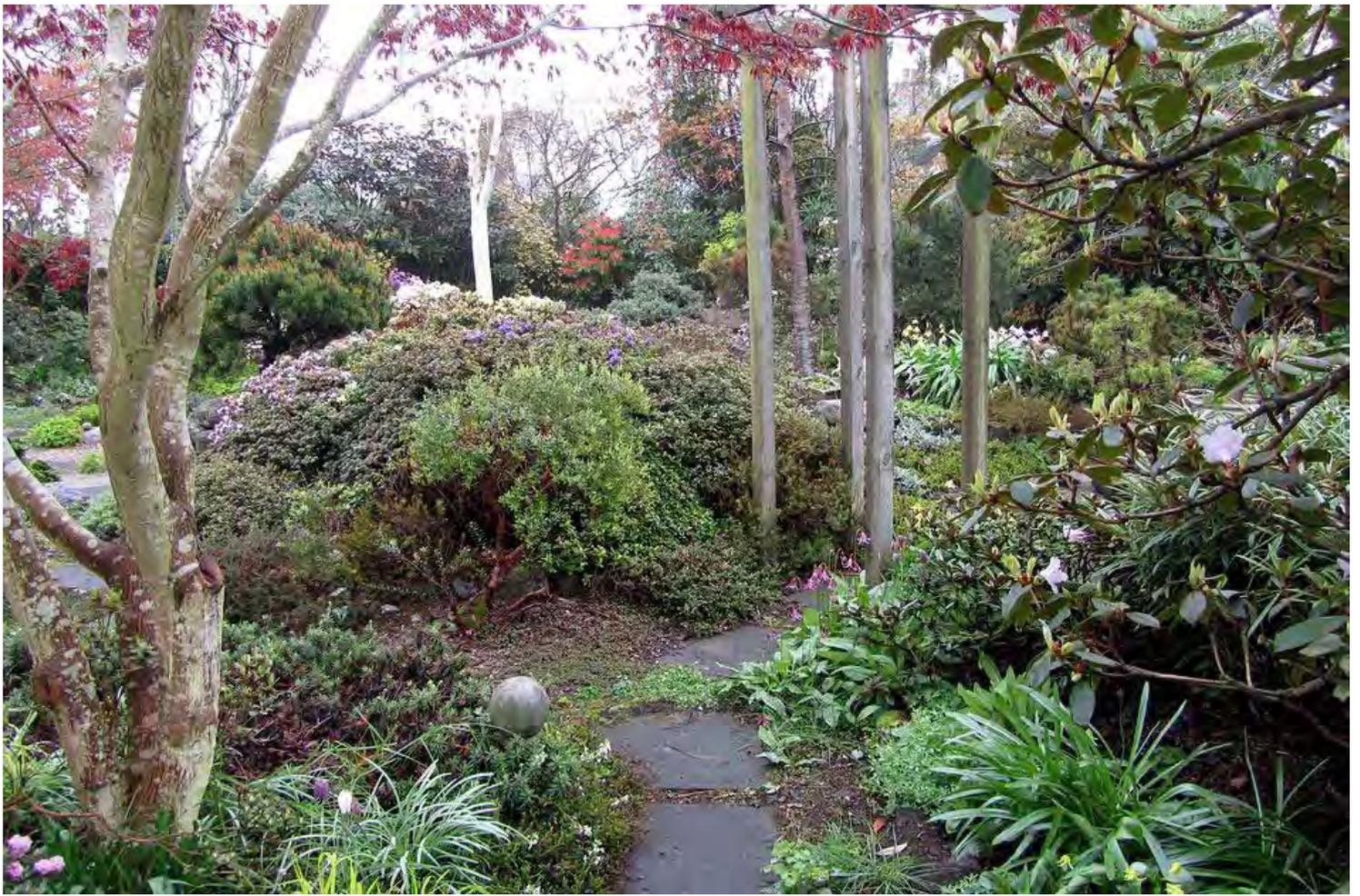




BULB LOG 18.....2nd May 2012

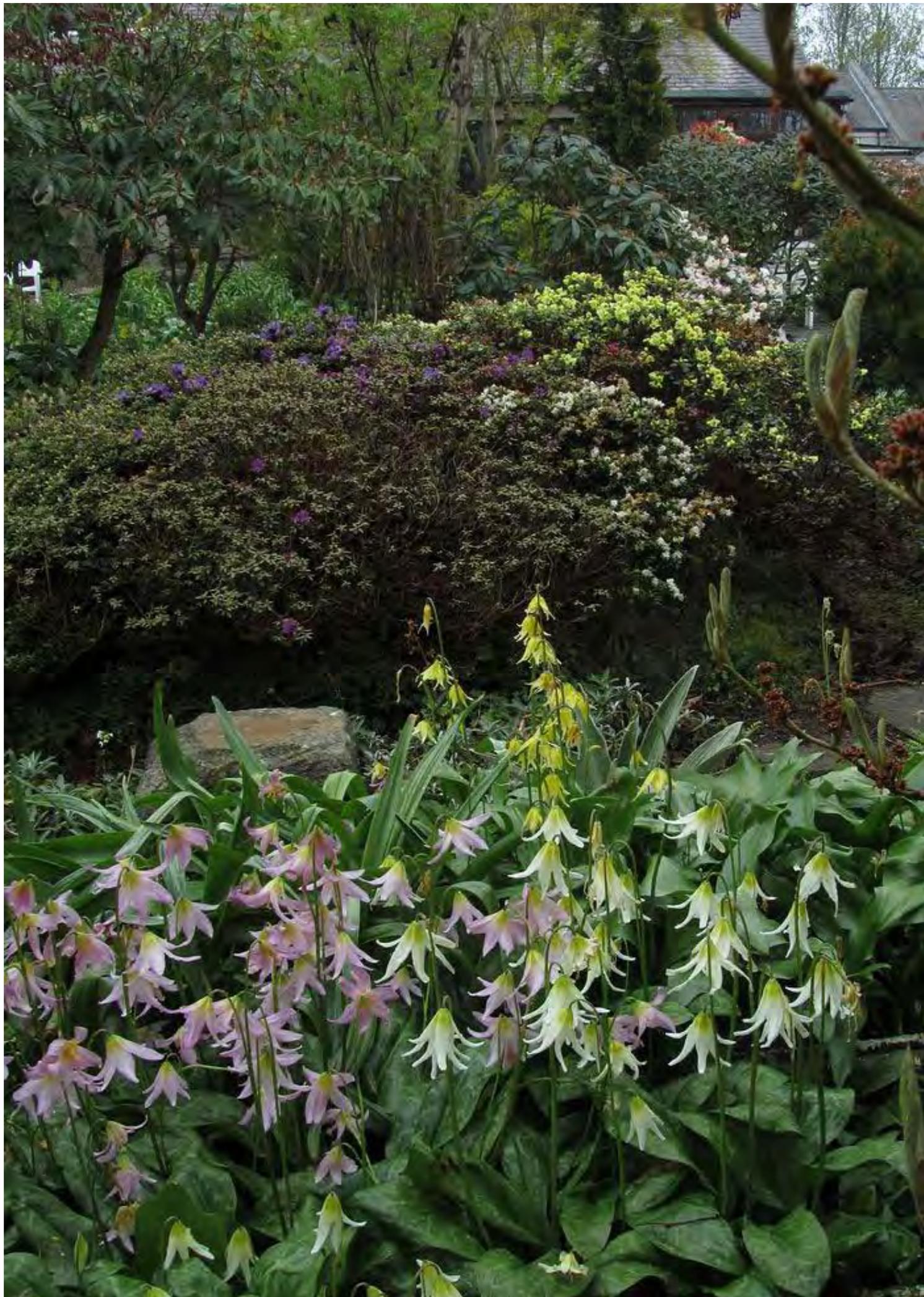


We have endured another week of almost continuous rain with few opportunities to get out into the garden let alone do anything like work or taking pictures. Despite that this week's bulb log is mainly a photo essay showing some views snatched between showers around the garden this week.



Incredibly I had to get the hose pipe out to water the plunge beds in March when we enjoyed an unseasonal heat wave which may well turn out to be the best weather we will have all year. I have no fears of any plants being short of H₂O just now. While the constant wet does not help the flowers it does ensure that the larger trees and shrubs will grow well.





Garden view with Erythronium



Erythronium leaves

Due to the cold damp conditions, which are not good for either the pollinators or for pollen growth and fertilisation, I am not expecting a very good seed set on any of the bulbs that are in flower just now.

Hopefully the plentiful supply of moisture in the soil will lead to good bulb growth but there are problems appearing above ground such as where any of the floral parts from the fading flowers fall onto the leaves then quickly start to rot and cross infect the leaves as these two pictures show. Even one leaf sitting on top of another trapping a constant layer of moisture and so excluding air causes that area of leaf to die which will then rot and cross infect any adjacent leaves it may touch.





Androsace sempervivoides

Here are some of the cuttings that I placed into pure sand in this slate landscaped trough a few years ago flowering and spreading quite happily.



