



SRGC

Bulb Log Diary

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Cyananthus lobatus

This *Cyananthus lobatus* is looking great and will continue to produce more flowers for many weeks before the frosts send it back underground.

It is growing at the end of one of the slab beds – the one where I have not managed to resolve the problem that it looks so bare earlier in the year, before the *Cyananthus* and the *Hypericum* reptans which also grows over the edge of this bed get into growth.

I have never found companion plants that can cope with being covered

by the spreading nature of these two late beauties. This year I decided to do the obvious plant up some of the smaller early bulbs and as I write the thought that *Anemone ranunculoides*, which would fit in with the scale, forms mats in the spring then disappears before the *Cyananthus* appears, could also be a solution - this would give us mats of yellow in March/April then blue from August. This is perfect because I have a number of different cultivars of the *Anemone* needing released from pots so that is what I will do – watch to see how it works out.





Further along the same bed I planted out a number of seed raised plants of the smaller-leaved less-spreading relative **Cyananthus microphyllus** which comes into flower that wee bit later and I hope this will also be happy time-sharing with the Anemone.



Cyananthus microphyllus



Many of the troughs planted with saxifrage and other alpine are having their summer rest meanwhile a seeded sedum that volunteered itself is providing colour albeit on the ends of rather sprawling stems.





Other Sedums and Sempervivums are also in flower providing colour and food for the bees.





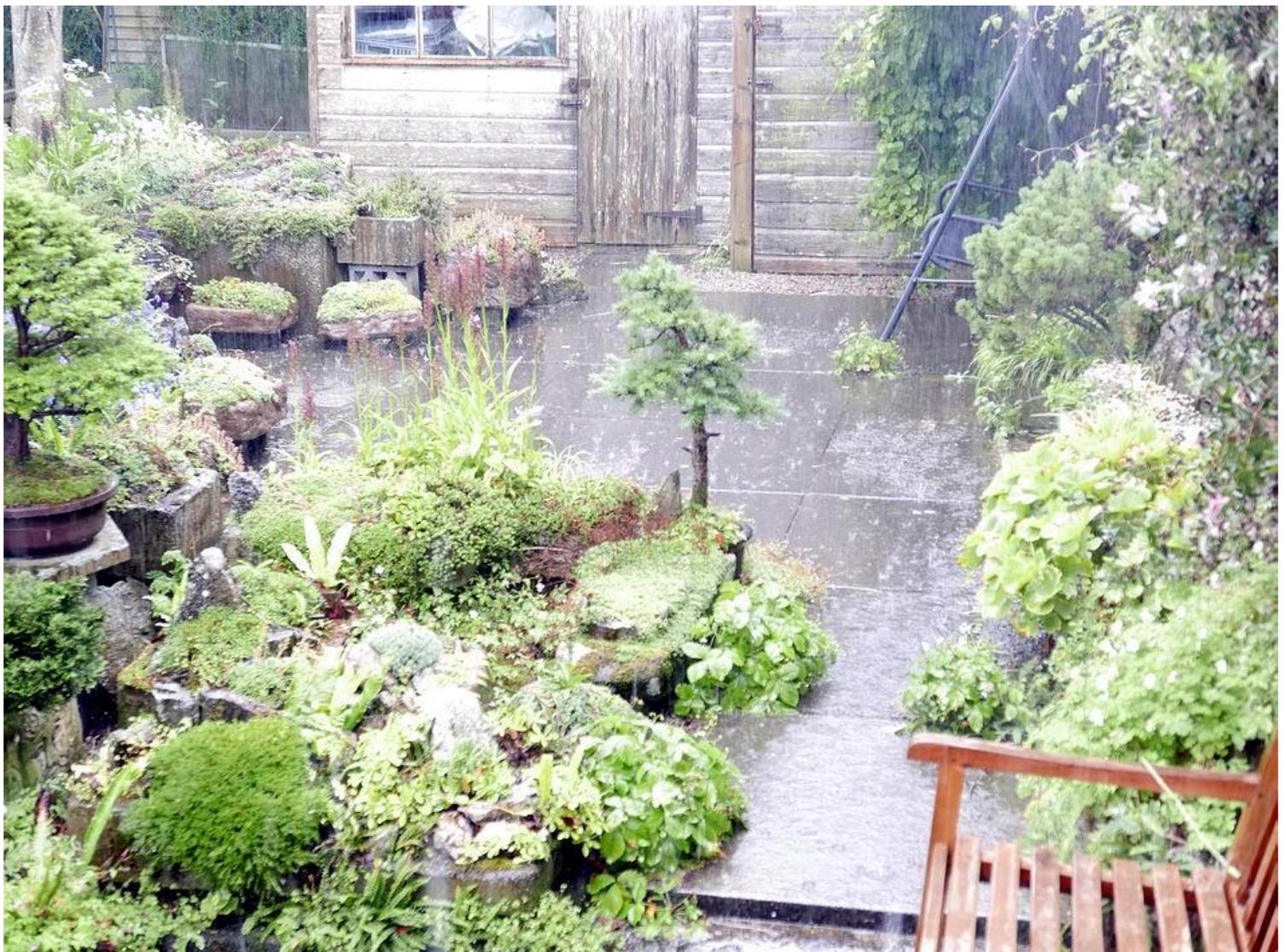
While the flowers are fascinating when looked at in detail they do not always make the most attractive forms when in flower – as we grow them primarily for their beautiful year round foliage effect I can accept this odd look.



