



BULB LOG 49.....6<sup>th</sup> December 2017





The snow-capped fungi encapsulate this time of the year as autumn transforms into winter and I wish that was the way it worked. However living within sight of the North Sea, which has a moderating effect on our weather, that is rarely the case, our seasons are not well defined. I describe our situation thus - we do not have our own weather we get other people's weather it all depends on which way the wind is blowing. Last week after loading the Bulb Log the wind turned from the mild south to coming from the cold north which brought the first snowfall of the winter.

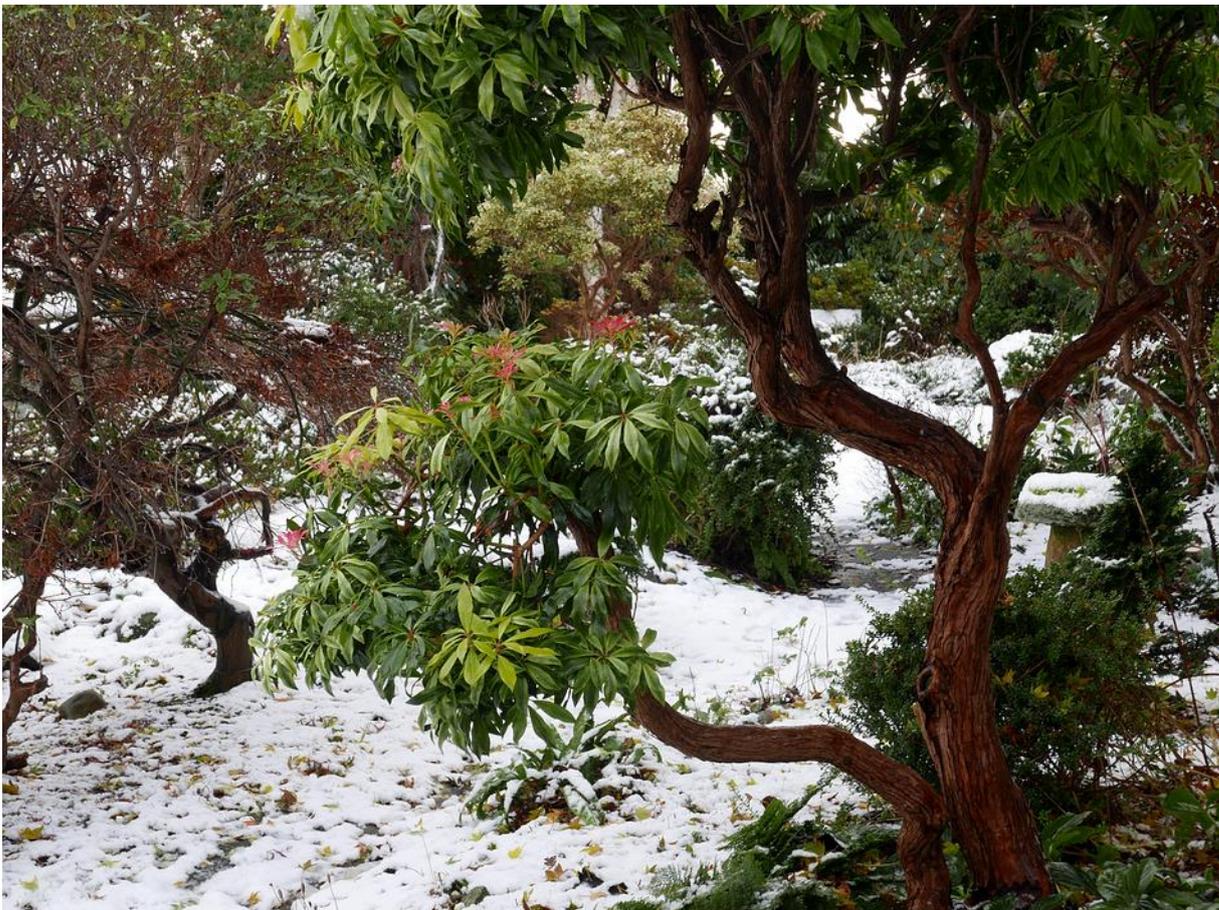


**Coral spot fungi (*Nectria cinnabarina*)**

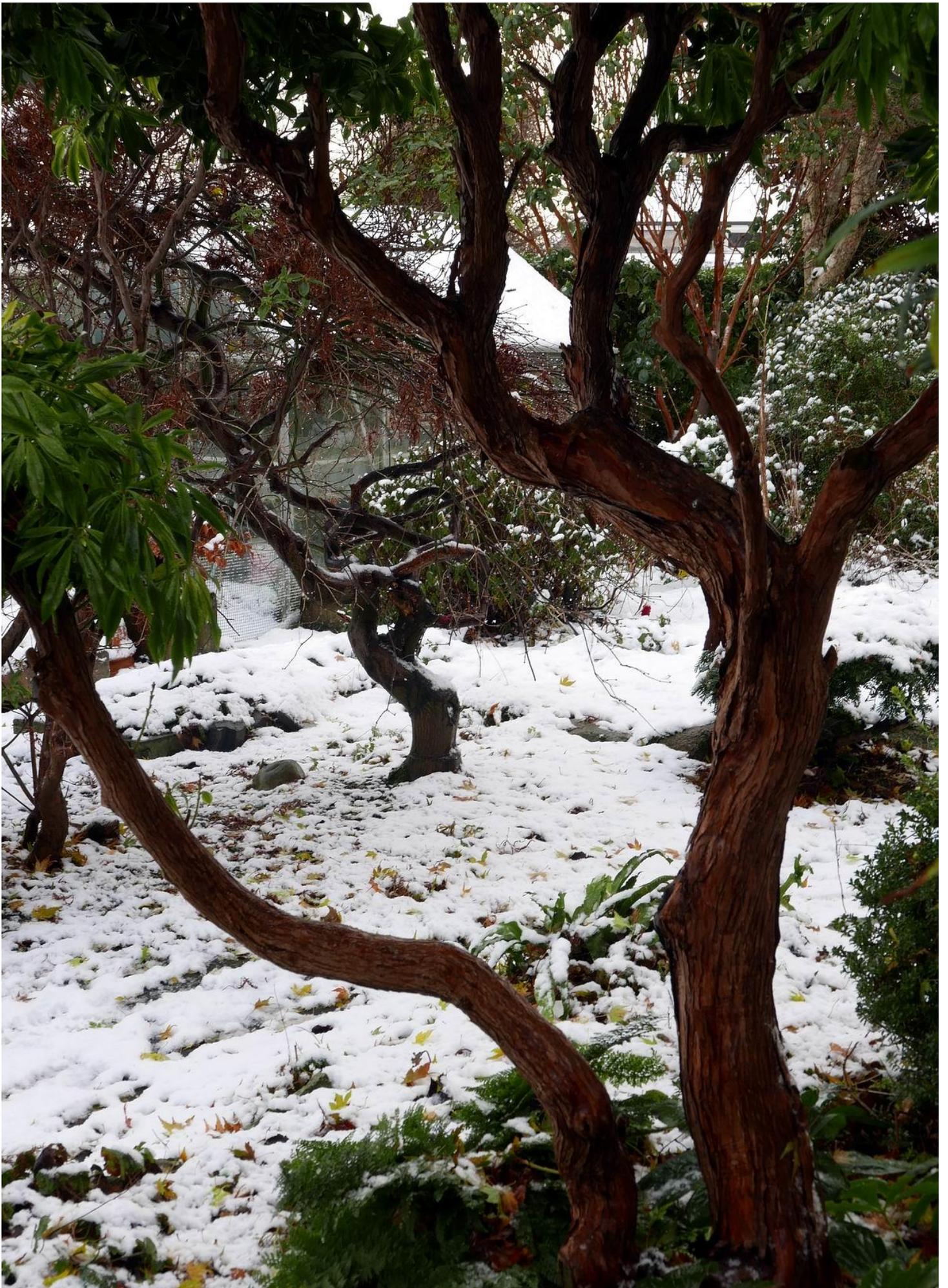
Coral spot is a less welcome fungus as it indicates die back on this Acer.



***Acer palmatum* 'Dissectum Atropurpureum'**



In the places where this tangle of *Acer* stems touch each other some have grafted together and are still healthy while with others the damage of rubbing has caused partial or complete die back. This process of die back and regeneration has gone on for a number of years as along with the *Pieris* in this picture, these are two of the first plants we acquired in 1972 and then moved with us when we came here in 1974.



Both the Pieris in the foreground and Acer beyond have knurled and twisted trunks and branches giving them real character worthy of their 45 years in our care.



To contrast with the warm colours of the autumnal views I posted last week here are the cool snowy versions – taken while the snow was falling.





***Celmisia lyalii***



***Rhododendron uvariifolium***



**Ferns and  
Rhododendron**





**Snow-capped peaks in a trough.**



**Pond**



This light snowfall is the first white covering that we have had for a few years, and it is not forecast to last long. If I had control of the weather, and for the garden's benefit, I would like a good covering of snow from December to the end of February then a thaw leading into spring. However the reality is that our weather will swing from freezing to mild conditions and back again as the winds change, sending confusing messages to many of the plants.



