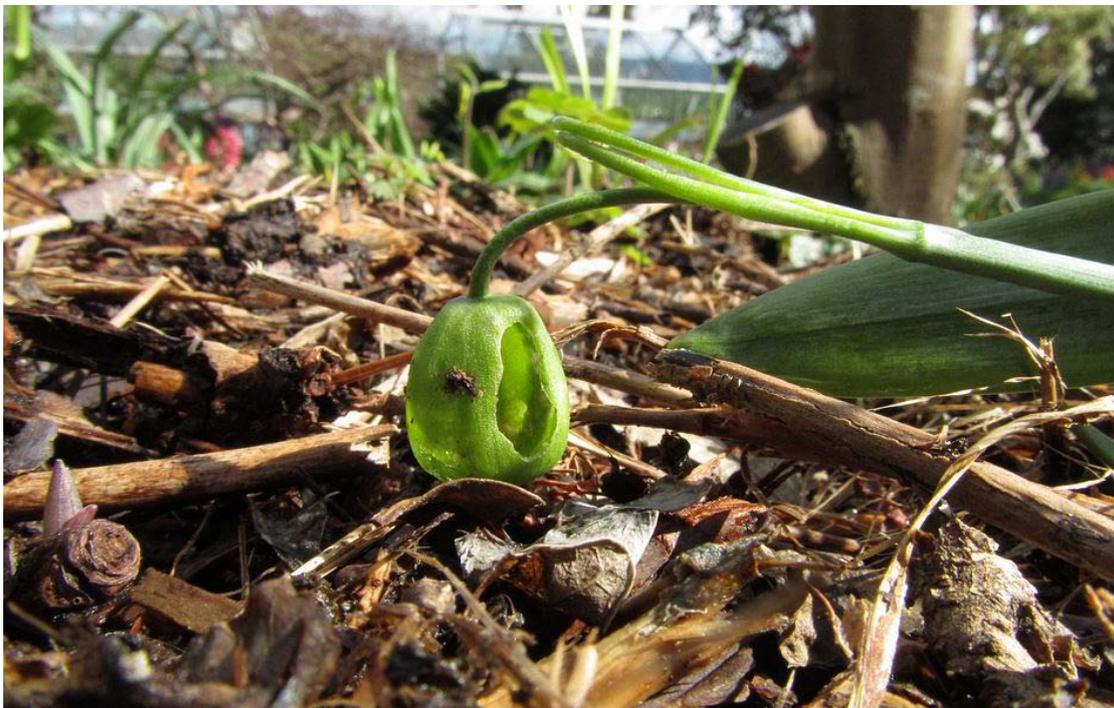




BULB LOG 14.....6th April 2011



Erythronium revolutum and Corydalis



Galanthus seed pod

At this time of year there are so many bulbs coming into flower both in the open and under glass that I do not know where to look first, never mind deciding what to show in the bulb log. I was interested by this Galanthus seed pod; raided of its seed by a slug or snail, I presume. From one side it looks perfectly fine, it was only when I took hold of it to see if it felt like it was full of seeds that I discovered the disappearance of the seeds.



Erythronium oregonum

This group of seedlings that I planted out last year is flowering nicely now and all the indicators suggest that it is *Erythronium oregonum*, except the pollen colour. The pale creamy colour of the pollen can be seen in the picture below looking up into the flowers, typical *E. oregonum* has golden yellow pollen but there are a number of recorded forms that have pale pollen like this. These have often been called 'sulphur' forms and have been recorded both in the wild as well as cultivation. However this form is not typical of the other 'sulphur' forms that we grow and something about this plant suggests to me that it may be a hybrid but I cannot say for sure. It is the case that when you work with a group of plants and study them you start to get a feel for them and while my instinct says this may be a hybrid I cannot point to any hard evidence to support that so I will just call it *Erythronium ?oregonum* for now.



Erythronium oregonum



Erythronium plunge bed and frame

These views show you how quickly the progress of the Erythroniums in the plunge bed and frames is coming on, as they are all over the garden and this means this is a very busy time for me. I have to go around every fine day to carefully study each individual clump and flower – a hard task☺ Only on good days because it is only when there is some warmth that the flowers reveal themselves. On top of having so many flowers to look at and photograph we are also gearing up for the International Conference in Nottingham and a number of friends coming to visit after that so I am going to minimize the words in the next few bulb logs and revert to more of a photo essay where the pictures speak for themselves..



Erythronium dens canis

A typical flower of Erythronium dens canis has dark violet pollen and deep pink petals.



Erythronium dens canis

While the colour of the pollen is constant and always dark violet the petal colours can vary from very dark purple through to pure white. Whenever I have raised plants from our own garden seeds a proportion of them have very pale pink to white petals. I have a number of white cultivars but cannot remember ever collecting seeds from them – I will have to pay better attention to see if they do in fact set seeds as freely as the coloured forms.



