





We have raised the majority of the plants in our garden from seed then multiplied them further by seeding, division, cuttings or whatever other method we can employ to increase them. The yellow Erythronium cultivar 'Susanna' we received as a single bulb which we first grew in a pot so we could replenish the growing medium every year and space out any divisions within the pot. Most years the bulbs doubled in numbers so it was not many years before we moved it from a pot to a polystyrene box then when that was at capacity we started to plant the extras into the garden. It is noticeable that in the garden they clump at a slower rate than they do in containers proving the benefit of annual replanting and dividing when possible. The Trilliums are *T. ovatum*, with flowers going pink - part of the

ageing process

when the anthocyanins develop and a seedling from

Trillium

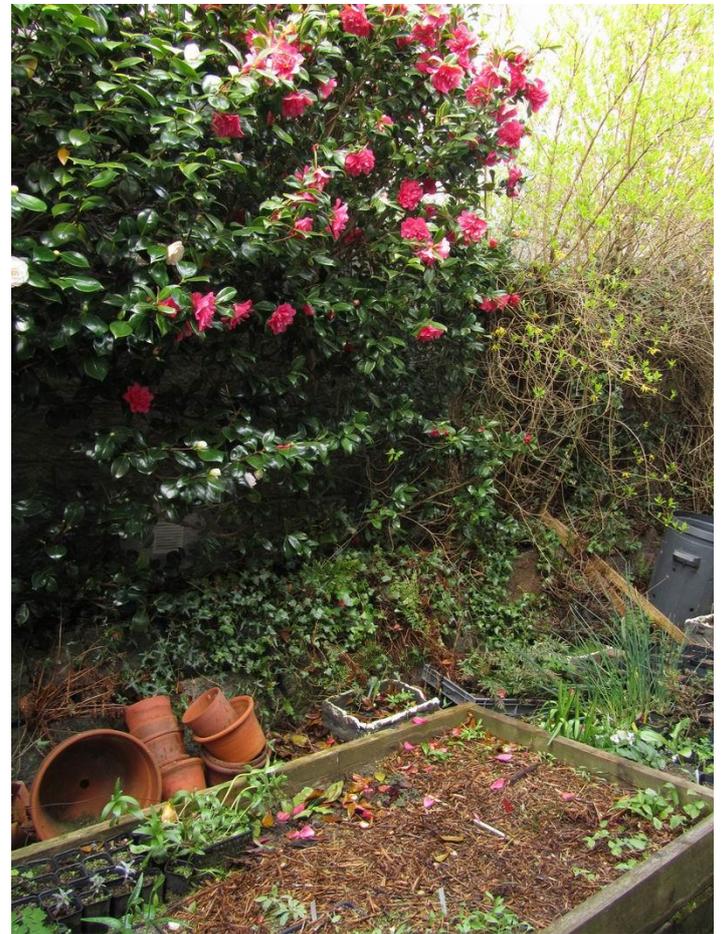
kurubayashii

which features on the cover picture.

Other Trilliums planted nearby are also seed raised and include *T. cuneatum*, I think – the pink ones on the right are the Gothenburg selection of *T. grandiflorum roseum* – more of this later.



On the right you see a Camellia hybrid, one of the ones we grow above the seed bed – every day I gather the flowers that drop off.



I place them in trays or empty troughs where we can enjoy the colourful display for at least another week.



Camellia hybrid - 'Anticipation'



Camellia 'Margaret Davis'



The flowers make a colourful display in a recently made trough waiting to be landscaped and planted.

Seed sand bed.

Two years ago I converted this area where three smaller frames for seed pots were, into a single deep sand bed where I could sow seed directly into the sand. There are a few pots and plunge baskets at the far end but everything in the foreground is sown directly in the sand. I will worry about how to lift and separate them when that time comes. I may even just let this bed establish as the seedlings mature.

I added the mulch of shredded winter prunings to help control the weeds and liverwort in

particular. I have found from other sand beds that mulching like this keeps the liverwort, which can become a big problem in sand beds, under control.



Erythronium hendersonii and **E. howellii** seedlings – how do I know when there is no label? I sowed them alphabetically from the top – yes there will be some mixing as there are no boundaries but as I just want them for the garden it does not matter which is which and I can easily tell them apart when they flower. On the left are Lily seedlings.



These **Erythronium sibiricum** and **Erythronium japonicum** seedlings are in mesh pond baskets which are filled with the same sharp sand as is in the plunge.



