



BULB LOG 17.....24th April 2019



Tropaeolum azureum and *Tropaeolum tricolorum*



These *Tropaeolum azureum* and *tricolorum*, growing in one of the bulb house sand beds, make a very attractive colour combination as they intertwine. *Tropaeolum tricolorum* flowers open a few weeks before *Tropaeolum azureum* but the plants produce so many flowers in succession that there is always a significant overlap.



Bulb house 'U' shaped sand bed.

The sand bed is full of bulbs and by growing climbers I can also utilise the sides of the glass house. We have grown both of these *Tropaeolum* for thirty years and they have proven hardy under cold glass condition – despite several attempts I have never managed to establish them in the open garden.



Tropaeolum azureum* and *Tropaeolum tricolorum



Tropaeolum tricolorum also grows well in a pot as seen in the bulb house where it also covers the sides offering a natural form of shade.



Tropaeolum tricolorum

This Muscari sp. grown from wild collected seed is likewise perfectly hardy in the garden as well as in the bulb house we also have it growing outside in some of the slab beds.





Seeing the Narcissus flowers fading is a reminder that it is time to give all the bulbs a potassium supplement – as always I do this in the form readily available in the UK as Sulphate of Potash. I simply scatter a small amount of the white powder on each pot or around the stems where they are growing the sand plunge before I water and that will provide the bulb with the best nutrient to produce next season’s flower buds which should be forming now.



Sulphate of Potash - Potassium



Tristagma leichtlinii is another South American bulb. We originally raised it from seed collected by John Watson however this is a pot of seedlings raised from our own garden seed collected from some of the original plants. This plant has also proven hardy and is growing in number of habitats in the garden.

As I am away in Inverewe when I should be writing this Bulb Log I am preparing it a week early so there are fewer words but please enjoy the pictures.



You can feel the warmth in this image of **Tulipa bakeri** basking in the sunshine under glass.



Fritillaria tubiformis* and *Fritillaria moggridgei

Above and below are pots of seed raised hardy *Fritillaria* ready to be planted out in the summer.



Fritillaria latifolia* and *Fritillaria aurea



Erythronium revolutum* hybrids and *Fritillaria meleagris



Trillium grandiflorum



The path between the hedge and the back of a bed, which is in shade most of the time, is a suitable habitat for the likes of *Anemone x lipsiensis*.



Anemone x lipsiensis



Various forms of **Anemone ranunculoides**.



Taraxacum officinale

**Taraxacum
officinale**

My pet
Dandelion,
which has been
growing in a
prime spot in one
of the slab beds
for twenty years,
is a constant
reminder that all
plants are
interesting and
deserve my
respect.



Jeffersonia dubia



Jeffersonia dubia



Erythronium americanum 'Craigton Flower'



***Erythronium americanum* 'Craigton Flower'**



The white flowers of ***Anemonella thalictroides*** growing happily alongside *Pyrola media* and *Erythronium americanum*.



The Erythronium frames, where the plants are growing in mesh baskets plunged into sand, are starting to show plenty of colour now.

Erythronium,
Dicentra,
Trillium,
Pseudotrillium,
Corydalis and
Fritillaria are
among the
plants growing
in this small
frame – these
are also
growing in
mesh pond
baskets.





There are a few first flowers appearing in this basket of seedlings from the **Erythronium sibiricum complex**- I continue to refer to these as a complex because I recognise that we are growing very different entities under the *Erythronium sibiricum* but I do not yet know the correct names I should be using.



**Erythronium
sibiricum
complex**



Erythronium sibiricum complex



Erythronium sibiricum complex



This interesting small *Erythronium* grows on Mount Provost on Vancouver Island related to *Erythronium grandiflorum* it is the one that in my book I suggested could be a new species and I still believe that.



I was fortunate to get some more seed a few years ago and this is pot of those seedlings now in their second year – when I get them to flowering size I will be better able to compare them and see what variation there is between them.

The real work to understand this plant needs to be done in the Mount Provost habitat where the full range of the species can be studied.



Rhododendron dendrocharis



I will leave you this week with a close up of **Rhododendron dendrocharis** flowers.....