



SRGC

Bulb Log Diary

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Eucomis bicolor

The garden is looking even more battered after a few days of storms - the ferocious winds and torrential rain



brought down many of the autumn coloured leaves and flattened Crocus and Colchicum flowers, however the one flower stem on this clump of *Eucomis bicolor* still stands proudly displaying the attractive bicoloured flowers.

Eucomis autumnalis seed pods are swelling and I am hoping for a good crop of seeds. Because they are not hardy in our garden I grow both this species and *Eucomis schijffii*, the leaves of which can also be seen in this picture, in pots so I can move them under glass

in the winter. I will move them this week and allow them to dry out completely I will only start to water them when I see shoots appearing next year.



This **Acer palmatum 'Dissectum Atropurpureum'**, which is one of the original plants in the garden, is getting brighter in colour every day- the white flowers are some self-sown plants of **Pseudofumaria alba** and **Tanacetum parthenium** (Feverfew) with Crocus in the distance.



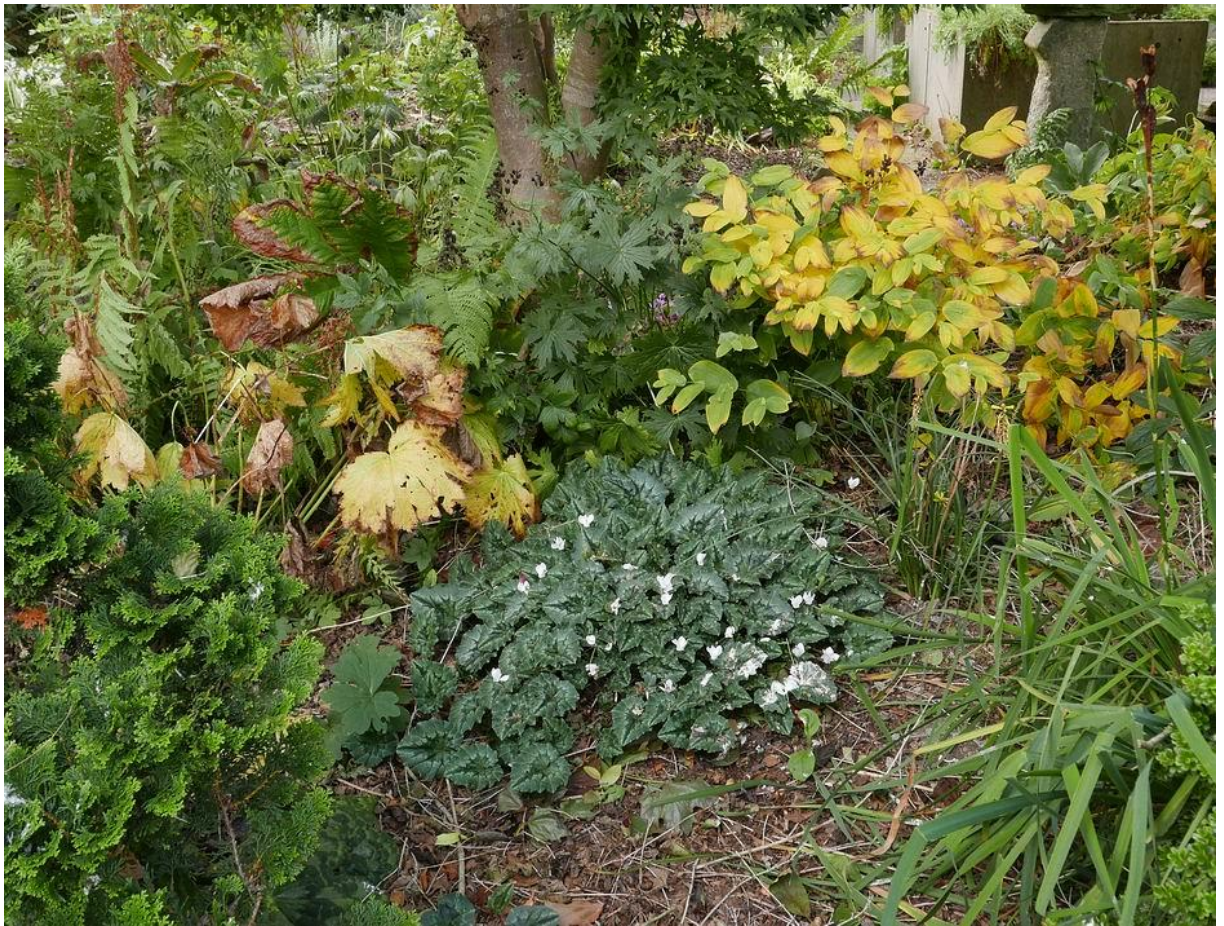
The forest of **Arisaema** stems that were standing proudly in this bed were fattened by a previous storm but that has not prevented the berries from turning bright red as they ripen.