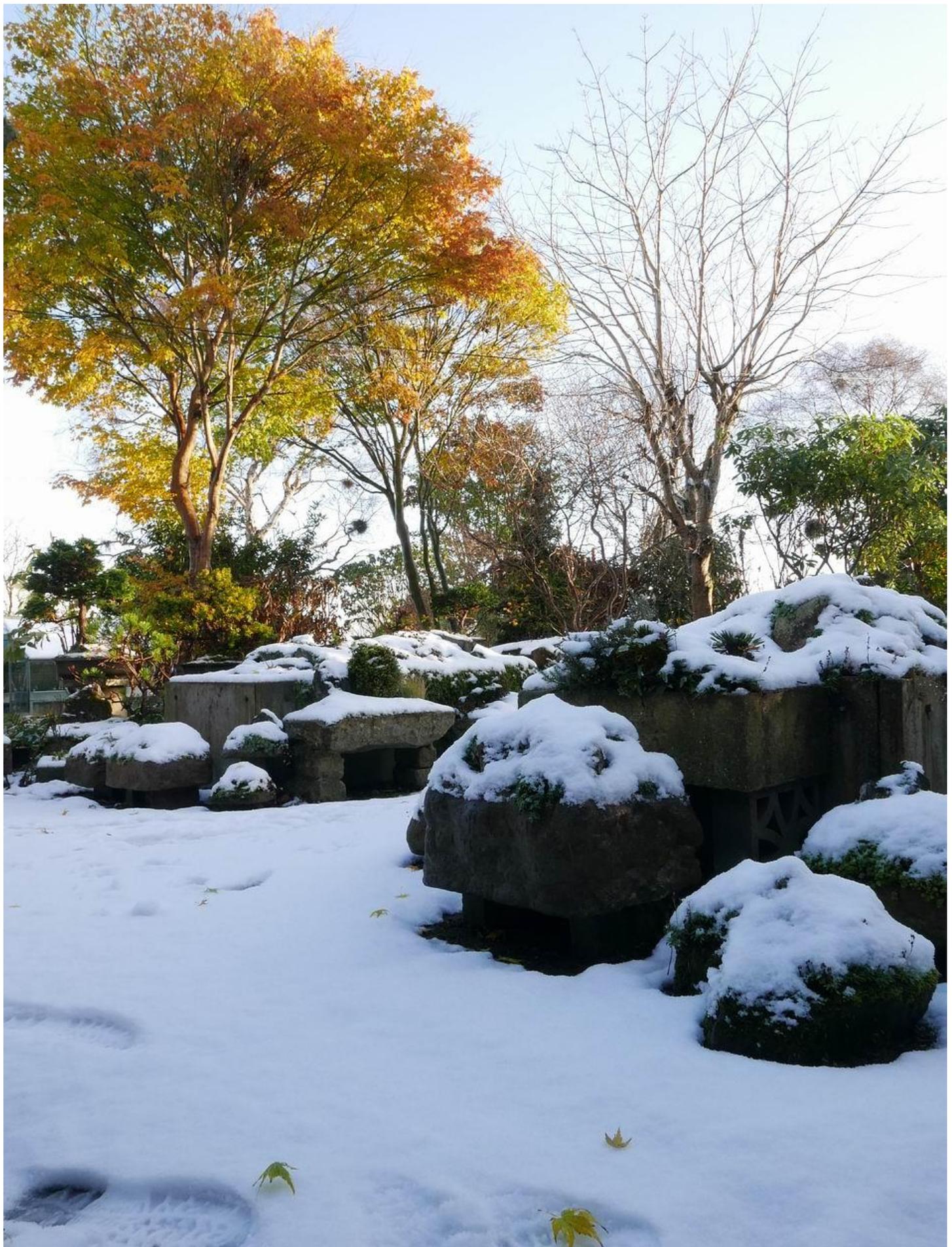
Two-thirty in the afternoon and the sun is getting very low.



**Trillium and Galanthus shoots.**



**Bulb Houses and troughs.**



The Acers stubbornly hang on to their leaves but with the cold wind and snow the urge for them to fall becomes too great. When I am working in another medium, drawing, painting, printmaking, I have the ultimate control of when the work is declared finished. It is not always an easy decision sometimes I may stop a work because I do not want to destroy what I have created to that stage; other times I go too far however that is not a choice I have with the garden, it cannot be frozen in time. The drive of the seasons and growth gives nature the ultimate control and the work never finishes.



After four days the snow thawed leaving a decorative carpet of fallen leaves to be lifted.



I have added two more Bulb Log Video Diary supplements since last week one reviewing [inside the bulb houses](#) filmed on 29<sup>th</sup> November and the other, with the [garden under snow](#), was the day later- click the links to check them out...