



BULB LOG 5121st December 2011



Bulb Bed



The snow arrived this week but only a small amount and the forecast is for the temperatures to climb again up to a possible 10c by the weekend. These great swings in temperatures in winter are typical of our weather and often cause what we consider unseasonal growth in many plants. What we must remember is that the plants are not following a calendar like us but are responding to certain conditions, mainly temperatures and moisture levels to trigger different phases of growth. I reworked this bulb bed in 2009 and have been developing it in my 'High Rise and Time Share' system where I endeavour to find a succession of plants, mainly bulbs, that can grow together and give all year interest.



Bulb bed

Starting with the snow this series of pictures looks back through the year at this same bed to show some of the different stages of growth. Here summer colour is provided by Primula, Meconopsis, Delphinium, etc.



A few weeks earlier and Alliums, Dactylorhiza, Erodium, Delphiniums are in flower.



The larger Alliums are a wonderful subject for this time of year almost bridging the gap between the late spring and summer flowering plants.



Late spring and the *Fritillaria imperialis* are flowering along with some *Erythroniums* and some of the later flowering *Corydalis* in this case the yellow *Corydalis bracteata*.



The spring bulbs - *Corydalis solida*, *Narcissus* and *Galanthus*.



The very early flowers are the usual suspects – *Crocus*, *Galanthus*, *Leucojum*, etc. are a real joy as they are the first mass flowering we see in the year.



We can be enjoying scenes like this before the end of February. I continually work at adding in more different compatible bulbs and plants to extend the interest with an ultimate aim of having some flowers at least every month of the year if not every week.



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The next four pictures taken from another side of the same bed and take us back from Spring to the current season.



Late Spring - Summer



Autumn



December 2011



Trough under snow

There is a commonly used saying that all gardens look the same under snow. This is often used as an excuse in connection with uncared for or uninteresting gardens that when they are covered in snow no one will know the difference. I disagree strongly as a well designed garden with good structure and form will still be more interesting under snow - this can be seen on a smaller scale in this trough. If it was just filled flat with a few plants it would not look very interesting but with good rock work it still has a strong look to enjoy. I always tell people when landscaping their troughs to make them look good before they add any plants. That is to make your rock work bold and attractive to look at then add the highlights – the plants.

Trough

Another example where even under snow there is strong interest from the height and shapes created by the rock work.

Below are updated pictures of how some of the recently created troughs are faring as they enter winter.





Narcissus bulbocodium

Under glass it is the Narcissus of the bulbocodium group that are the stars of the winter months as they provide us with an endless sequence of flowers throughout the long dark months. Enjoy the following picture gallery of some of these delights.



Narcissus romieuxi flowers unfurling



Narcissus romieuxii



Narcissus romieuxii JCA 805



Narcissus romieuxii lobed corona group



Narcissus albidus

What could I say to add to these winter performing beauties??