We have had a mixture of weather with some warm sunny spells giving way to thunder, lightning and torrential rain as the build-up of these clouds suggests – they were quickly followed by the ones below.



Storm clouds



Torrential rain bouncing off the slabs drives us in from the garden.

I increasingly see the skill of gardening to be one of recognising, then using and adjusting the many habitats which we will find every garden to be full of, if we open our eyes and minds.



I am finding increasing opportunities working with the various habitats around and in the pond such as the moss covered rock that I seeded with *Pinguicula* – the wire mesh which I hope is a temporary measure was to prevent the birds stripping away the moss earlier in the year.





It is often the plants that guide me to new habitats within the garden who would have thought that Rhododendrons would seed into this bonsai pot which for much of the time is very dry and must be very low in nutrients.



The one thing that I do find when I repot a bonsai after a number of years is an abundance of mycorrhizal fungi which I am sure is very beneficial to the germination and growth of such seedlings. *Dactylorhiza* also seed around freely in these pots and areas.



This tree has always been grown in a pot – a couple of years back I moved it into this slightly bigger pot by the pond and the Campanula came with it. The Campanula, the name of which escapes me at this moment (it's from Greece) seeded around in various pots and troughs with trees and sempervivums where it remained small and compact now it is responding the higher level of nutrient in this new habitat.



Cyclamen hederifolium growing through **Cymbalaria muralis** - this unintended association of plants appeals to me can you think why?

Hederifolium is derived from heder a the latin for ivy and Cymbalaria has the common name of ivy-leaved toadflax.



Plants are adept of finding habitats to grow in that we would never consider such as this Bowles Golden Grass growing in the bowl of an acer.



Tussilago farfara

On one of my rare trips into the town I found these superb raised beds, pity they could not be landscaped and planted up rock garden style, however I was struck with the contrast between the planting of these two. The one above I suspect was not planted at all the *Tussilago farfara* arriving as root cuttings in the soil while the one below has been planted with a strange mixture of plants – unsurprisingly I like the top one better – the attractive green foliage greatly enhances the stark greyness of the granite buildings, cobbles and beds.





Tussilago farfara



Who would want a plant that has attractive flowers in the spring but is followed by large leaves that can smother the ground – I give you **Sanguinaria canadensis**.





The next group of pictures are of gardens in our area which I photographed while walking the dogs. The carefully tended one above I liked for its colour and natural feel all provided by some of the commonest and easiest of plants.

