



BULB LOG 26.....29<sup>th</sup> June 2016



COLCHICUM  
AUTUMNALE

Bulb log 26 sees us halfway through the year, past the solstice, and into summer so bulbs of the 'Mediterranean type climate' are now in their rest period and can be re-potted. Because I have so many pots to get through I started working through the bulb house a few weeks ago. This time last year I was disappointed with the size of the bulbs and realised that I had not followed my own advice of ensuring the bulbs had plenty water and feed during the winter growing period of 2014/15 – I did not repeat that mistake this past winter and as a result I am finding good sized bulbs. The *Colchicum baytopiorum* of the cover page have produced good sized bulbs as well as a number of smaller offsets.



I grow most of the *Corydalis* in the garden but keep a few species in pots where they need plenty of water and feeding during their short period of growth. With good growth they will increase well with a new bulb forming at the base of each stem.



It is best not to let this type of *Corydalis* bulb dry out completely so I will give a light watering through the summer to keep the compost always slightly moist.



Not all Galanthus survive growing outside in our garden so I keep some of the 'special' snowdrops such as Galanthus 'Corrin' in pots mostly because we start with a single bulb and I like to have at least five before I risk trying them outside. This pot has produced a good rate of increase.



Due to the good growth I can look forward to many more flowers from these **Narcissus bulbocodium** bulbs this coming season.



**Narcissus bulbocodium bulbs**

The bulb on the left is a good size and having a classically bulbous shape will flower – the other two show clusters of bulbs. One of the results of providing insufficient moisture and nutrients to this type of bulb is that it breaks down into lots of small bulbs –that is what happened last year. The two views, above and below, shows they have grown better this year and it is just possible that the larger bulbs in the groups could flower.



**Narcissus bulbocodium bulbs**





### **Tecophilaea corms**

I still have some concern that the remains of the old corm, seen at the base, is bigger than I would like which suggests to me that the plant went dormant prematurely. The cause of this I suspect is that the temperature inside our small glasshouse rises very quickly in the sunshine which has triggered the dormancy – next year I will remove some panes of glass from the side in the early spring to prevent such sudden temperature swings.



There are a few pots of Fritillaria bulbs in the bulb house, the majority are in the frit house which I have not started into yet, The indications from this pot is that they have also put on good growth.

### **Fritillaria bulbs**



**Fritillaria bulbs**

One bulb, top right, had a small area of rot just starting so I cleaned it away and dusted the area with sulphur.



**Erythronium 'Craigton Cream' bulbs**

My main task when I return from Alaska is to get the Erythronium plunge baskets lifted and replanted. I have emptied out a couple of polystyrene boxes of Erythronium 'Craigton Cream' and 'Craigton Cover Girl' to check on the growth.



**Erythronium 'Craigton Cover Girl' seed stems.**



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An interesting feature of the stems of Erythronium is they have a thicker section underground between where the leaves attach and the bulb which you can be seen clearly in the above pictures.



### **Erythronium 'Craigton Cover Girl' seed pods.**

Most Erythronium hybrids, such as E. 'Craigton Cover Girl', will produce seeds but there are never as many as in the pod as you will get with species where I would expect 30 to 40 seeds.

I took this picture with strong back light so I could see the contents of these pods and you can see that each pod only has a few fully formed seeds, the next picture shows the contents.

The flowers of seedlings raised from Erythronium hybrids are normally similar in appearance to the seed parent unless it has been cross pollinated with a very different species.





Fresh *Sternbergia* seeds, collected before the pod had dried and opened naturally, look a bit like mini-bulbs.



*Allium gomphrenoides*



**Allium gomphrenoides**

Seed of *Allium gomphrenoides* I got from Gothenburg Botanic Garden and sown in March 2013 flowers for the first time in the original seed pot. It has never been re-potted but has received liquid feeding as well as a scattering of NPK 7-7-7 granules in autumn and K, potassium, in the spring. I have been pollinating it with a paint brush and hope that I can get seed to set – I will repot it this year when it goes dormant.



**Dactylorhiza hybrids**



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Last week I showed a few of the self-sown Dactylorhiza growing in our troughs and slab beds – here are more images of the flower spikes which shows the variation we are getting.



**Dactylorhiza hybrids**



Dactylorhiza self-seed into even the smallest of troughs landscaped crevice style with old roofing slates.



While the *Dactyloriza* shown in the previous picture seeded into a relatively dry well drained environment the group above have seeded into and are growing happily in the container with ***Salix lanata*** which is permanently partially submerged in water.



I leave you this week with this slab bed with *Dactylorhiza* plus a link to the latest [Video Diary Supplement](#)