Slate landscaped trough



***Androsace laevigatus* 'Gothenburg'**

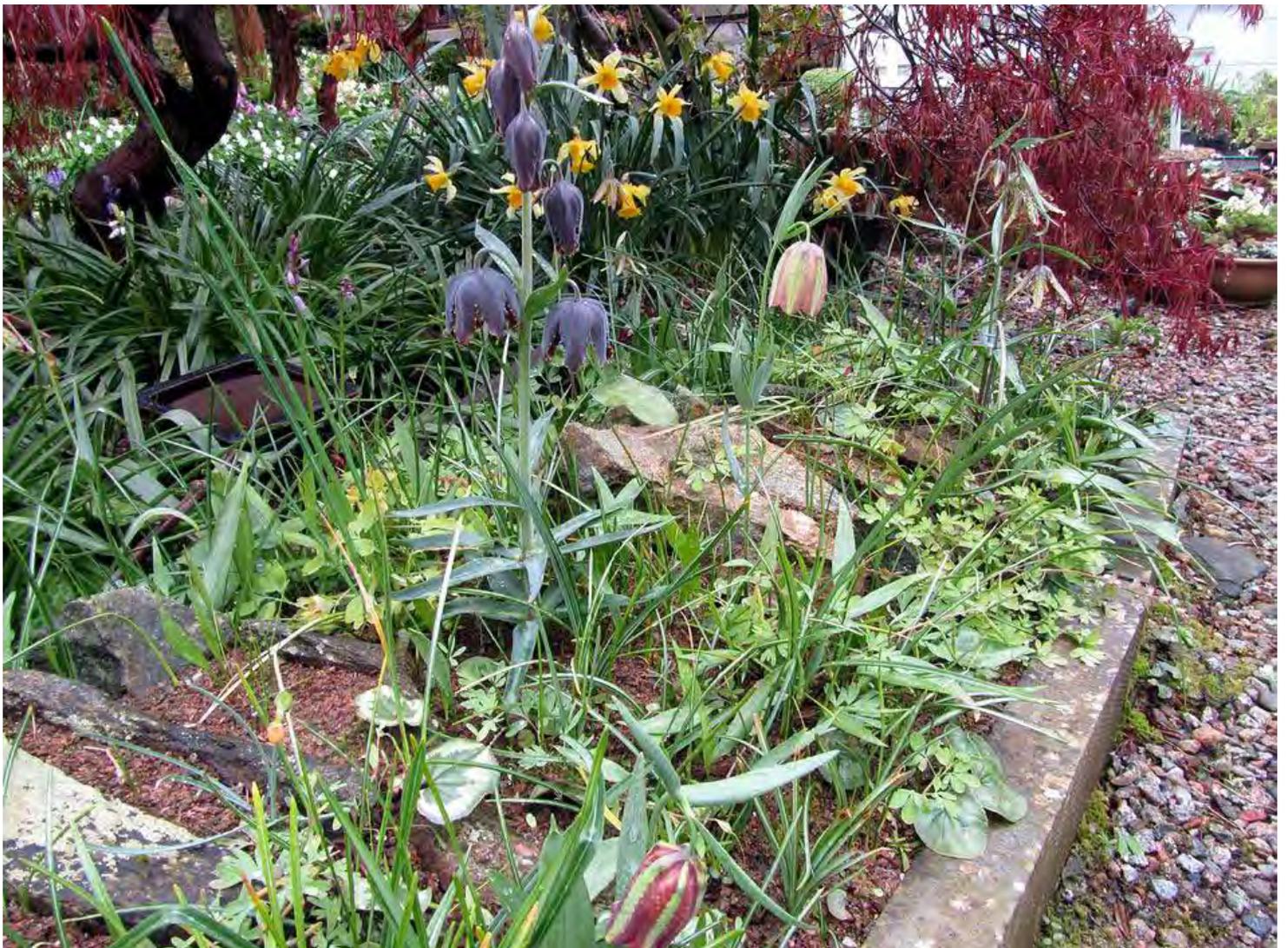
These two pictures are of young plants planted into another trough just last autumn. This is one of my troughs landscaped with broken concrete building blocks.



Androsace muscoidea



As you can see the plants are perfectly happy with no prejudice against this recycled man made material.



Sand Plunge for bulbs



Fritillaria 'Craigton Cascade'

Two of the many Fritillaria that are enjoying the conditions growing outside in the sand plunge shown above are Fritillaria 'Craigton Cascade' and Fritillaria affinis tristulis.

For the most part the flowers of the Fritillarias that we grow in the open garden with their robust hanging flowers seem to be well adapted to enduring the continual rain – much more so than most other bulbs flowering just now.



Fritillaria affinis tristulis





***Tulipa linifolia* Batalinii Group 'Bright Gem'**

While a number of the bulbs have evolved strategies such as downward facing flowers to cope with rain at flowering time some, like these small tulip species, are more used to hot dry hillsides. Their flower buds have remained tightly closed for most of the recent week but they quickly respond to even a brief glimpse of sunshine.