The next door garden had an unkept lawn which had gone wild and I liked it equally as much.

My interest in plants started when I was a boy and I became fascinated by the wild flowers of the countryside and mountains so it should



not be surprising that I am still as drawn to wild flowers as I am to some of the rare and challenging plants that we grow from around the world.



More examples are this unkept rose garden that has taken on a wonderful ground cover planting of strawberries (*Fragaria*)



A lawn in front of flats is greatly enhanced and made more interesting by the presence of ***Bellis perennis***, the common daisy.



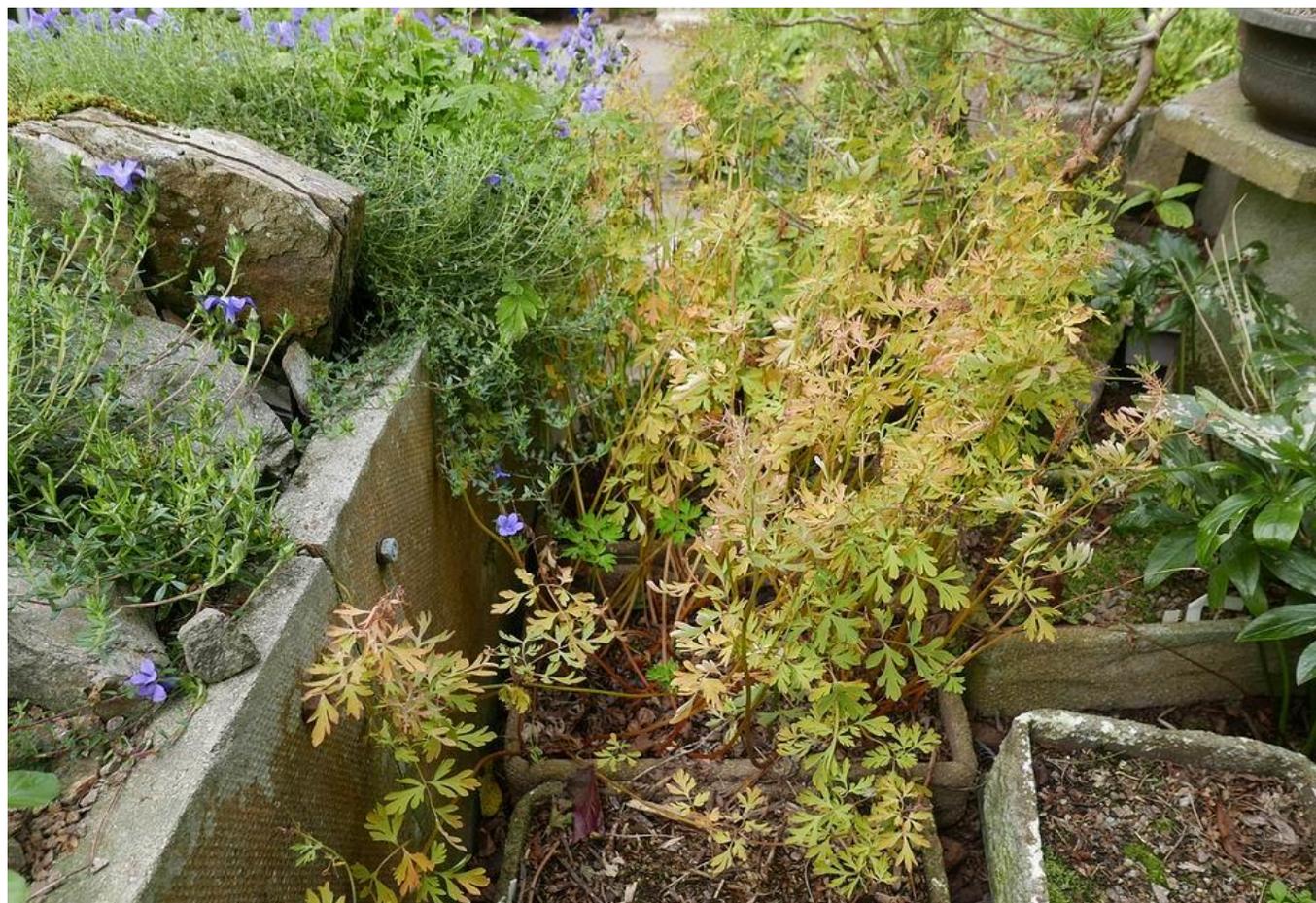
On closer inspection as well as the **Bellis perennis** there are some beautiful purple leaves of **Prunella vulgaris**.



