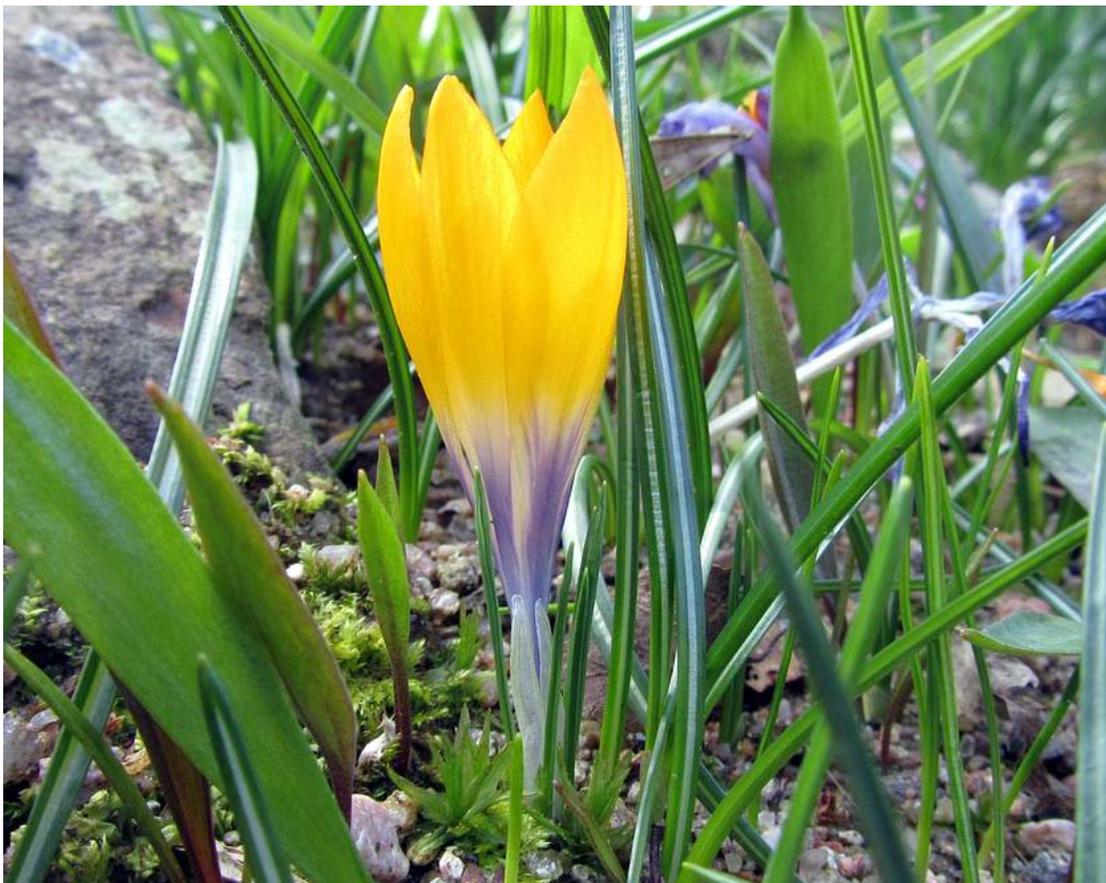




BULB LOG 17.....24<sup>th</sup> April 2013



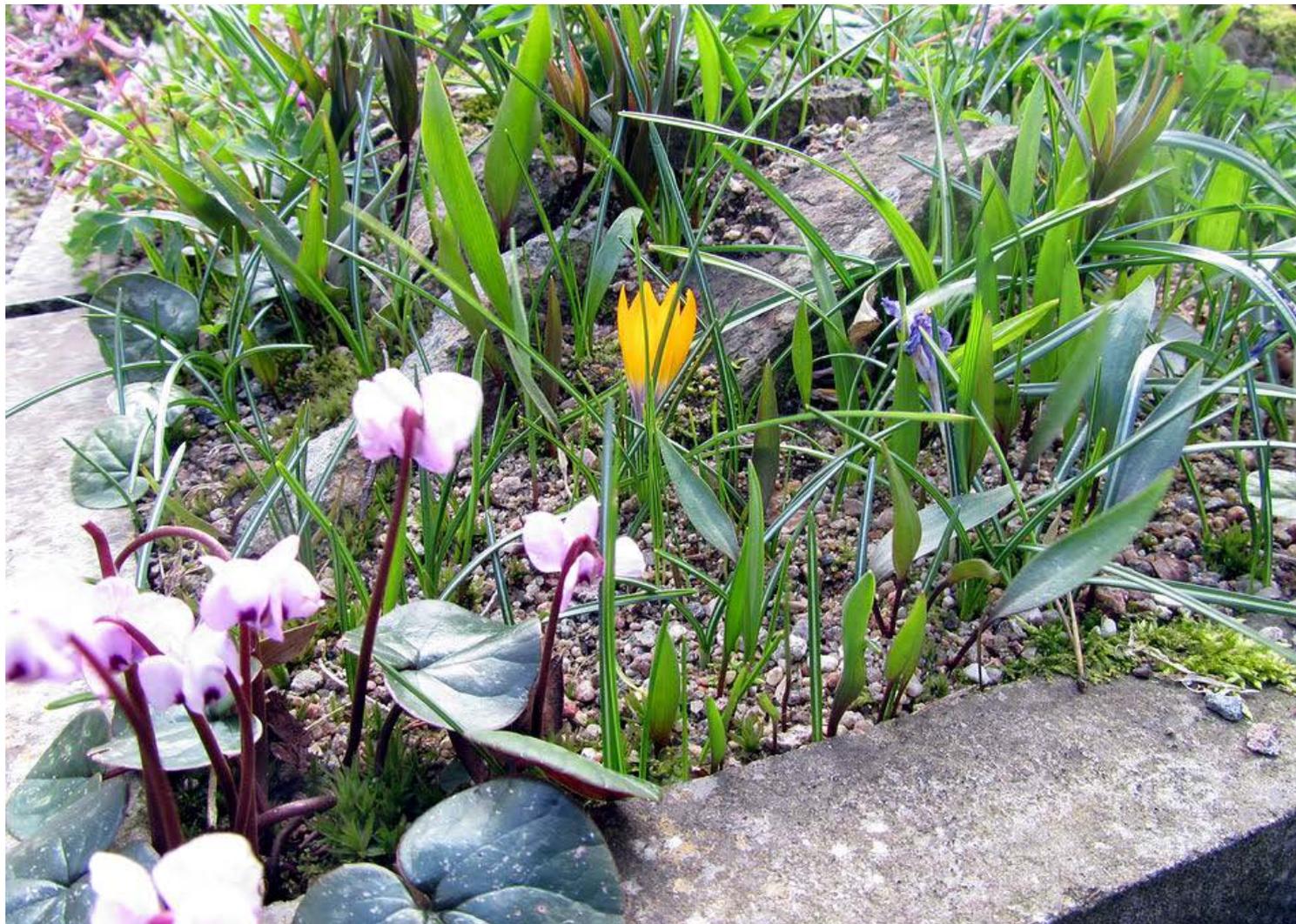
**Erythronium sibericum**



Last week I showed this group of seed raised Erythronium sibericum just pushing through – after a few days with some sunshine they are looking beautiful. We have around one hundred seedlings at flowering size now showing many variations of the colour and pattern within the flowers. If you want to read more of my thoughts on this wonderful species, see my article for the [December IRG](#).

**Crocus scardicus**

The colour combination of Crocus scardicus flowers is one of the most dramatic of the genus.



### **Crocus scardicus**

This *Crocus scardicus* growing in the sand bed is the first of this species to flower for us this year. We used to have a lot more of this plant than we currently do but a few years back I made the mistake of sending too many away and our stocks have not recovered yet. All of our plants are clonal, raised from a single corm we got from the late Harold Esslemont in the 1980's. Ever since then I have been desperately trying to get seed and despite having as many as 100 flowers in good years we have never had seed set on this form - I suspect we need a second clone to get seed to set. This is a difficult plant to grow in warmer, drier areas of the country because it never really goes dormant – new roots are forming before the old leaves have died down. In Aberdeen it grows relatively happily in the garden with little extra attention from the gardener.



