



BULB LOG 08..... 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019





**Eranthis pinnatifida**



This is one of a number of plants of *Eranthis pinnatifida* that I planted out last autumn in the new bed I made by the pond. I raised them from our own seed collected from our pot grown plants and decided I had enough pots of seedlings to 'risk' planting some out. There is a tendency among growers, especially in the UK, to grow new, scarce or special plants we acquire in pots in the mistaken belief that they will be better off there. I have known for many years this belief is a fallacy as plants in pots are far more likely to suffer than they would if they are planted in a suitable spot in the garden. In spite of this knowledge it has taken me many years to pluck up the courage to

plant out any of our *Eranthis pinnatifida*. Two years ago I did plant out in beds which I thought would be suitable habitats for this diminutive beauty to be able to grow without being swamped by larger growth. Encouraged by their success last year I decided these are plants to cherish not cosset so I planted out a whole pot of them into the new bed and am delighted to see how well they are growing – even those that are too small to flower this year are growing strongly and I will be comparing their growth carefully with the plants that I still have in pots..



I also planted some *Eranthis* 'Guinea Gold' in the same new bed and choose this form to plant here because it does not set seed and so will not threaten to swamp the *Eranthis pinnatifida*.

### *Eranthis pinnatifida*

The possibility of other *Eranthis* seeding into and competing with its smaller relative is evident in one of my pots of seed raised plants still growing in the frame where an *Eranthis hyemalis* has seeded in. I will deal with this later as it is my intention to also plant all these plants out into the new bed and it will be very easy to distinguish the difference by the size of the corms.





Largely due to adverse weather I got a very poor seed set on our *Eranthis pinnatifida* last year but the few seeds I did get are germinating now with the appearance of a single leaf which is unlike the other *Eranthis* which have two seed leaves one of the reasons some Botanists classify these as a separate genus *Shibateranthis pinnatifida*.



A few weeks ago I showed with disappointment this pot of ***Eranthis pinnatifida*** where the flower stems had been chewed or broken off now I am pleased to see that there is leaf growth which will feed and allow the plants to grow.



***Eranthis byunsanensis***

**Eranthis byunsanensis** looks very similar to *Eranthis pinnatifida* but it only grows in Korea as opposed to Japan and apparently there are also some genetic differences.

You can read about the [Eranthis in Wim Boens](#) informative article in an edition of the SRGC's open access and free to download online magazine the [International Rock Gardener \(IRG\)](#) which has been published every month since January 2010.



Also being 'cosseted' in a pot are some green marked forms of **Galanthus woronowii** that I just received last year however I have learnt to spread the risk and on receiving them I planted half of the small bulbs in this pot and the others in one of the outside beds where they are also growing well.



Two different clones of **Galanthus woronowii** with green markings on the outer petals.



Another desirable form of *Galanthus woronowii* can be seen in this picture growing to the right of a clump of a semi-poculiform of *Galanthus nivalis*.

***Galanthus* 'Elizabeth Harrison'** was discovered in the Scottish garden of the lady whose name it bears and it has attractive and distinctive yellow ovaries and markings.



***Galanthus* 'Elizabeth Harrison' growing with *Cyclamen coum*.**



The snowdrops are really enjoying this period of mild sunny weather we are having opening their flowers and shedding their pollen.



**Galanthus cultivars.**



These *Iris reticulata* are flowering through the debris of autumn and last year's growth.





