



SRGC

Bulb Log Diary

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BULB LOG 15.....10<sup>th</sup> April 2019



*Erythronium revolutum* hybrid



### **Erythronium revolutum hybrid**

One of the great excitements about growing plants from seed is the variations that will appear especially when ( like we have done with the erythronium) bringing many species that do not co-habit in the wild together in the garden, giving them the opportunity to hybridise. While I tend to favour the purity of species they may be less tolerant to a range of growing conditions and so do not always make the most garden-worthy plants - whereas hybrids often have vigour plus an ability to increase and thrive in a wider range of growing conditions.



### **Erythronium revolutum hybrid**

The strongly patterned leaves, dark stems and deep pink/purple flowers makes this Erythronium revolutum hybrid really stand out among the masses. Additionally, when you look into the flower, it has an attractive dark lining around the eye.



As regular readers will know we encourage plants to self-seed around the garden and the best or most willing of the erythronium to do this is *Erythronium revolutum*. They self-seed most successfully in the gravel paths and areas around the paving slabs where there is a range of ages of seedlings from those with their first seed leaf to fully mature flowering bulbs.

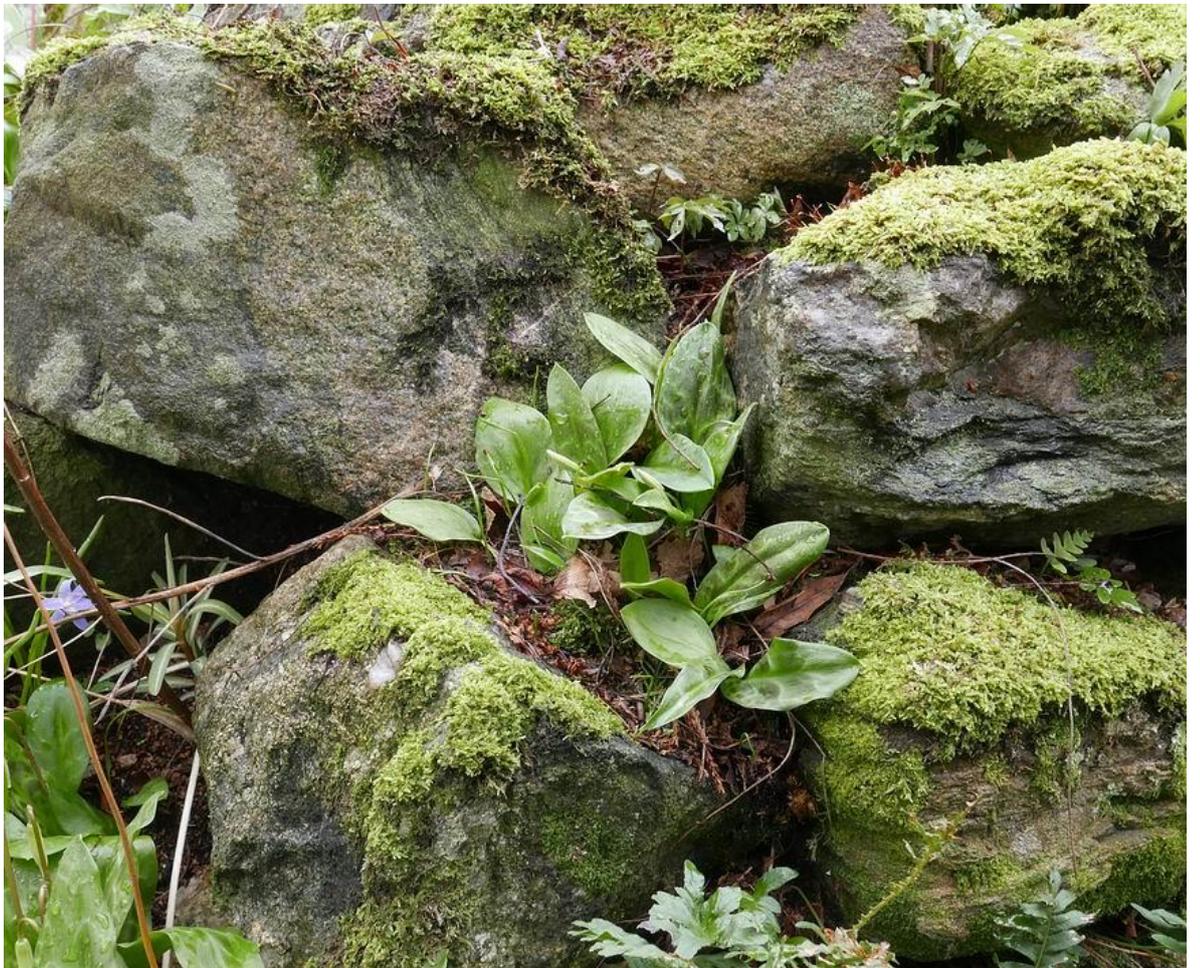


