



BULB LOG 05.....1st February 2017





**Eranthis
byunsanensis**

I am so very fond of Eranthis and I am particularly attracted to this white flowered group from the Far East. Like most of these, I grew **Eranthis byunsanensis** from seed, which originally came from Korea. You can expect flowers within three years from seed.

The name is given as a synonym of Eranthis pinnatifida which may well be the case but the forms that I have raised are subtly different and I believe are worthy of being distinguished at least in cultivation.



Eranthis pinnatifida

One of my main objectives with any bulb (or plant) is to get them to set seed it is only then that I feel that we have really established it in the garden. This pot of seedlings was raised from our own seed sown as soon as it was ripe in May 2014 and as you see some of them have flowered. The flower stems appeared a few weeks ago in advance of the non-flowering leaves which have only pushed through this week. Another of my aims is to get as many plants as possible growing in the open garden and now I feel I have sufficient seedlings to plant a few outside in a raised bed.



Eranthis stellata

The first mature flowers I have ever had on **Eranthis stellata** are just starting to open. Last year there were a few immature, partially formed flowers but with one more year of growth the tubers can support full flowers now I just have to wait for them to open fully.

Eranthis are interesting in the way the flowers are not protected in a bud and start to form before they come through the ground – that is why they are often marked. Once they emerge the floral parts continue to expand until the flower is fully mature. I am very keen to get seed

to set so as soon as I see the pollen is ripe I will be out with my paint brush, cross-pollinating between the different flowers for several days - then I hope that the cold weather will not prevent a successful seed-set.



Eranthis stellata



Polystichum setiferum



Ferns are a very valuable addition to any garden and especially the ones which hold their fronds through the winter months.

I always agonise over whether to remove these fronds and if so, when?

I normally leave them until the early spring growth starts to emerge then, like I have done here; remove them to allow surrounding bulbs and the new fronds plenty of light when they emerge.



Asplenium scolopendrium

Asplenium scolopendrium is another of these ferns and this one sheds spores so young plants appear all over the garden. I love when it chooses to grow in cracks and gaps where we could never plant it plus we can very easily remove any that appear in unsuitable places.

I have removed last year's fronds – like I do with Helleborus, Hepatica and Epimedium, before the new growth emerges – it is so much more difficult to cut away the old leaves when the new growths are entwined.





The flowers of **Helleborus thibetanus** continue to grow very slowly in the cold weather but not without damage. It would be much better if they stayed dormant longer until the temperatures warm up enough for rapid growth.



The flowers of this reticulate Iris that I showed last week have emerged from the shoots with the tips chewed off.

**Galanthus
woronowii**

It is nice when bulbs increase in numbers forming a clump but there comes a point when the bulbs become over crowded making it difficult for the individual bulbs, especially those in the centre of the group, to get sufficient moisture and nutrients to support growth and flowers – that is when you need to split the clump.



This is a smaller clump of the same plant – it is not yet too congested and shows how it should be flowering.



Galanthus flowers push through the newly applied mulch.



**Galanthus
'Ramsay'**

I like to keep a pot of **Galanthus 'Ramsay'** in the bulb house not because it is difficult, we have clumps growing in the garden, but because of its diminutive size which suits a pot.

'Glenorma', below, on the other hand is a lovely big flowered plicatus seedling selected by Sue and Wol Staines of Glen Chantry.



Galanthus 'Glenorma' is precious and we will grow it in a pot until we build up sufficient numbers then we will plant some in the garden.



Different early flowering genera grow side by side in the bulb house.



Colchicum trigynum above was previously called Merendra because the petals do not fuse into a tube but now they have been reclassified as Colchicum.

Sometimes our plants go backwards – I had more plants of **Corydalis oppositifolia subsp. kurdica** at one time, enough to fill a pot, but for some reason I am left with fewer plants this year.

It is easy when a bulb is growing and increasing well to take it for granted, paying less attention to its cultivation – that is a mistake as it can quickly reduce in numbers.



Bulb house



I separated out this vigorous open pollinated *Narcissus romieuxii* seedling last year because I think it has well-shaped flowers with a lobed corona.



More flowers have opened on this pot of **Narcissus romieuxii subsp. albidus var. zianicus** since I showed it last week.



Pale coloured **Narcissus romieuxii** beside some nice yellow **Narcissus bulbocodium**.



Looking at the sand plunge bed suggests to me that I need to plant some more of the yellows to give variation.



Out in the frames the growth of *Eranthis* 'Orange Glow' make an appearance as they push through with their heads bowed.



The earliest of the **Eranthis hyemalis** are also coming through heralding the exciting season ahead of us. This week a cold front passed over us and when I checked the temperature at 09.30 in the morning it was minus 5.5C. Since then an Atlantic front moved in bringing milder conditions and a lot of heavy rain this is just what we need to fuel the imminent spring growth.....