



SRGC

Bulb Log Diary

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One of the many things that makes gardening so interesting is that no two years are ever the same - different weather conditions mean that while the seasons go around, the sequence of flowering and growth constantly varies. So far this year flowering is over two weeks later than it was last year.



With so much in the garden to look at this Bulb Log will take the form of a photo essay – a snapshot of the garden.



Erythronium 'Minnehaha'



Pink Erythronium revolutum

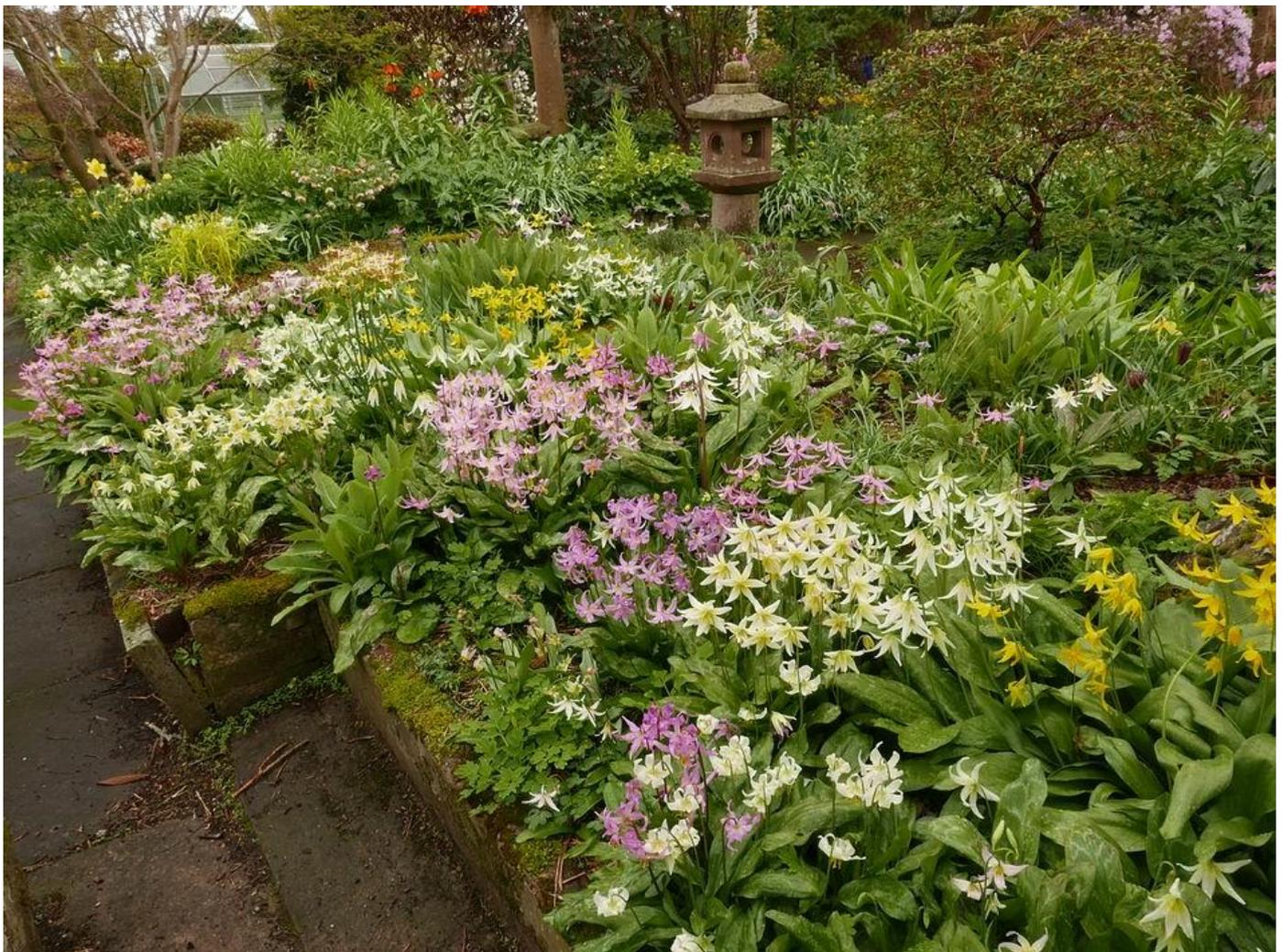


Erythronium plunge beds alongside the slab beds and troughs.

