



SRGC

Bulb Log Diary

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BULB LOG 28.....11th July 2018

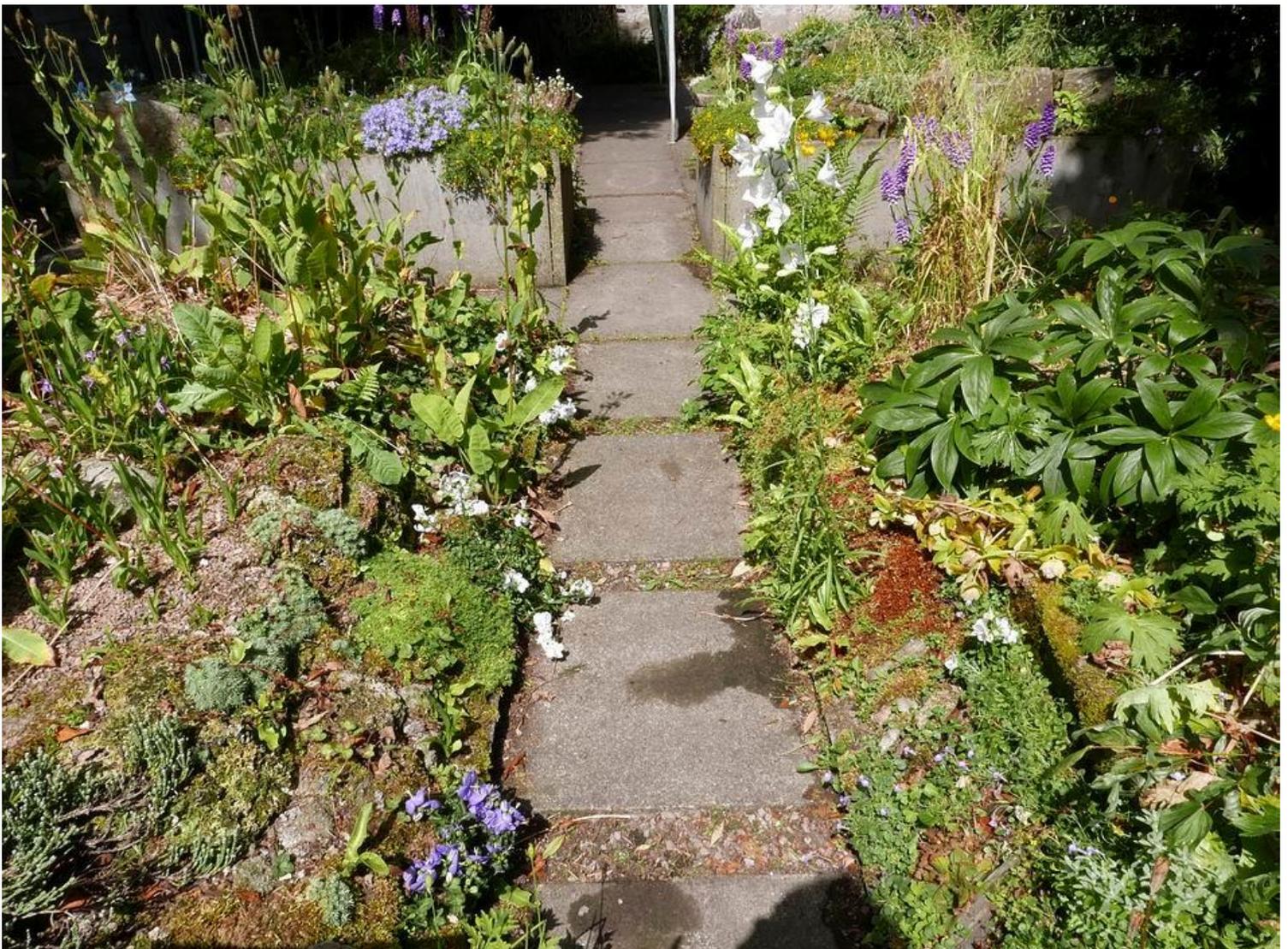




Campanula nitida alba

We got this plant as *Campanula nitida alba* about 40 years ago from Jack Drake's Inshriach Nursery –we were attracted by its compact habit and stems of large pure white wax-like flowers – in fact the whole plant with its crinkly leaves and shiny flowers looks like it could be formed from wax.

