



BULB LOG 12.....25th March 2009

I have just returned from the most wonderful trip to the USA where I had a great time and was extremely well looked after by the Members for the North American Rock Garden Society. My sincere thanks to all who helped make my trip so pleasant. I had a very full programme while I was there and I am still pretty tired so I will keep this bulb log a bit brief so I can catch up with some sleep.



Fritillaria pudica Colombia River Gorge OR



Fritillaria pudica

The first of my American pictures I will show you is this *Fritillaria pudica* (above) that we found on a visit to the Colombia River Gorge with Ed Alverson who generously was my driver for all the length of Oregon.

On the left is one of my own pots of *Fritillaria pudica* that is still just in flower how nice it is to have seen its relatives in their native habitat.



Colours of Corydalis

I make no excuses for showing so many pictures of the Corydalis in the garden in this bulb log. When I left to go to America a fortnight ago they were just pushing through the ground and now they are an explosion of colour all over the garden.



Corydalis in the Garden

For a number of years I have been working to get plantings of mixed colours of mostly Corydalis solida forms and now I am seeing the results with these fantastic displays.



Corydalis malkensis

I think that these mixed colours are greatly lifted by the inclusion of white and as I do not have too many white forms of *C. solida* yet I use the beautiful *Corydalis malkensis*.

Even flowering sized tubers of *Corydalis malkensis* are not very big and unlike *C. solida* they do not increase by division but they are very obliging and seed around freely.

Some people claim that they can be invasive and weedy but I would never say that they are a problem as they flower in March and by mid May they have set seed and gone back under ground.



Corydalis in the Garden

As the Galanthus and Eranthis are going over the Corydalis are just coming into their full glory.



Corydalis in the Garden

This is almost the same view as above but under different light showing how the garden changes as the sun moves around or is hidden by clouds – notice there is less contrast in the way of shadows in this version.



Corydalis in the Garden

The majority of these plants are raised from the Penza forms of *Corydalis solida* introduced by Janis Ruksans some years ago. Over the years I have collected the seeds and raised many hundreds of tubers from the original forms I got and now I mostly let them self-seed into the garden.



Corydalis 'George Baker' and seedlings

The red form is *Corydalis* 'George Baker' and all the multi coloured flowers are self seeded. This shows clearly why this old cultivar should only be propagated by division to retain its name.



Erythronium leaves

You may have spotted these lovely dark Erythronium leaves pushing up through the Corydalis in the above picture.



Corydalis in Troughs

To ensure that I have a pure stock of some of the cultivars like 'Beth Evans' and 'George Baker' I grow them in fish box troughs. I replant them every year and take care only to select the vegetatively increased tubers any small ones that may be seedlings are planted into the garden.



Corydalis 'Craigton Red'

One selection that I have named is Corydalis 'Craigton Red' which has very good bright red flowers that are held well above the leaves on erect stems making it very attractive and distinctive.



Compact Red

This is a compact red form that I have been assessing for a few years now. I was attracted to it as a self sown seedling by its short compact nature so I lifted a few tubers to see if it was genetically a compact form or if it was just struggling with the competition in the densely planted garden bed.

To my delight it has stayed very short and neat and I think because of this compact habit it will make a very good form for the show benches.



Corydalis solida

Here are two more interesting colour forms of *Corydalis solida* one a typical bi-coloured flower with pale lips and darker pink spur and another attractive white form with a violet picotee edging.



A selection of *Corydalis solida* Penza form flowers

Here are a number of flowers picked at random from one planting showing the typical variations that you will get if you raise these from seed.



Corydalis ornata

Above and to the left are pictures of the very beautiful species *Corydalis ornata*.

This species also comes in a number of colour forms the least attractive of which is a dull purple blue.

The finest forms are of this clear stunning blue that makes it stand out as a quality plant.

I have another form that is not flowering this year because I let it get too dry last year is pure white with a blue line around the edges of the lips.