### **Bulb House Sand Bed**

The shallow sand bed I created in the bulb house is doing well with a number of *Narcissus*, *Fritillaria* and a few *Allium* species in, or coming into, flower. There are plenty of seedlings that have just germinated this year and I hope that in a few years it will be well populated with bulbs. One of my intentions over the coming years is to try and grow more of our bulbs out of pots either by creating sand beds or modifying our garden soil to suit their needs.



***Tristagma leichtlinii***

These two South American species, *Tristagma* above and *Tecophilaea* below are among those I will be trying to grow outside



***Tecophilaea cyanocrocus***



***Asphodelus acaulis***

It is difficult to capture the true colour or the beautiful unusual scent of *Asphodelus acaulis* so you will have to grow this plant for yourself. I suspect it will not survive outside of the glasshouse in Aberdeen





**Muscari mcbeathianum**



Over the years I become more and more fascinated by the smaller members of the Muscari. In the wild the diminutive *Muscari mcbeathianum* may not impress and from the pictures I have seen it would be easy to pass it by but in cultivation you can appreciate the delicate colours of the flowers to the full.

Another small species this time with pink flushed white spikes of flowers.



### **Muscari species ex Turkey**

A number of years ago I was given some seed of this species from Turkey and since then I regularly get a seed set on our plants so have a several generations of seedlings. I will definitely try this one in the outside sand beds.



I include a picture, above, with my hand to give an idea of the scale of the flowers and the picture on the left is some of the pots of seedlings in the bulb house.

**Muscari species ex Turkey**



A scene in the bulb house shows many of the earlier flowering Narcissus are now going over and hopefully setting some seed. A few of the later flowering species, such as *Narcissus wilkommii* are just opening as are the *Fritillaria*.