It will come as no surprise to learn that it is the Erythronium that are the main focus of my attention this week.



The frame in the foreground used to be for potted plants but now it is all mesh baskets plunged in sand while the frame behind is still mostly pots.



The main plunge frames are displaying good colour now I hope for some good weather to help the pollination and a successful seed set.



The rock garden bed backs on to the sand plunge giving a seamless transition to the garden.



Erythronium 'Eirene' and Erythronium 'Susannah'



Erythronium 'Eirene' and 'Susannah'

Along with Erythronium 'Minnehaha' Erythronium 'Eirene' and Erythronium 'Susannah' are some of the finest garden hybrids and all were raised by the late John Walker from Kent.

'Eirene' and 'Susannah' are named for his grand daughters and they are the finest yellow hybrids that I have seen and here I have recorded the differences where you can observe that 'Eirene' is slightly paler yellow especially on the outside of the petals where the tips are almost white.

They are hybrids of Erythronium tuolumnense from which they have inherited the yellow colour, the sturdy growth and a good rate of increase as the bulbs quickly form clumps.

Below you can see that 'Susannah' (on the right) has a deeper yellow more defined central zone than does 'Eirene'.



Erythronium 'Eirene' and 'Susannah'





I have to mention **Fritillaria imperialis** looking majestic in the bulb bed.

I will continue to give them additional feeding to encourage more flowers next year. Having given them a balanced fertiliser at the first signs of growth now they are in flower I will switch to a potassium supplement.



Erythronium revolutum hybrids, Fritillaria meleagris and Fritillaria imperialis.



Never let the detail distract you from the colourful spectacle of the mass view.