Erythronium seedlings

I am still sowing some of our seed in a more conventional way into 9cm plastic pots. This Erythronium seed was collected in the garden, stored in paper bags over the summer then soaked overnight before being sown in early September.

There is no way we could have ever afforded to buy all the plants in our garden and even if money were not the issue, when you buy plants, particularly bulbs, in quantities you tend to get single clones, often selected because they increase freely - what I want is quantities of individuals better representing the variations we see in nature. Yes these seedlings do produce some great clump forming clones that we then increase and spread around but we always also maintain a steady supply of new seed raised material coming along. You never know when a single clone may become infected by a disease that can quickly spread through that clone while other clones which may have a strong resistance are uninfected. I find that young seed raised bulbs are always more vigorous and floriferous than clones that have been around for a very long time. When you get an offset from a long established clone you are not getting a young bulb, as you do with seed, what you are getting is a clone of that old bulb which may have been around for 100 years and it comes with all the sickness and disease that clone has picked up during its existence.



I really do not want to see the bare ground in our garden at this time of year so we cram the beds with plants that we think will form supportive and protective communities. Many insects that attack specific plants, Narcissus Fly, Lily Beetle etc, home in on their prey by scent so if you have a large isolated stand of nothing but that plant it stands out and is easily located - if the scents given off by those plants are mixed in with the scents of a number of other genera it may prevent the pests locating them so easily.



Trillium,
Erythronium
and Fritillaria
growing
through a
ground cover of
Anemone,
Corydalis and
Dicentra.



A typical bed with mixed plantings where our aim is not only to provide mutual support but also a progression of seasonal interest – among others this bed has already displayed flowers from *Eranthis*, *Leucojum* and *Galanthus* now the grouping you see in this sequence of pictures, then will come *Dactylorhiza*, *Arisaema*, etc....



There are also a few *Epimediums* in this bed - the seedling in the foreground with fresh new leaves and flowers is at its most attractive, colourful stage. [See a Bulb Log Video Supplement on this bed.](#)



Trillium grandiflorum

If you look at *Trillium grandiflorum* it has a long stem with the leaves and flower at the top making it perfectly happy to grow through the carpet of *Dicentra*. Of all the *Trilliums* we grow it is *Trillium grandiflorum* that does best in our garden – it will grow happily in either full sun or deep shade the one thing that it does not cope so well with, like many of the ‘woodland’ plants, is the wind - growing in these plant communities provides a degree of



shelter protecting the plants from the worst ravages of the wind. On the left you see some *Trillium* seedlings, one two and three years old, growing in the sand plunge. These started off life being sown in a pot but I transferred them into the sand plunge when I built it. I hope that the plants in the sand plunge will mature and reach flowering size quicker than they would if grown in pots. I do of course feed them, like I do all my seedlings, with a half strength liquid tomato type feed every time I have to water them.



These are a group of *Trillium grandiflorum* seedlings which are the result of a crossing I made between the normal white *Trillium grandiflorum* and the roseum form – they display varying degrees of pink in the flowers but none as strongly coloured as I would like.

Below you can see the Gothenburg line of pink *Trillium grandiflorum* ‘Gothenburg Pink’.

They have achieved a good line of strong pink plants that produces equally strong pink seedlings.



***Trillium grandiflorum* Gothenburg Pink**



I have a number of different clones of this great beauty and will be transferring pollen between the two that are currently flowering size.

The bud is deepest pink as it opens and the stem and foliage also have a red/brown tint through the green, especially noticeable around the leaf edges.

**Trillium grandiflorum
Gothenburg Pink**



Trillium grandiflorum Gothenburg Pink



Trillium grandiflorum Gothenburg Pink



One of our own **Pink flushed Trillium grandiflorum** looks insipid when compared to the Gothenburg forms but it does stand out pink when seen with the more commonly seen white ones.



These two pictures show two clones of a **Trillium erectum x flexipes** that we raised from seed.





Two more seed raised Trilliums - first the one above which I think is **Trillium cuneatum**.



Trillium simile



Peeking through a community of Corydalis, Eranthis and Anemone leaves are two more species, on the left is **Trillium rivale** and the slightly larger one on the right is **Trillium pusilum**.



Erythronium, Fritillaria meleagris and Fritillaria pallidiflora are also much happier growing up through a supportive community of plants, mostly Dicentra hybrids here, than they are as isolated specimens surrounded only by bare soil.



Here again **Fritillaria pallidiflora** is one of many of the bulbous plants that rise through this supportive community of low growing plants such as Corydalis and Anemone.