The majority of this Bulb Log is a photo essay appreciating the decaying leaves and the changing colours around the garden.

I leave the plants and foliage to die back naturally only removing it where it might shade out emerging plants such as the **Cyclamen hederifolium**.

I like to see the changing colour of the leaves and stems as they collapse and decay over the winter. In addition they provide valuable habitat and

resources for the garden wild life such as the flocks of birds, mostly of the tit family, that are currently foraging in the garden.



Uvularia grandiflora foliage turning yellow.



Glaucidium palmatum



Hosta 'Blue Mouse Ears'



The sculptural shape and colour of *Dactylorhiza*.



Jeffersonia diphylla



**Jeffersonia
dubia**



Jeffersonia dubia



I love seeing the skeletal structure revealed by some of the leaves as they decay.



Hamamelis

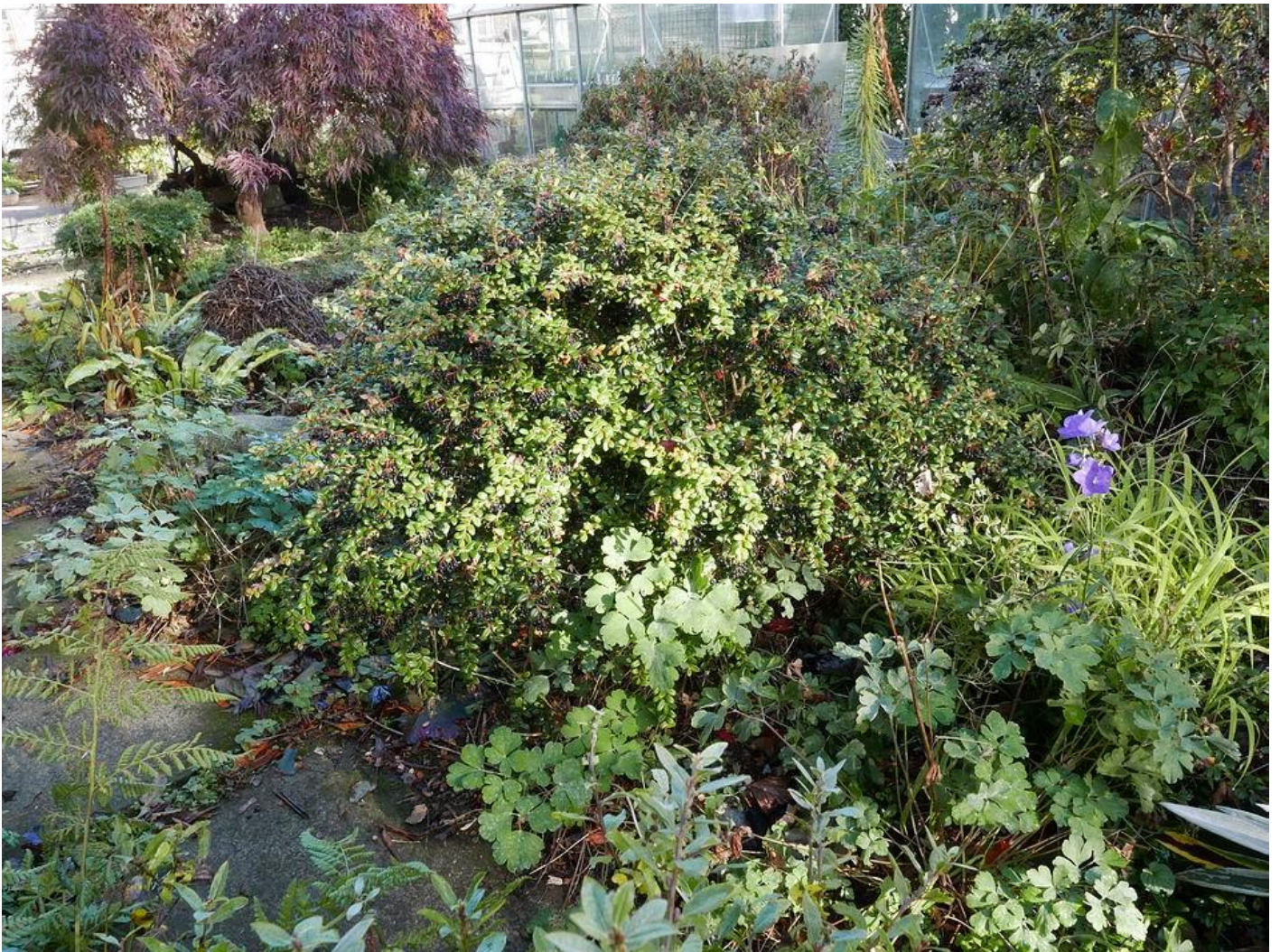


Sorbus hupehensis

The leaves of some of our Sorbus are still green while others are changing or even dropped already.



Sorbus frutescens



Gaultheria nummularioides is covered in clusters of shiny black fruits.





Gaultheria crassa



I am very fond of this this *Gaultheria crassa* which I grew from New Zealand seed sown some thirty years ago – I only raised one plant and despite trying many times I have never managed to root any cuttings nor has it set any viable seed. Its growth has slowly obstructed the path and the view towards the *Rhododendron* bed and because it is our only one I have put off cutting it back or removing it until now.

I am reminded of the lesson I learned in my art that you should never be

afraid to destroy the bit you like best if it is holding back the overall progress of a work – so I have taken the first step and cut one half of the shrub away - I suspect that in the coming months I will cut it all back.



Fuchsia procumbens is another plant that I raised from [New Zealand Alpine Garden Society](#) seed but I have managed to propagate this one successfully from cuttings and seed.



The swelling seed capsules will, if left, turn bright red when fully ripe but I will harvest them before then as they become attractive to and are often eaten by birds and slugs.



Last Friday I travelled west to Pitlochry to attend the SRGC Discussion Weekend before I left I took some pictures as the weather rapidly changed from sunny and still to driving wind and rain as another storm moved in.