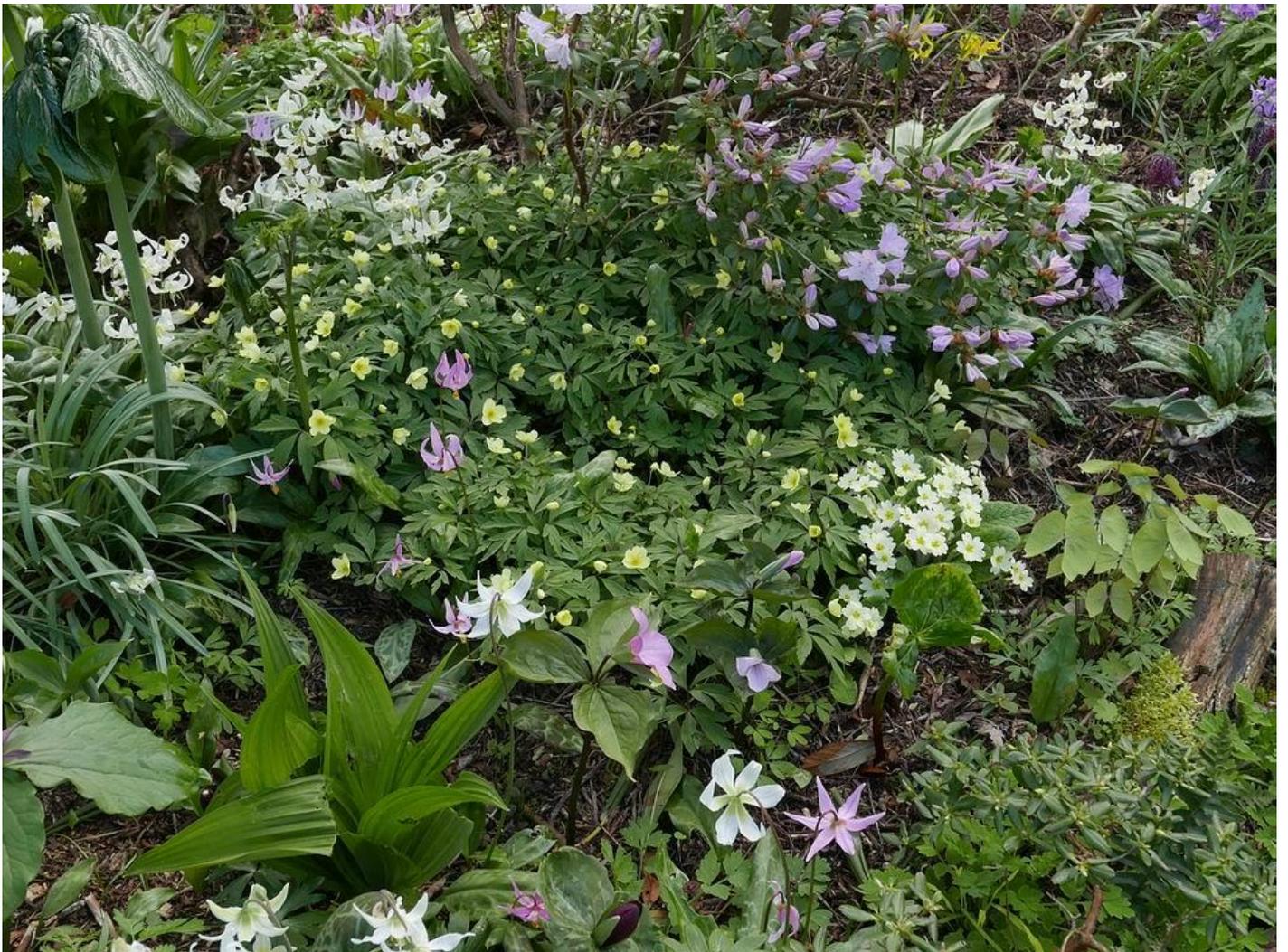
It is very tempting when taking pictures to move in close and fill the frame with a plant or flower but experience has shown me that more than often the overall picture of the plant in its surroundings is the most effective and informative whether in the garden or in the natural habitat.



Plant associations, especially when there is a good variation of foliage and colour, is much more interesting and decorative in a garden than a specimen plant growing in isolation.