These plants are direct relatives of that original plant purchased in the 1970's.



You can see a number of plants of *Campanula nitida* (blue and white) growing either side of the path alongside the taller *Campanula persicifolia* – all the plants of these two forms have grown by seed from that original introduction.



Campanula nitida

Campanula persicifolia

When we first raised seedlings from *Campanula nitida* we were surprised by the variation of the offspring producing white and blue flowers - the majority of these grew to be metre tall plants. It would seem that the original plant we bought, *Campanula nitida*, has a recessive gene that causes it to remain dwarf and that gene is only passed on to a very small number of the seedlings.



It does not seem to matter whether the seed comes from the compact form or the true type you still get the same chance of getting the compact form. *Campanula nitida* is a variation of *Campanula persicifolia* but I think that it is such a different scale of plant that it should retain the name at least within horticulture.



Campanula persicifolia

One of the many typical *Campanula persicifolia*, this one with white flowers. If allowed, these will seed freely around.

Apart from the obvious colour of the flowers there is a slight variation in the form of the dwarf plants mostly in the shape of the flower – some are very flat-faced, sometimes to the point of the petals reflexing, others retain a modest campanulate form.



White and violet forms of *Campanula nitida*





Campanula nitida cuttings.

Plants can be increased by taking cuttings, which retains the characteristics of the parent. Sometimes when I cut off sections of stems for cuttings there are already a few roots forming - in those cases I can place them directly into a box of sand where they will quickly form well-rooted plants as long as they are kept shaded and moist – those with no roots are placed in the mist unit.





Helichrysum coralloides syn. *Ozothamnus coralloides*

Some of the cuttings I took earlier are now rooted enough to be moved on from the mist unit such as these *Helichrysum coralloides*.



Celmisia hectorii



These rooted cuttings are now placed, along with others, into one of the sand boxes that I use – they will stay there for a few more weeks to harden off before being planted directly into the garden. You can also see the few cuttings of *Campanula nitida* shown in a previous picture that had a few roots.



To make way in that sand box I potted up these *Salix* cuttings which were also started under mist then hardened off in the box.

They are well enough rooted now to be planted directly into the garden but as I don't know where to put them I potted them on – they may even end up being given away.



These were cuttings that I took last year: they went through the exact procedure described above before being planted out into one of the slab beds. To encourage branching and keep them compact I have been continually cutting back the new growth and as I do not like to waste material I used the trimmings as cuttings - that is what produced the excess plants that I have potted up.



Continually cutting back the growths has also produced a succession of flowers these in the summer are well out of season.



These Salix flowers look to be producing seeds which I will sow and be interested to see if I get any hybridisation as I have a number of species and forms growing through each other