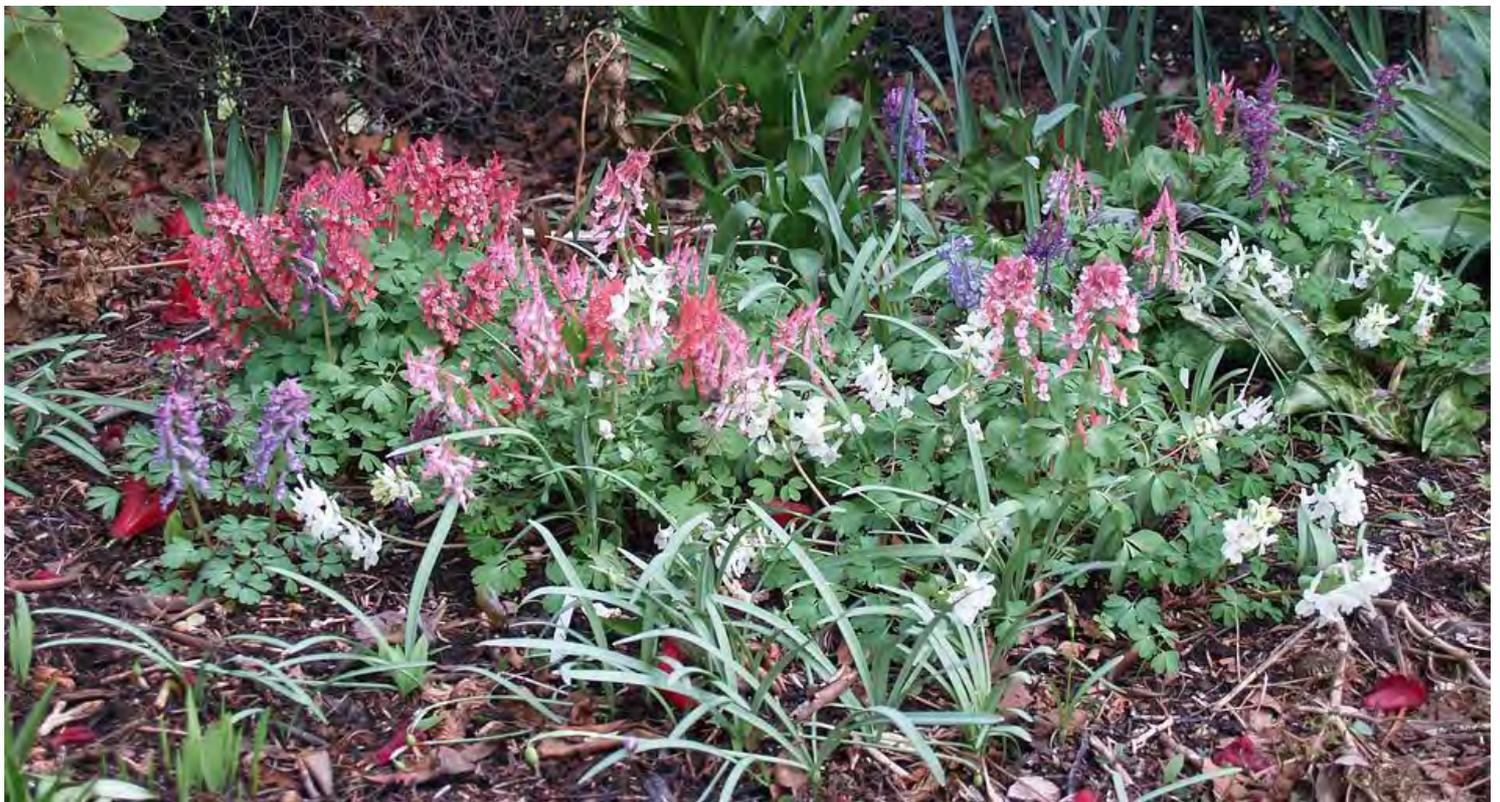
I really must be brave and plant some of this species in the garden before I kill it with kindness as is so often done with rare and expensive plants.





Rhododendron elegantulum under planted with Corydalis.

Corydalis grow very well underneath the larger Rhododendrons and can provide some great colour combinations as here, with the pale pink flowers of this R. elegantulum.



A final last look at a few more Corydalis

Enjoy.....I do.