Corydalis 'Craigton Purple'

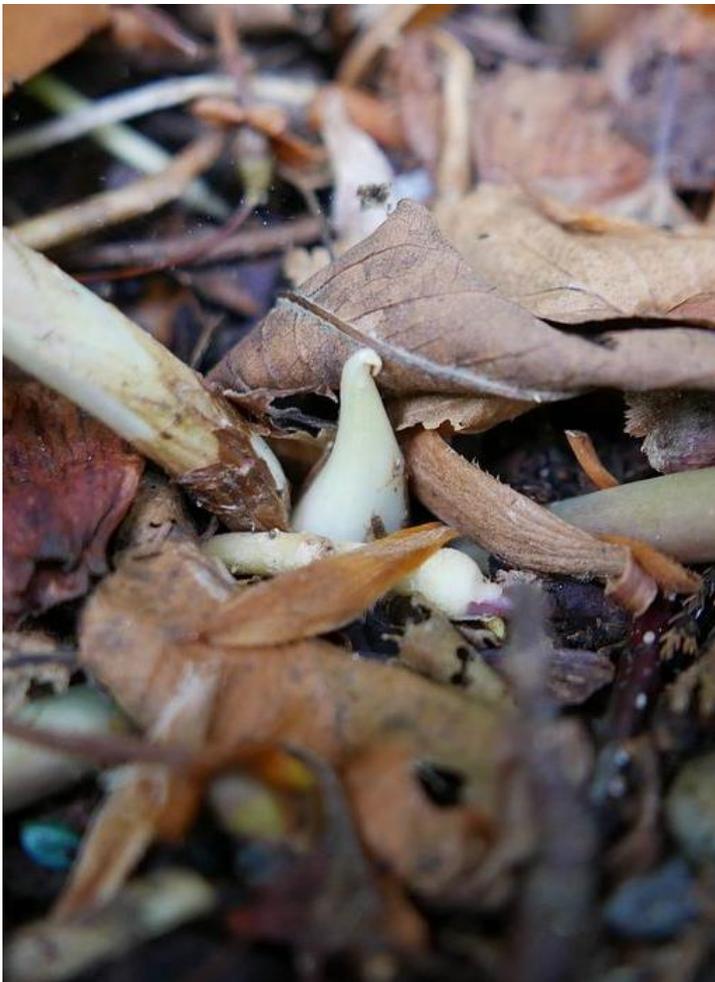


Back in the garden the influence of the habitat and environment on the growth of a plant is seen in these pictures of **Corydalis 'Craigton Purple'** above still green, growing in a shaded spot in the garden while in the two boxes that I am using to propagate and increase the stock the leaves have turned yellow due to the more restricted root run and resulting lack of moisture.