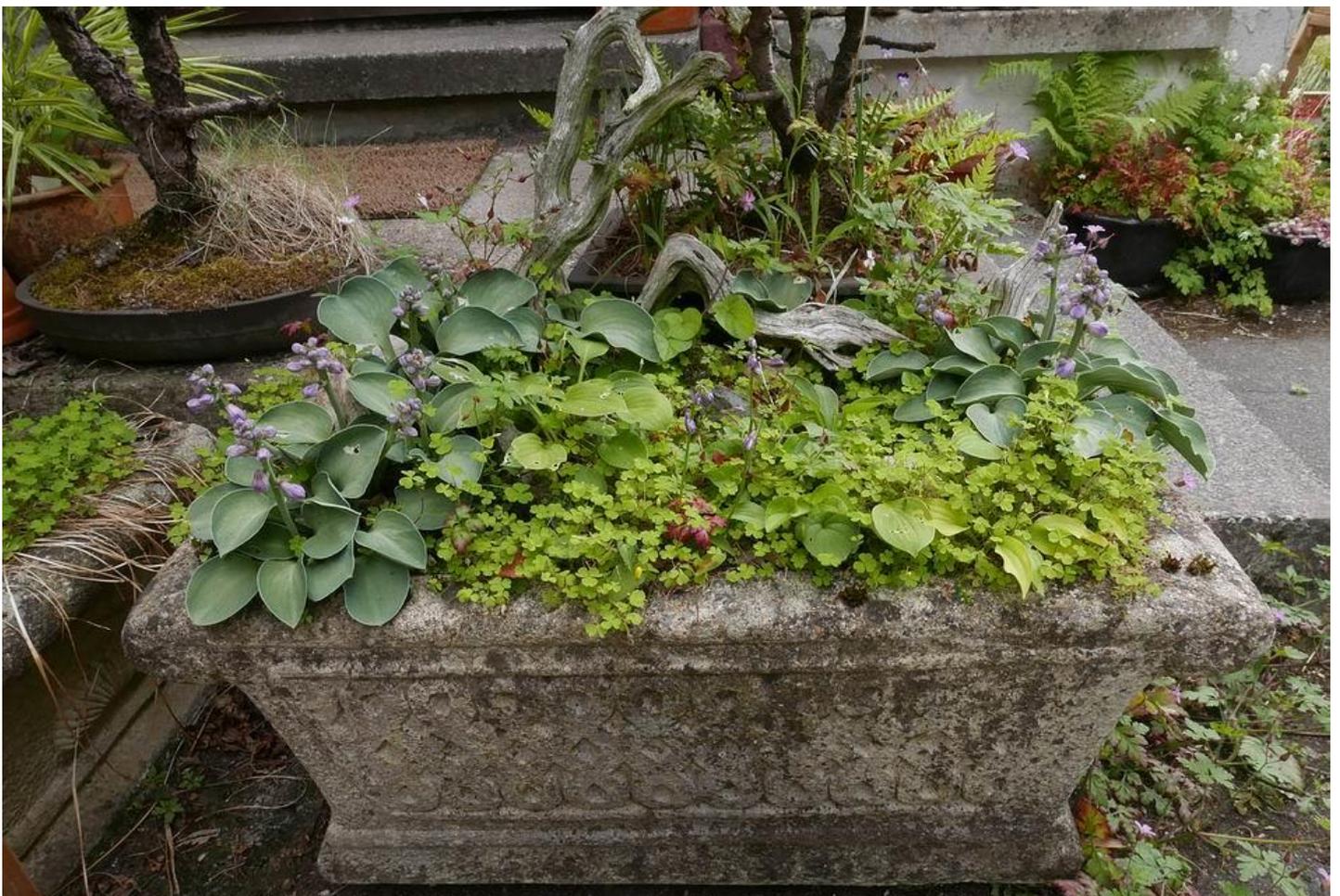
This trough is planted up with low growing and matt forming Salix into which *Geranium robertianum* has seeded.



Molly inspects the troughs which are enhanced by the self seeding *Meconopsis cambrica* and *Geranium robertianum* also note that the *Dacylorhiza* in the background are still in good colour.



Celmisia argentea growing happily in a small trough – ferns also spore around and depending on how they will fit in with surrounding plants we decide whether they can stay or need to be removed.



This trough planted with dwarf Hosta is also populated with compatible self-seeders.



Erigeron and Raoulia dominate the front face of this slate landscaped granite trough



Potentilla pulvinaris forming seed.



A group of *Potentilla pulvinaris* seedlings germinating alongside the parent plant.



Slab beds with *Hypericum reptans*.



A constant flight of bees is visiting the flowers of **Hypericum reptans** which are enjoying the warm weather.