**Narcissus 'Dinah Rose'**

I got this bulb from the late Jim Archibald who described it as a *Narcissus triandrus concolor* seedling.



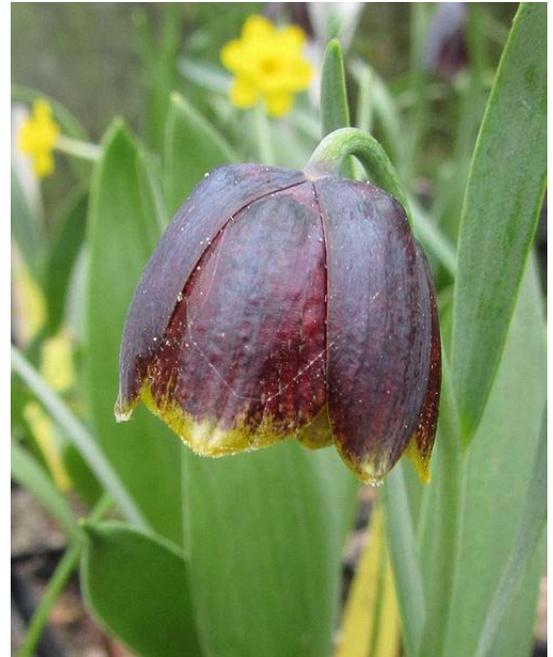
One of Anne Wright's crosses between **Narcissus pallidiflorus** and **N. watieri**, Anne is a great grower and has raised many wonderful Narcissus hybrids which she sells from her [Dryad Nursery](#) – click to check out her website



**Narcissus tenuior**

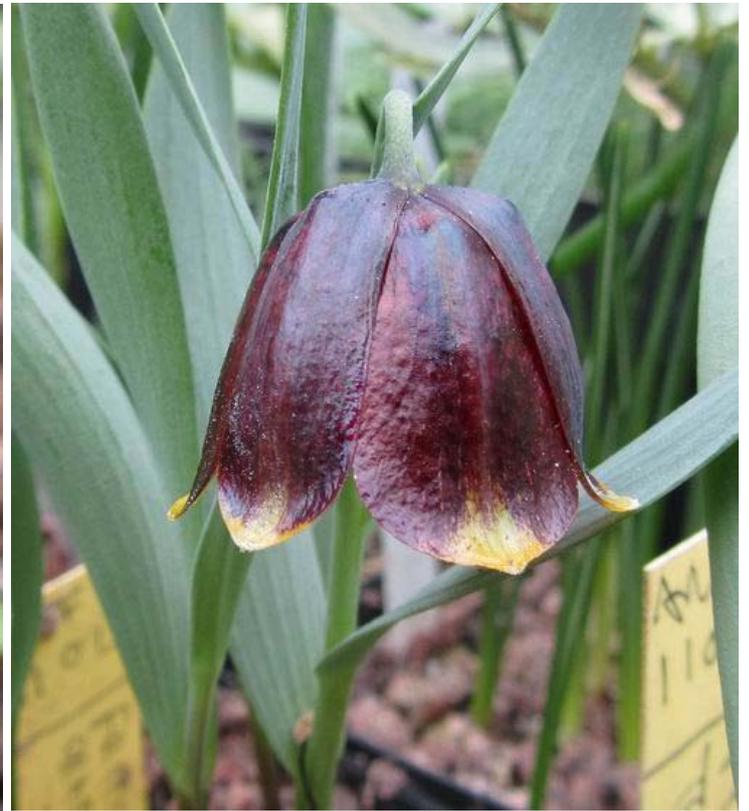


**Fritillaria acmopetala** and **Tulipa stapfii** are among the flowering bulbs that have taken over the old propagation house.



**Fritillaria crassifolia**

*Fritillaria crassifolia* is one of those species that is very confusing to any one that insists on a strict order of classification – it is a hugely variable species with many named subspecies and to keep things simple I just tend to lump them all together. This pot with three flowering seedlings for example shows varying flowers shapes.



**Fritillaria crassifolia**



**Fritillaria michailovskyi**

*Fritillaria michailovskyi* also shows variations within the well known brown/yellow colour theme and to further add to any confusion I have raised hybrids between these last two species.



## ***Fritillaria pinardii***

Check back through recent Bulb Logs and you will see I have shown a number of different forms of *Fritillaria pinardii* – here is yet another variation within this polymorphic species.

I find this one very elegant in shape which is complemented by the striking colour of the flowers and the narrow almost glaucous foliage.

I have no doubt that one day, if it has not happened already, someone will subdivide the plants we know under *Fritillaria pinardii*.





**Fritillaria tubiformis**

This is the only pot of *Fritillaria tubiformis* that we still grow under glass - all the others are either in open frames or are in garden beds where they grow perfectly happily.



There is much talk about how long you should keep pots of ungerminated seeds. The pot of *Trillium grandiflorum* above was sown directly from our garden plants in July 2009 and has stood in a seed frame for long enough for *Corydalis* and *Crocus* to self seed into it and reach flowering size – but look carefully and you will see that now the *Trillium* seed is germinating.....