



BULB LOG 14.....8th April 2015





Erythronium dens-canis

What an exciting time of year this is in the garden – every day more flowers appear taking advantage of some very good warm weather we are enjoying. The cover picture shows *Trillium rivale* with *Erythronium dens-canis* in the foreground. The group of *Erythronium dens-canis* in the middle, with the darker flowers, is a clone that increases to form clumps while the paler ones in the foreground (shown below) have self-seeded from that group and show the variations that you will get if you raise your bulbs from seed.



Erythronium dens-canis



In these two pictures I show another group of seed raised **Erythronium dens-canis** displaying the wide variation, from almost white to very dark violet, in colour that results.



Erythronium dens-canis

I think it is so much nicer to see mixed groups like these rather than clumps of a uniform nature.



Erythronium, Anemone, Scilla, and others.

Another characteristic of our garden style is having mixed communities of plants rather than isolated specimen plants surrounded with bare ground. These plant communities are regularly seen in the wild where the plants grow together in a mutually beneficial and protective group.



This community includes Erythronium, Trillium rivale, Corydalis and Dicentra.



Erythronium japonicum is among the most decorative of this attractive genus especially when the flowers have such dramatic markings as these two seed raised plants I show here.

I routinely go around the garden transferring pollen between these plants- I don't do it just once but repeatedly over a number of days- to maximize the chance of getting a good set of seed.

I hope that the current spell of good weather will also work in my favour allowing the pollen to grow down the tube from the stigma to the ovary.



I have also moved this pot of **Erythronium sibiricum subsp. altaicum** into a bulb house to improve the chances of successful pollination and seed set. This plant comes true from seed.



I lifted four very promising self-seeded **Erythronium revolutum hybrids** from the garden last autumn to grow them in pots to see how well they will increase. They all passed the first tests of having good well marked leaves and attractively coloured, multiple flowers per stem, now I need to assess how well they will increase and that is best done in pot - if they increase this year I will move them into plunge baskets to trial them for a few more years. See more on a [Bulb Log video diary supplement - Erythronium leaves](#)



Scilla and Hepatica flowers compliment each other in a mixed planting seeding around and bring early colour to a bed with Haberlea and Ramonda which will both flower later.



We were recently very kindly given some of the fabulous [Hepatica x schlyteri 'Ashwood Hybrids'](#) – a pink, blue and a white one. I have planted them as a group so we can enjoy seeing how the colours interact with each other and hopefully they will seed around.



While there is still plenty to do and see in the bulb houses, such as **Corydalis nudicaulis**, my attention is continually being drawn out to the garden.



Mixed Corydalis and other bulbs in a sand bed with more in a humus bed beyond.



Mixed colours of *Corydalis solida*.



***Crocus pelistericus* flowers enjoy the sunshine and to our delight attracted a bumble bee.**



A view across the rock garden to the Erythronium plunge bed.



Trillium rivale

If you watch the [Bulb Log video diary supplement - Erythronium leaves](#) you will see a plunge basket of Trillium rivale seedlings here are a few of the flowers.



Trillium rivale seedlings with good dark markings appear superficially similar until you look carefully and see that the petals are different shapes and the markings are also quite different. Both these clones have potential if they will increase but I have carefully cross pollinated them in the hope of getting more seedlings with these markings.





Tecophilaea cyanocrocus and Narcissus bulbocodium.

I have been tempted back into the bulb house by both the beauty of the Tecophilaea flowers and the wonderful scent they give off in the warm conditions.



Tecophilaea cyanocrocus leichtlinii and Tecophilaea cyanocrocus violacea



It is very difficult to capture photographically the colour of **Tecophilaea cyanocrocus violacea** we see with our eyes – the pictures always lose some of the red in the violet making them look more blue than they are.



Follow this link to the [Forum](#) where you will see the latest Bulb Log video diary supplement looking at the Tecophilaea.....