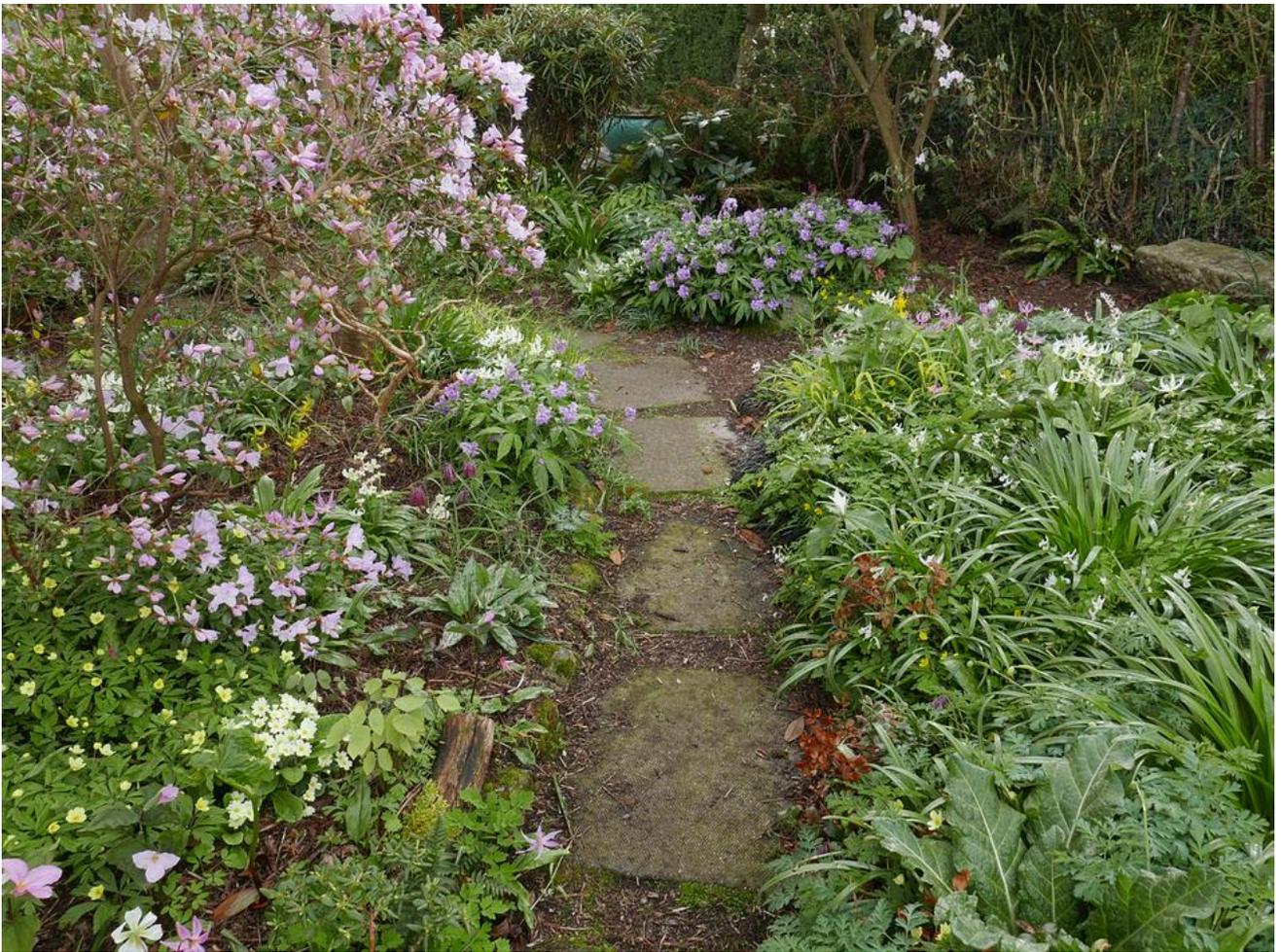
It is in the garden that continents can meet with plants from many parts of the world growing together.





Anemone x seemanii, Primula vulgaris and Jeffersonii diphylla.





Because so many plants self-seed into the gravel parts of the path we have to tread carefully from slab to slab.



Anemone blanda is among the plants to seed around the gravel.



Narcissus bulbocodium and Erythronium.



Pink **Erythronium revolutum** seeds around freely.



Erythronium revolutum also hybridises with the likes of *Erythronium californicum*.