**Iris 'Katharine Hodgkin'** flowers are also opening in these fine weather conditions.



**Iris 'Katharine Hodgkin'**



**Iris 'Katharine Hodgkin'**



**Crocus tommasinianus**



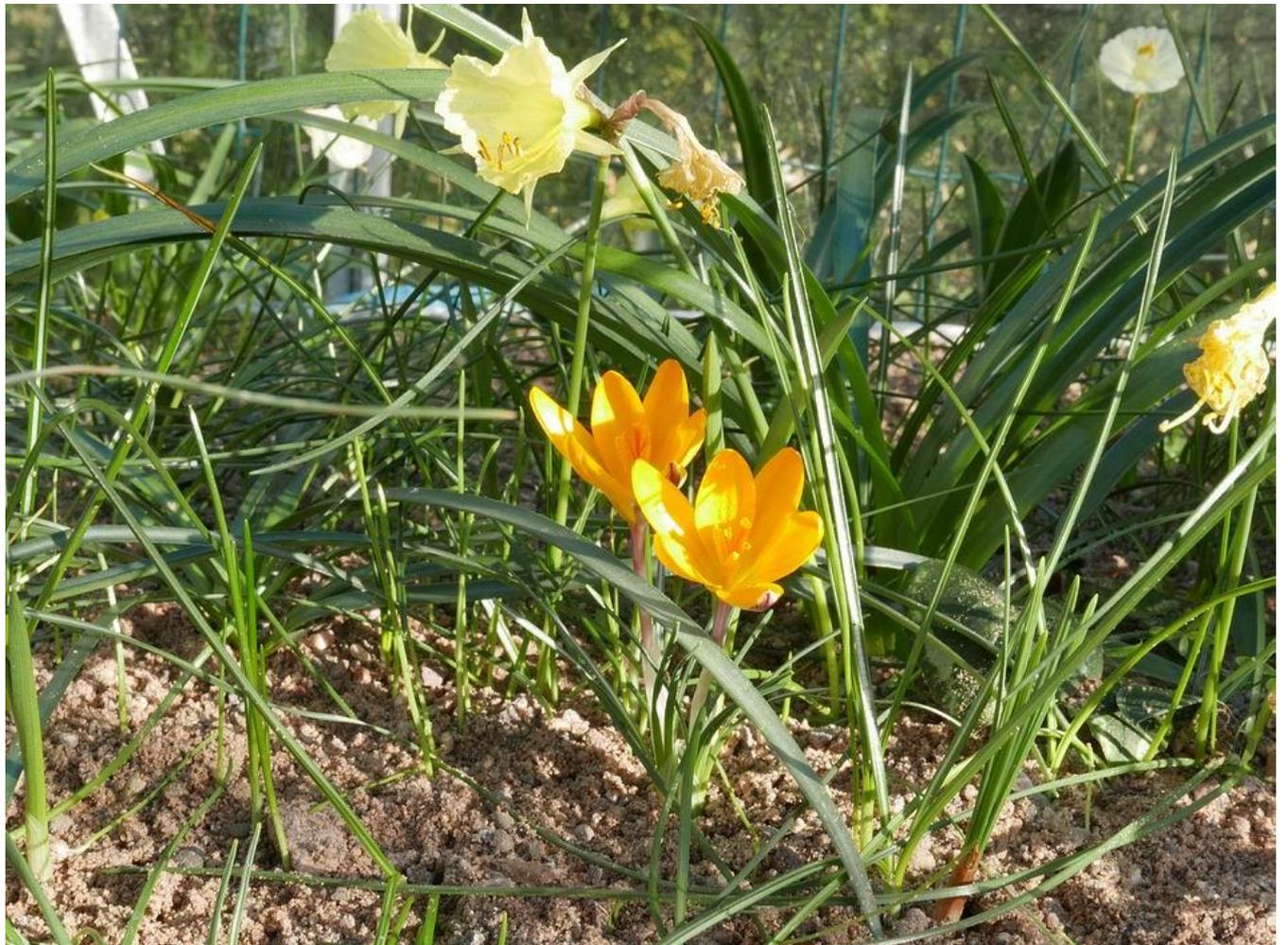
**Crocus tommasinianus**



**Crocus atticus**



**Crocus chrysanthus cultivars**



**Crocus chrysanthus**



**Crocus biflorus**



To fuel the rapid growth of these early plants I have been spreading a very light scattering of an N-P-K, 7-7-7 pelletised Growmore fertiliser around the beds. It is not so much to feed the Galanthus and others which have found food and are already in good leaf but to replenish the nutrients for the imminent next phases of plants that will soon appear. I use much less than the recommended application rates because while I want the bulbs to have some added nutrients in our densely planted garden I do not want there to be too much nitrogen present which would result in the growth being too soft and lush.



The early trumpet daffodils are also making a welcome appearance with *Narcissus hispanicus* always being among the first into flower.



*Narcissus asturiensis* Navarre collected by Gathorne Hardy in the Navarre region of North West Spain in 1937.



I do give ***Narcissus asturiensis vasconicus*** a special place to grow in the bulb house sand bed because it is very small and not really suited to growing in the garden beds where it could easily get overlooked.



***Narcissus asturiensis vasconicus*, *Narcissus bulbocodium* and hybrids.**



The next few pictures are of the lovely random flowering combinations in the mixed plantings of bulbs.





***Narcissus cantabricus petunioides***



***Colchicum szovitsii***



The first of the **Erythronium caucasicum** are in an advanced state of bud and will soon open their flowers.

There have been a number of mentions in the media recently about the early season we are experiencing and it is my view that our perception that growth and flowering is advanced does not always hold up to the evidence. Despite the reports I find the state of growth is almost exactly as it was

this time last year – the big difference came with the ‘Beast from the East’, that prolonged blast of freezing windy weather that hit us towards the end of February 2018 causing so much damage – I hope we do not get a repeat of that.



I made a [Bulb Log Video Diary Supplement](#) after I had posted last week’s Log so click the link if you have not already seen it.....