Tulipa linifolia



Trillium seedling



New leaves on the **Epimedium** are a lovely contrast to the bulbs beyond



Taller growing bulbs are not only happy to grow up through some ground cover like these *Dicentra* hybrids but it is partly why they have evolved a long stem with few or no basal leaves.



Anemone nemerosa



Corydalis flexuosa



Arisaema griffithii

The leaves of a similar *Arisaema* in another part of the garden have been killed by the night time frosts we are experiencing. How much better it would be for both the plants and the gardener if we had the clear skies during the day and rain at night instead it is the other way round – hence the damaging frosts at night.



Rhododendrons of all sizes are an important feature of our garden for the beautiful flowers and foliage plus they create shape and form to structure the garden.





Rhododendron



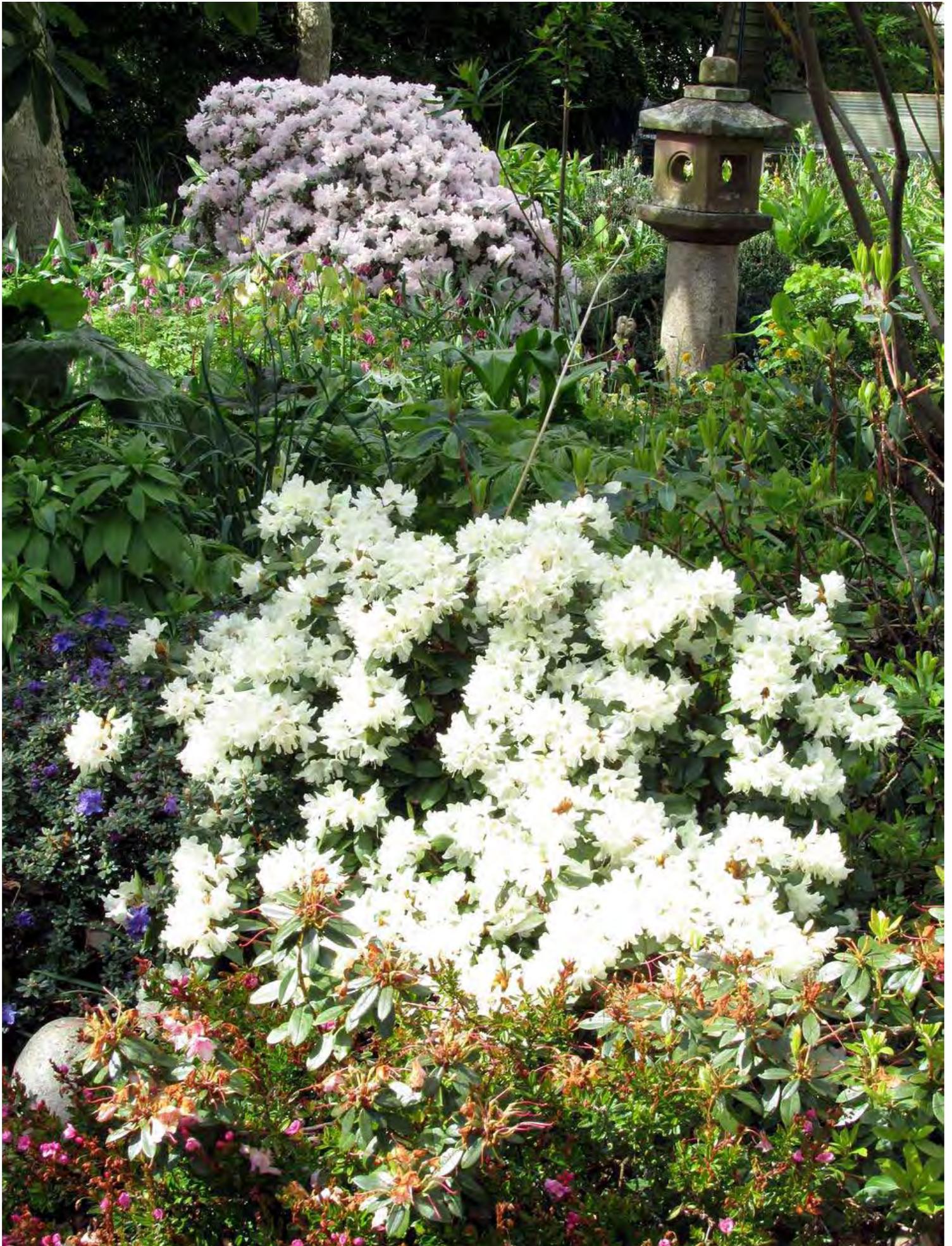
Rhododendron primuliflorum



Rhododendron faberi



Rhododendron yakushimanum x recurvoides



Garden View.....