Erythronium revolutum



Trillium grandiflorum

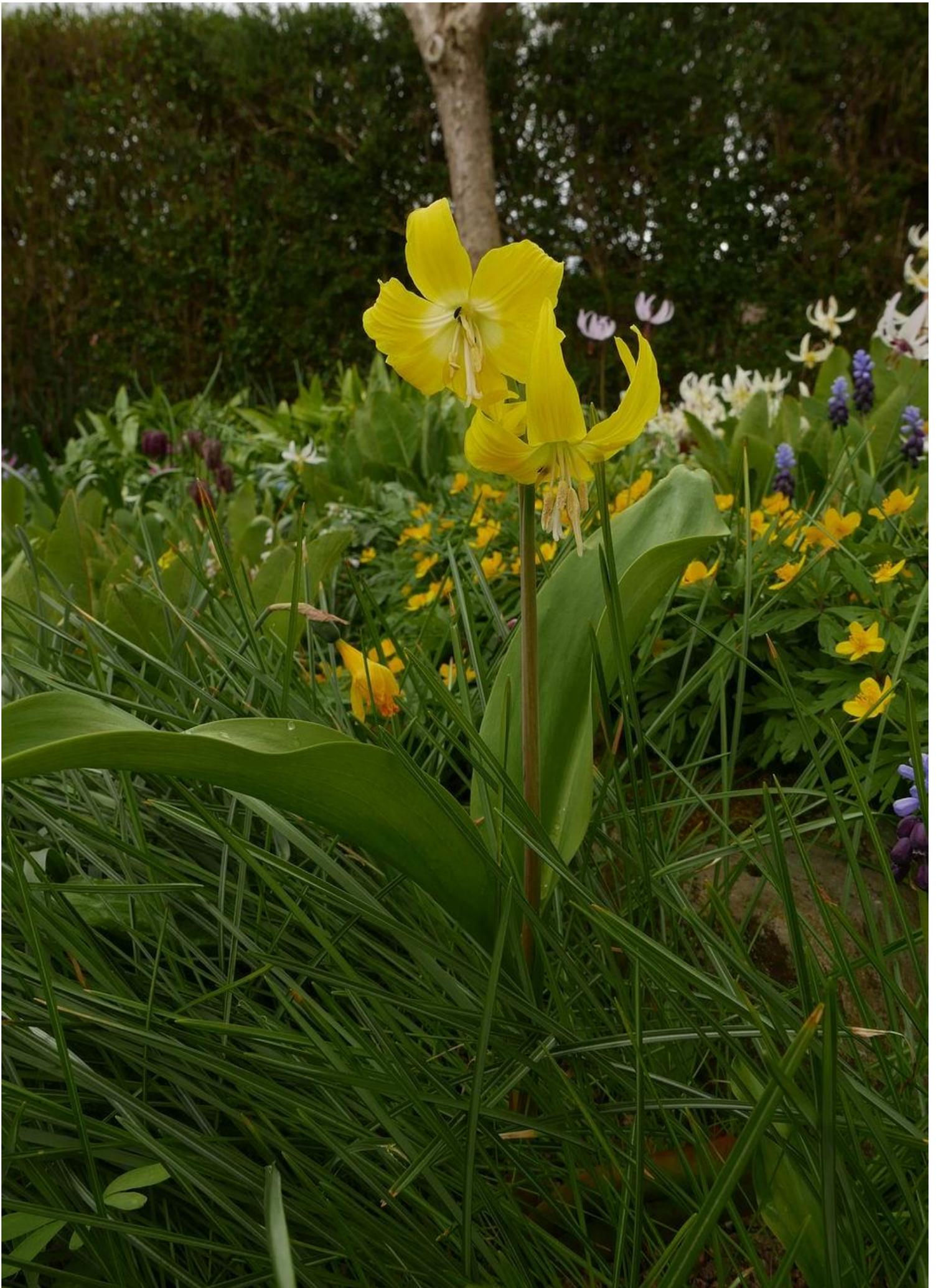


In this group of **Erythronium grandiflorum** I raised from seed you can see the three varieties - according to the colour of the pollen, var. pallidum has pale yellow, var. chrysandrum, golden and the one I find most attractive with the contrasting brown pollen, var. grandiflorum.



I stated “never let the detail distract you from the colourful spectacle of the mass view” however nor should you let the mass view distract you from observing the detail.

