot see the special feature this close up should reveal all.

It has twin flowers on all mature stems.

The youngest offset bulbs may only produce one flower but all mature bulbs have two flowers.

It is common for Galanthus plicatus to produce two flower stems per bulb but I do not think that twin flowers are that widespread.

I have split the group into three clumps to help speed up the rate it will increase by division.



Mixed spring planting



Corydalis malkensis* and *Corydalis solida

As the snow drop flowers fade they are replaced by the bright colours of *Corydalis solida* which are nicely balanced by the creamy white *Corydalis malkensis*.



I have raised many colour forms of *Corydalis solida* but have only named this one.
***Corydalis* 'Craigton Red'** is the brightest red form that I have ever seen.



Corydalis schanginii* ssp *ainae* and *Corydalis nudicaulis



I grow some of the *Corydalis* under glass. I have tried both of these in the garden a number of times but they have not survived however I do intend to plant some out into one of the sand beds where I hope they might survive.



Fritillaria chitralensis and others in fritillaria house



The fritillaria are also coming into flower and here you can see two of my favourites: the large yellow flowers of *Fritillaria chitralensis* towering above the pale pink *Fritillaria stenantha*.

I have yet to try either of these species outside but I have plenty of the latter so will also try it in a sand bed this year.

Fritillaria stenantha



Aphids

On one of my daily checks a week ago I noticed a few aphids on a frit leaf so I wiped them out with my fingers. This week I noticed small infestations on three more frits in adjacent pots so I decided time had come for some insecticide. I really do not like using chemicals and last year I got away without any but I have to control the spread of green fly and while I was prepared to wipe away an isolated group this appears like a bigger attack. I hope my early intervention of spraying an area of pots around those with aphids with a systemic insecticide will suffice.



Fritillaria armena



Fritillaria caucasica



Fritillaria argolica



***Fritillaria michailovskyi* hybrid**



Fritillaria reuteri



Fritillaria pinardii



You may have detected the theme of brown and yellow flowers running through the last few pictures. There are many frits that have a combination of these two colours in their flowers but for the most part they still remain distinct.

Fritillaria argolica is thought to be a stable and fertile hybrid involving *F. rhodocanakis* and is often listed as a subspecies of the same. It shows considerable variation when raised from seed.

I also think the *F. michailovskyi* seedling is a hybrid. I raised it from seed taken from one of our own pots of *F. michailovskyi* so there are any number of possible candidates for the pollen parent.

Fritillaria reuterii is just an exquisite plant with wide open flowers.

Fritillaria pinardii is extremely variable and seems to merge seamlessly with *F. carica*. I also have this brown and yellow form growing well in an outside sand bed. It is my intention to try all our frits outside as and when our stock allows.



Fritillaria pinardii

Compare this form of *F. pinardii* with *Fritillaria carica* below and you can see the merger getting closer.



Fritillaria carica



Fritillaria rhodocanakis?

I have this little one labelled as *Fritillaria rhodocanakis* but suspect that either I have mixed the labels up or hybridisation has again occurred in our frit house. Not at all surprising when we grow so many in such a small space that compatible species will hybridise.



Fritillaria rhodocanakis?



Fritillaria pudica

No doubting the identity of this lovely deep yellow North American species *Fritillaria pudica*.



Fritillaria poluninii

The first time flowering for me of this delightful dwarf species raised from seed I sowed in August 2008. It has never been re-potted just fed annually around this time of year with my usual supplement of potassium – more on that next week.....enjoy the last two pictures of the same plant.



Fritillaria poluninii