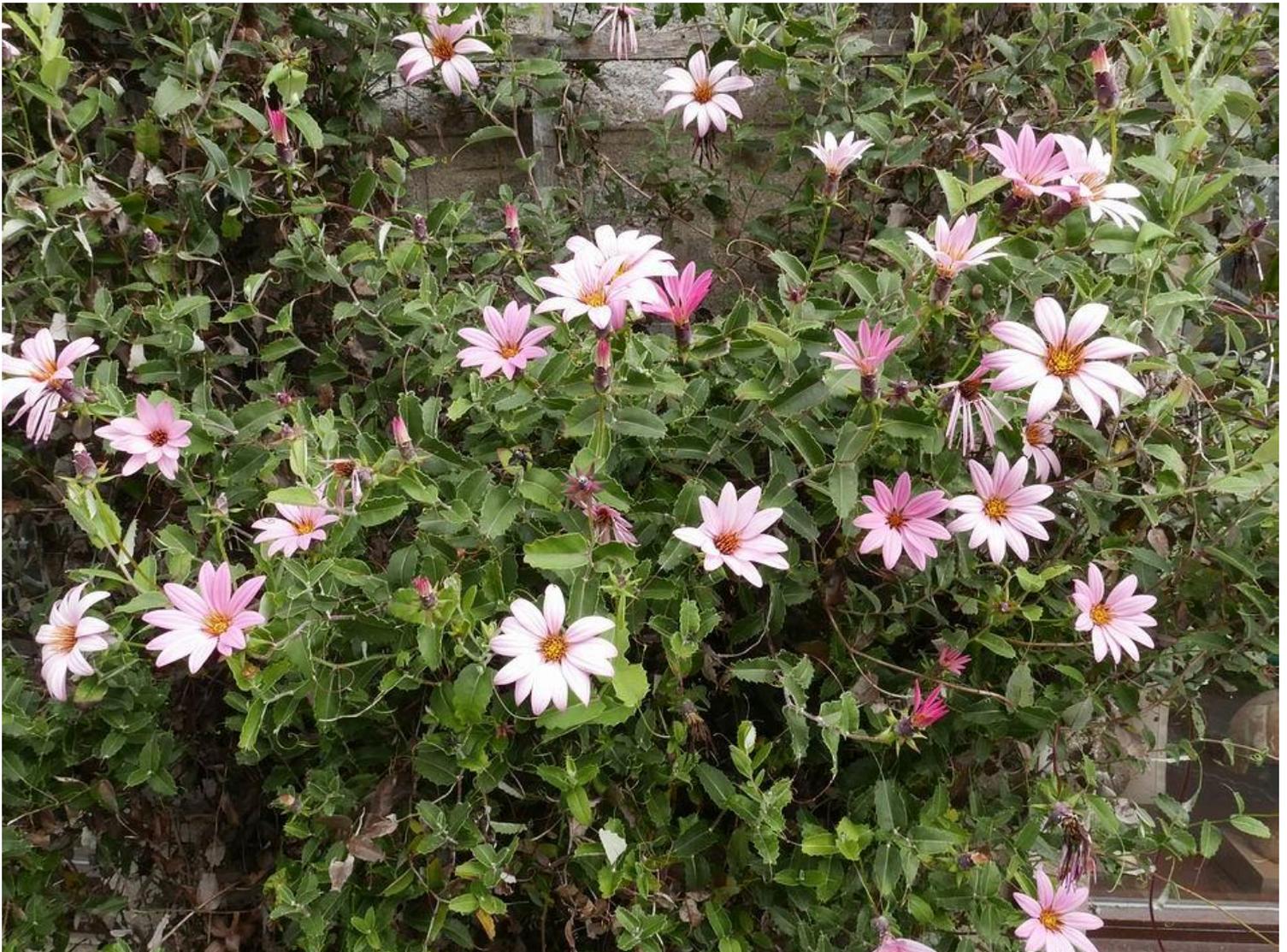


Many of the plants are under severe stress from the long drought we are experiencing. Flowers are lasting a very short time and many plants that would remain green throughout our typical cool moist summers are drying up and retreating underground.



Trilliums seem to be coping quite well and forming seed in the drought-frazzled under-plantings. There are always interesting things to learn in the garden and as I cannot recall such a long dry period since we have been gardening I am discovering how plants respond to these for us extreme conditions. While I am seeing the immediate reaction of the plants I will need to wait to see how they are affected in the longer term. This information will prove valuable if we

are going to have more summers like this in future years however I hope that we can return to our typically cool moist conditions.



Mutisia spinosa



**Mutisia
spinosa**

Previously I have referred to this South American plant as a *Mutisia oligodon* hybrid, which was what we originally received the it as, but evidence suggests that it is more aligned with *Mutisia spinosa*.

The large pink daisy flowers face the sun and seem an irresistible attraction to the increased number of bees we are seeing in this weather.



Tropaeolum speciosum

Another South American climbing plant that we have grown for nearly all our gardening years is *Tropaeolum speciosum*, which spreads by roots and seed.



Campanula persicifolia

The final few pictures for this week are taken in the wild style planting in the front garden where *Campanula persicifolia* is currently one of the feature plants.