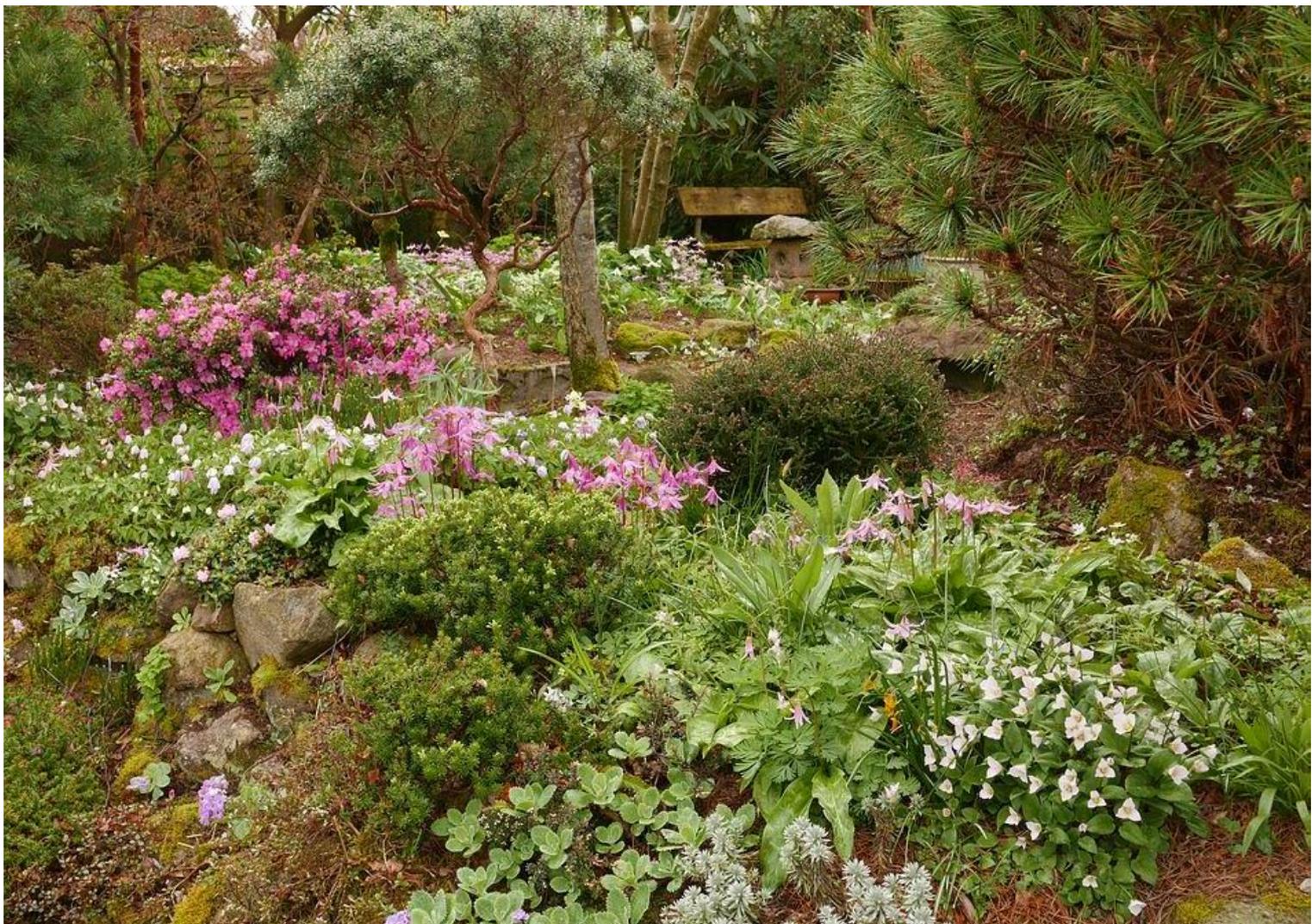
I try and look at every single Erythronium flower.



Erythronium grandiflora* var. *pallidum



One of the areas I am reclaiming by cutting back the growth of (mostly) Rhododendrons to open up lots more ground planting opportunities – I started to plant it up last autumn.



I have designed the garden so that from certain angles there are points where a number of individual beds combine into to a single view, here I look across the raised wall with the new bed (near the pond in the middle distance) then the area where Erythronium and Trillium are left to naturalise beyond – see also below.



Rhododendron dendrocharis makes a good companion for the smaller bulbous plants growing in the raised wall.





Erythronium and Trillium are left to naturalise in this bed.



The leaves on the trees are just starting to emerge now and the atmosphere of the garden changes once the canopy is complete - visually it feels more enclosed and woodland-like and climatically the areas under the canopy stay cooler and more moist.



With the *Rhododendron elegantulum* and *uvariifolium* now over colour is provided by a *R. racemosum* hybrid and *Rhododendron yaushimanum* x *tsarienses*



Once more click on the link to walk with *Erythronium* in the latest [Bulb Log Video Diary Supplement](#).