Erythronium sibericum

Some botanists still describe *Erythronium sibericum* as a sub species of *E. dens canis* but I believe that it is a ‘good’ species with a number of distinguishing features such as the style and most obviously the colour of the pollen which you can see is golden yellow. I have read reports of a field trip where apparently *Erythronium sibericum* was seen to have both dark violet and golden yellow pollen – I have not seen this for myself.



Erythronium sibiricum

Erythronium sibiricum can have either plain green leaves or various degrees of green and brown blotching.



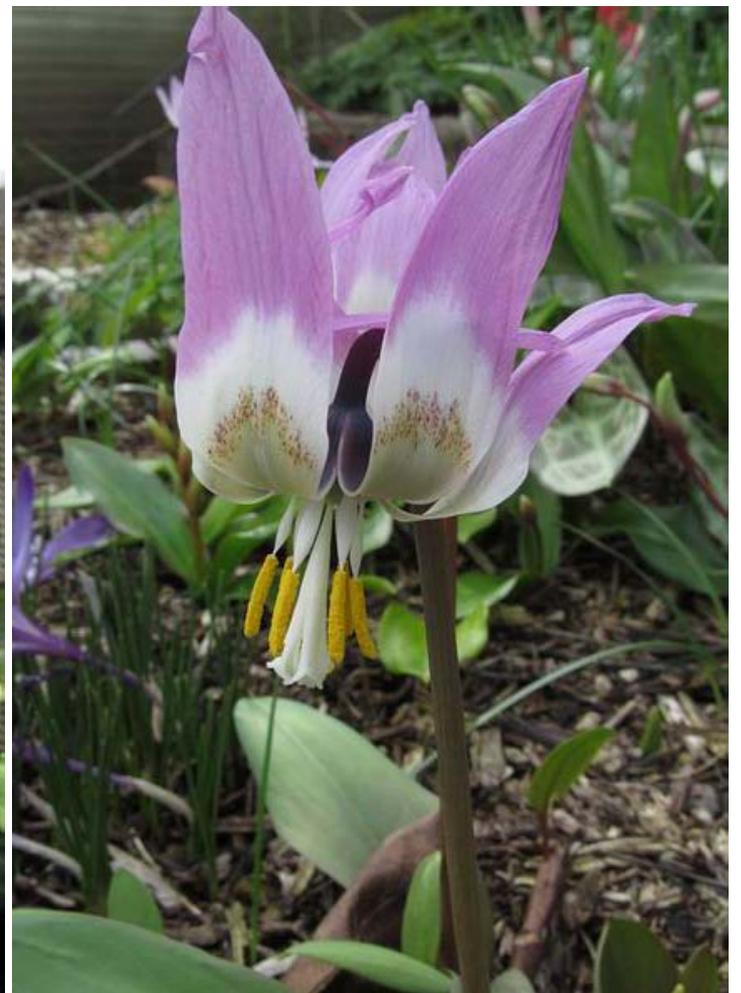
Erythronium sibiricum- plain leaves



E. dens canis

Erythronium sibericum

Notice the shape of the style of *Erythronium sibericum* in the pictures above and below which does vary a bit but is always distinct from that of *E. dens canis*



Erythronium sibericum



Erythronium sibiricum

The next few pictures show a group of seedlings from another source has much narrower petals.





Erythronium sibiricum



Erythronium sibiricum



Erythronium sibiricum seed germinating

This pot of seed that I collected from our own garden plants last June is germinating now. As with all bulb seed I find that if it is sown at the optimum time it will give a good germination when the parent plants are coming into flower. With this group of the Eurasian Erythronium I get best results by sowing the seed as soon as it is ready so these seeds were sown in June 2010. I also apply the same sowing time to the closely related Eastern North American Erythronium.



Erythronium sibiricum seedlings

These seeds were sown in August 2009 and are now coming into growth for their second year – the leaves are now having their characteristic shape but any colour markings they might have will not appear for another year or two.



Erythronium sibiricum* subsp. *altaicum

The white form of *Erythronium sibiricum* has been named and described by Janis Ruksans as sub species *altaicum* a good decision that I completely agree with.



Erythronium sibiricum* subsp. *altaicum

As these few pictures show all the seedlings I have raised from this white form have been white which suggests that it is a stable entity and deserves at least the subspecific status.



**Erythronium
sibiricum subsp.
altaicum**

As with all seedlings there is some variation in the shape and size of the flower with some like this having nice full overlapping petals.



I will end this week with a picture looking up into the flowers of **Erythronium hendersonii**.