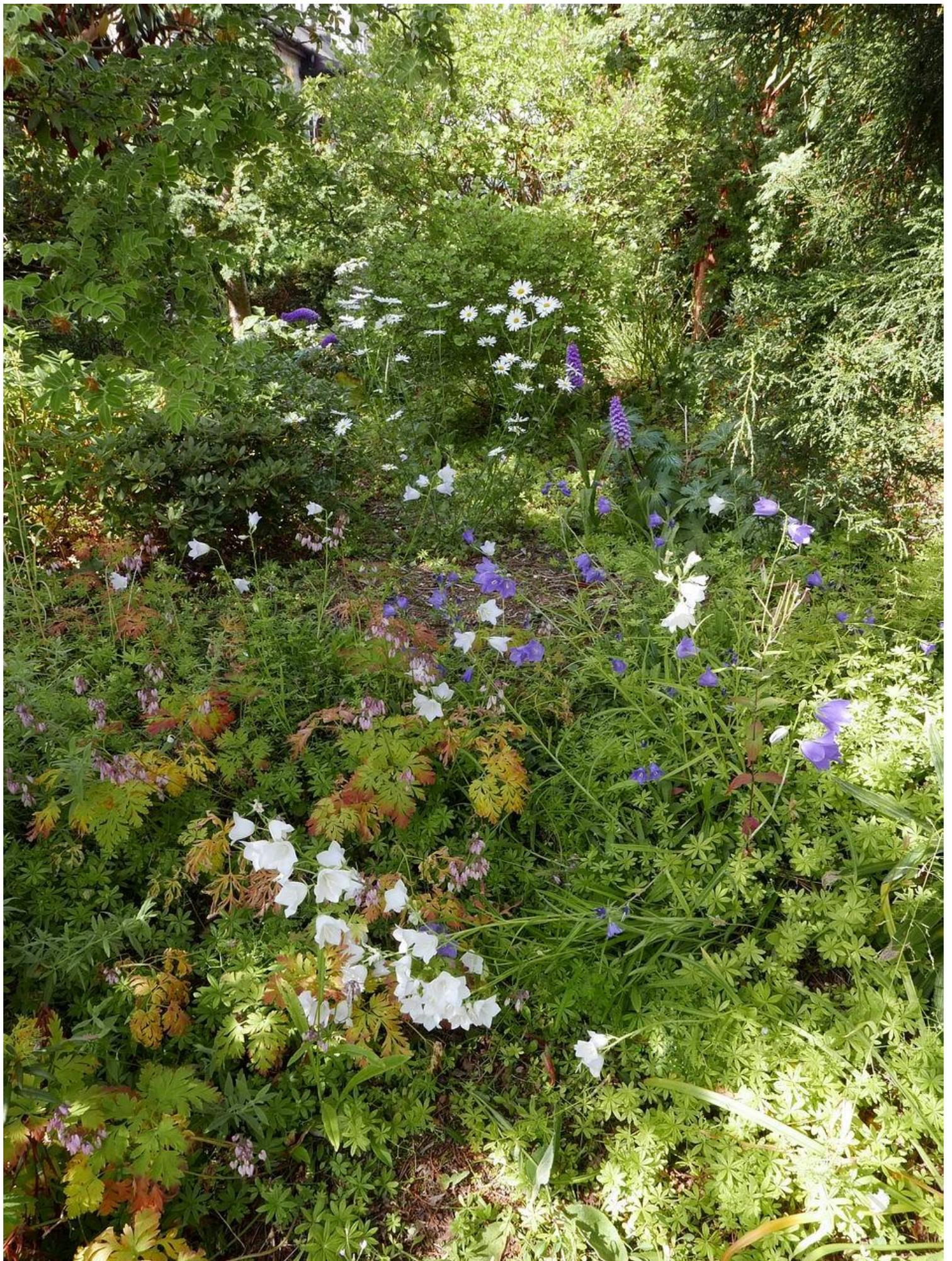


Leucanthemum vulgare

Using native wild flowers alongside the many exotic species from across the planet has been one of the most valuable garden lessons I have learned- in some cases they are more decorative.



Leucanthemum vulgare



Leucanthemum vulgare flowers rise up through a carpet of **Galium oderatum** foliage (it flowered earlier) and **Dicentra formosa**.....