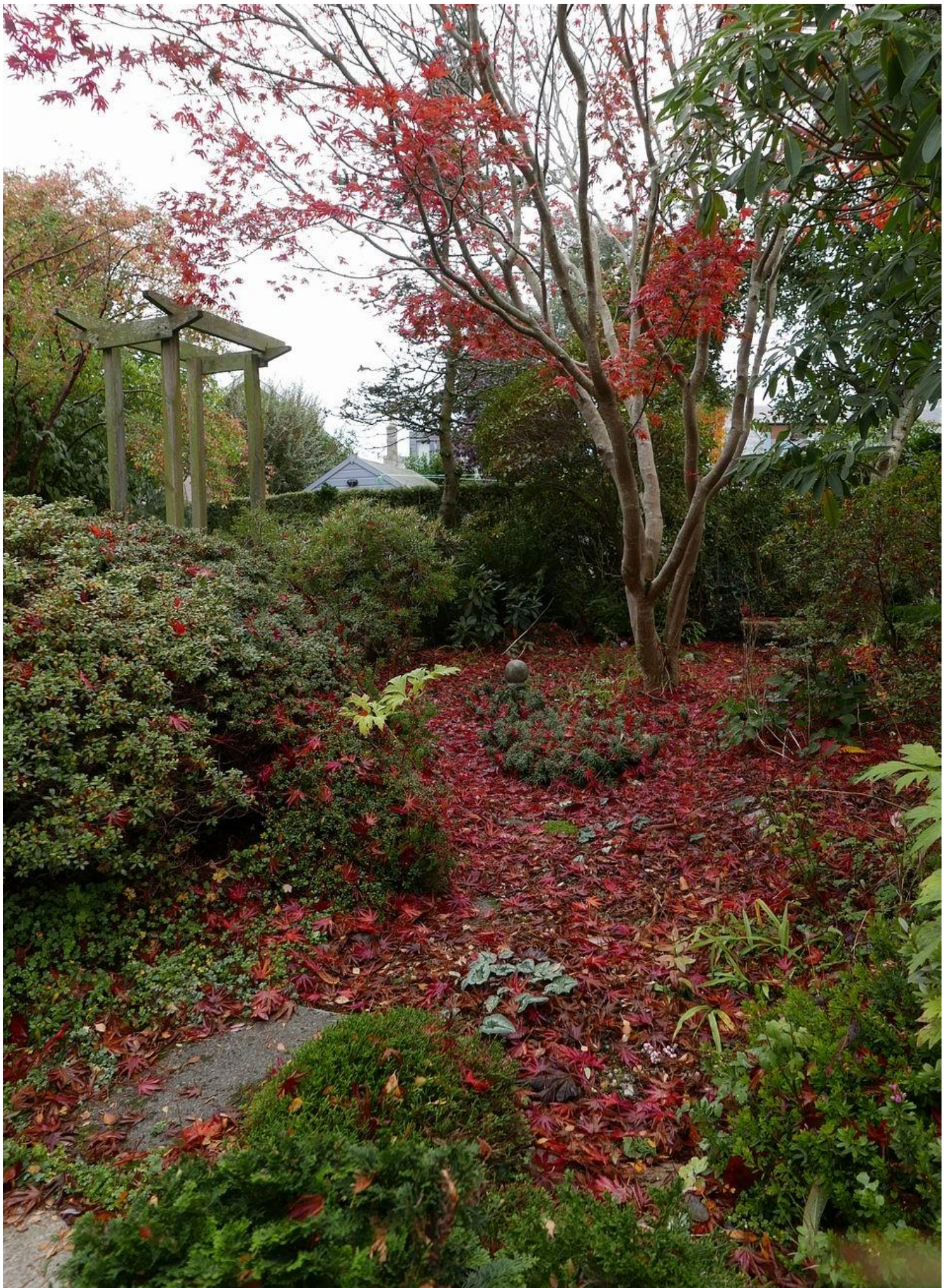




I always enjoy the view from my work table but especially when the colours of the stained glass are picked up by the autumn colours on the trees in the garden.

When I returned home the leaves had been blown from the trees and are now forming a glorious red carpet across areas of the garden – I can enjoy them for a few days before they have to be cleared away from the paths.





Recently emerged *Cyclamen hederifolium* leaves stand out from the carpet of red leaves.



A Gentian seed head.



The retreating growth of *Veratrum*, *Podophyllum* and *Jeffersonia* is set off against the temporary red carpet.



Some out of season flowers on **Primula waltonii** with **Roscoeae 'Harvington Royale'** showing signs of retreating after a succession of flowers lasting for nearly three months.



Now for a few pictures from the front garden where the ground is also carpeted by the red/orange leaves of an Acer species- I grew it from seed and cannot remember the name. Another plant raised from [NZ seed](#), **Aciphylla glauca**, can be seen in the background.



Acer species in the front garden.



Primula capitata



I will leave you this week with some bright red *Arisaema ciliatum* seed and Autumn flowering *Crocus*.....
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