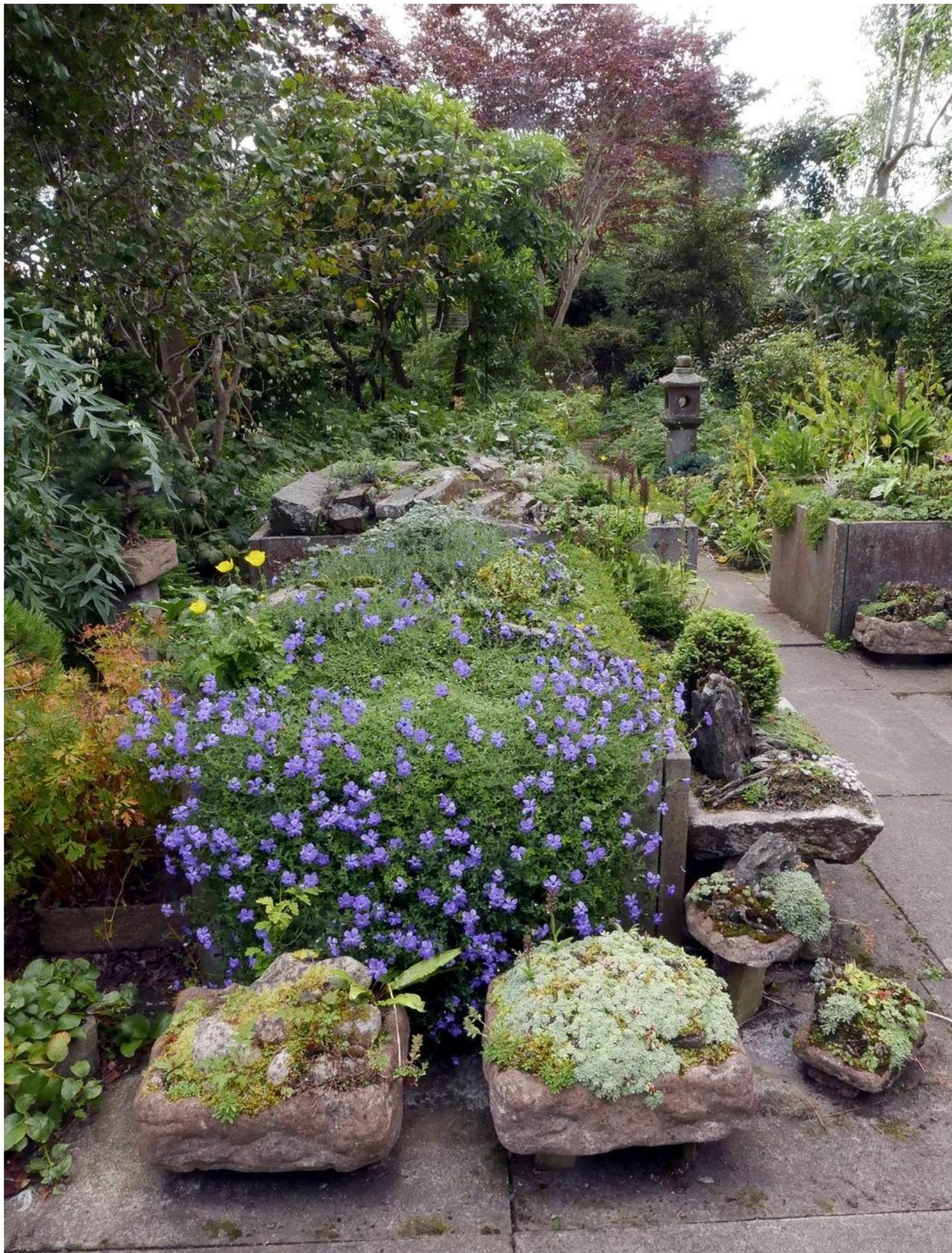




Other seasonal signs in the garden are the trillium stems with leaves well chewed that will soon turn yellow and die away while the fat seed pods will shed their seeds to ensure future generations, but even now next year's new shoot can be seen peeking through the ground at the base of the stems.



Trillium shoot and a snail - one of many and an all too familiar presence in the garden.



Back to the slab bed and I will now head off and plant some of the *Anemone ranunculoides* cultivars that I currently have growing in pots.

Click this link to view the latest [Bulb Log Video Diary Supplement](#) looking at the design and layout of the garden.