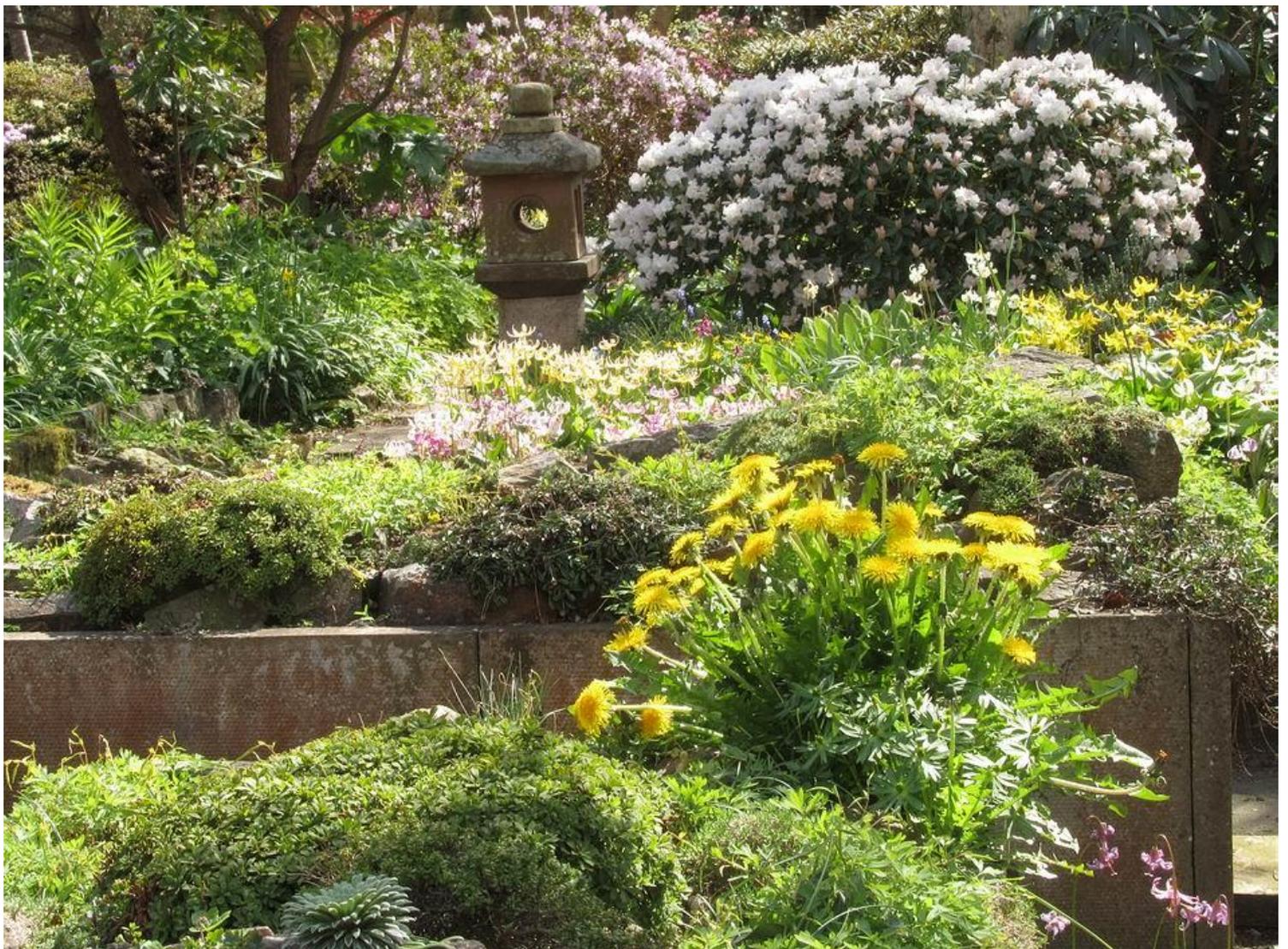


Glaucidium japonicum



A familiar sight to those that have followed the Bulb Log through the years is my pet plant of **Taraxicum officinalis – the dandelion.**

I love this plant and have grown this specimen in a prime spot in one of the raised beds for around 25 years now . It is there to remind me never to become a plant snob who is only interested in the rare and difficult plants but to enjoy all of nature's beauties.



The flowers last a day and every morning I remove the spent flowers – this is the one plant in the garden that I do not want to set seed.....