The thin grass-like first year leaves (some with the seed capsule still attached held aloft on the tip) can be seen among others of all ages. The leaf pattern only starts to develop in the third year leaves and its full extent may not be fully revealed until year five.



The seeds grow best and germinate most prolifically in the gravel however they also seed in the most unlikely of places where you may never think of planting them such as between the rocks of the wall of the raised beds.

Allowing nature to guide the hand of the gardener has long been the direction I have been moving in and through both observations in natural habitats and by finding such chance seedlings growing in unlikely places has greatly expanded my vision of what a garden can be and where we can grow plants.





Self-sown Erythronium surround the bed but are also taking hold in between all but the deepest of gaps between the rocks on this, the most vertical side of the wall.



I originally introduced *Erythronium revolutum* by getting seeds from as many sources that I could find especially favouring those of wild origin and so we have a wide genetic base within the garden which is further added to when the plants start to cross pollinate and hybridise with other species.



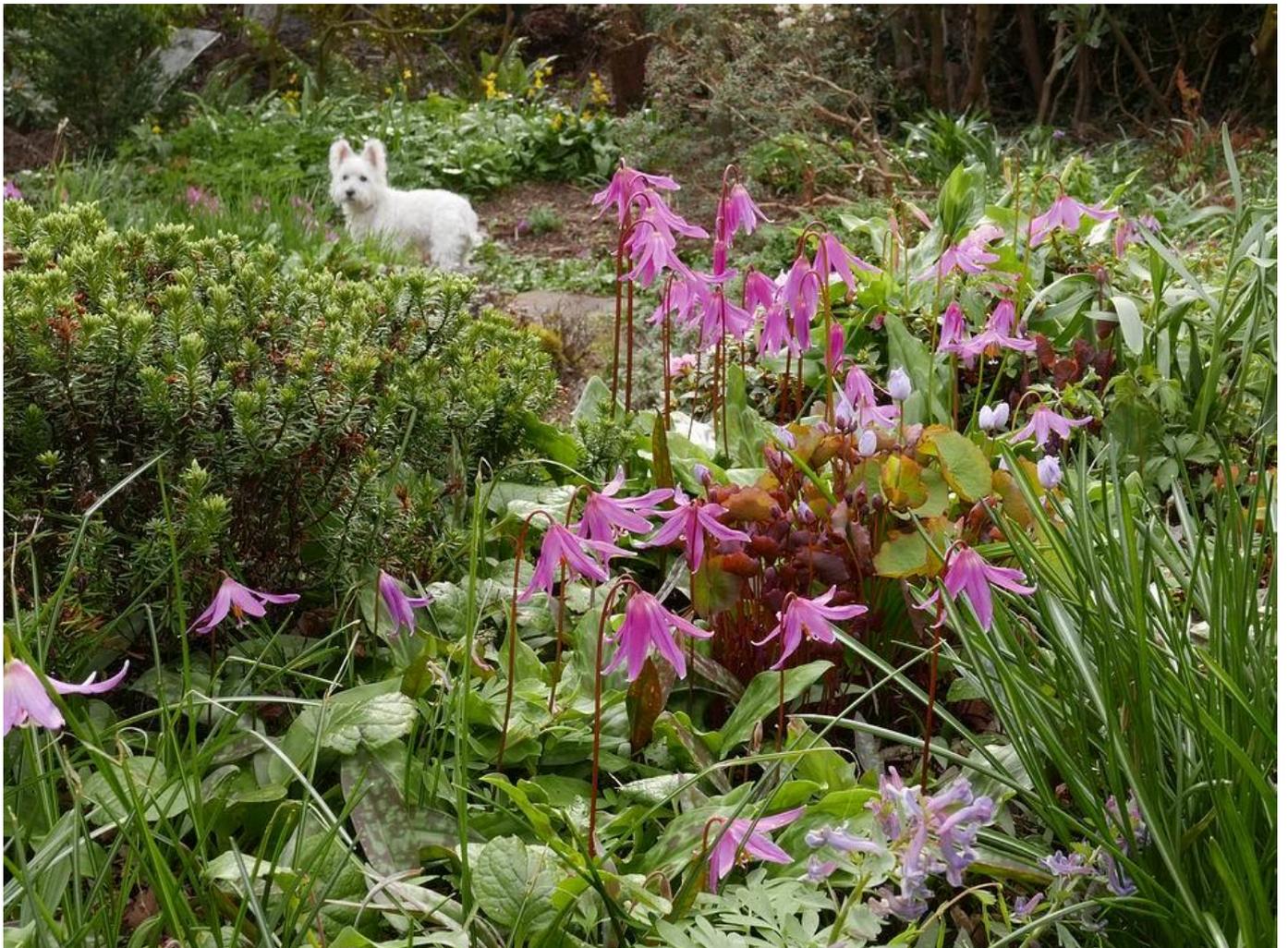
This grouping of *Erythronium revolutum* seedlings are dominated by those having dark flowers and stems: these originally came into our garden when I received some seed collected around Lake Cowichan on Vancouver Island and since then they have evolved through several generations of garden seedlings with the dark colour persisting.



***Erythronium revolutum***



**Erythronium revolutum**



**Erythronium revolutum**



This self-seeding colony of *Erythronium revolutum* has many more of the paler pink coloured forms.



***Erythronium revolutum***



The pink of *Erythronium revolutum* is also making a display in the front drive.



***Erythronium revolutum***



## **Erythronium revolutum**

There are natural variations that appear in the colour of the *Erythronium revolutum* seedlings as seen here with two very pale coloured seedlings the one on the right is white.



A white flowered form of *Erythronium revolutum* with the typical golden coloured pollen.



The pale pink flowered form has creamy coloured anthers which although it is not the most wide spread pollen colour it does occur in some wild populations of *Erythronium revolutum* as well as in garden forms and hybrids.



***Erythronium revolutum***



### **Erythronium revolutum**

This pale pink *Erythronium revolutum* flower has narrow petals giving it a starry appearance. Also note that the style and filaments are purple coloured - a feature I see more often in dark coloured forms such as the one shown below.





One of my baskets of *Erythronium revolutum* grown from wild collected seed.



***Erythronium* 'Craigton Cover Girl'**

Even though hundreds of *Erythronium revolutum* hybrids have appeared in the garden the only one I have named so far is *Erythronium* 'Craigton Cover Girl' and I have always used it as a standard to hold the others against and resisted naming more until I find one that is both as good plus brings something different such as the colours.

**Erythronium  
'Craigton  
Cover Girl'**

**Erythronium  
'Craigton Cover  
Girl'**

Has up to three  
good pink  
flowers on a  
stem they have  
a brown line  
marking around  
the yellow eye.



**Erythronium 'Craigton Cover Girl'**

Depending on the growing conditions and weather the markings on the leaves may start dark but quickly turn to a silvery colour.



In contrast this **Erythronium revolutum hybrid** above has dark pink flowers with broad overlapping petals, very dark stems and beautiful brown markings on the leaves - it also has strong markings in the centre of the flower as you will see in the picture on the front cover. It fulfils my criteria so I am marking it as 'select' and will now start to assess how quickly it will increase.



You can compare them directly here with Erythronium 'Craigton Cover Girl' on the left and the Erythronium revolutum hybrid select on the right.



Here is the *Erythronium revolutum* hybrid select in the bud stage where its attraction is evident and when I compare it with the next three pictures of other similar hybrids I have been trialling at the same stage it comes out best plus it has better coloured flowers than any of these three.



***Erythronium revolutum* hybrid**



***Erythronium revolutum* hybrid**



***Erythronium revolutum* hybrid**



I will finish with one more picture of the **Erythronium revolutum hybrid select** and a link to [Inverewe Garden](#) where I am taking part in both the Erythronium Festival and the Rhododendron Festival. I will be giving talks on 'The Spring Garden with Erythroniums' 2pm 22<sup>nd</sup> April followed by a walk to discuss the Erythronium in the garden and one on 'The Rhododendron Family of Plants' at 7pm 23<sup>rd</sup> April.