



BULB LOG 12.....20<sup>th</sup> March 2019



Corydalis 'Craigton Red'



The waves of colour that flow over the garden started over a month ago with the white surf formed of *Galanthus* and *Leucojum* intersected by the yellow river of *Eranthis hyemalis* but now things are hotting up with the bright colours provided by *Corydalis solida* flowers starting to open. We have raised hundreds if not thousands of seedlings of this species but there is only one that stood out enough to warrant me to give it a cultivar name and distribute it. ***Corydalis***

**'Craigton Red'** is the brightest and nearest to a true red form that I have seen: in addition it displays beautifully holding its flowers well above the foliage. This one is growing in a mesh plunge basket in a frame to ease increase but we also have it growing in a number of beds around the garden.



***Eranthis 'Guinea Gold'*** flowers slightly later than others staying fresh for long enough in most years to overlap with the flowering of ***Corydalis solida* spp *incisa*** which can be seen here seeding around in this raised slab bed along with the creamy white ***Corydalis malkensis*** in the foreground.

***Hepatica nobilis*  
and  
*Corydalis solida***

*Hepatica nobilis* is among other early flowering plants, primarily of the Family Ranunculaceae, that are also now emerging to join in with the increasing burst of colour and growth that is flowing across the garden. Here it is growing alongside *Corydalis solida* in a narrow concrete-landscaped area between the path and an *Erythronium plunje*.



*Hepatica nobilis* and *Corydalis solida* seedlings sharing a small landscape built consisting of concrete



View of this narrow bed where I planted the *Hepatica* and *Corydalis* seedlings both of which are now themselves self-seeding.



Elsewhere a powder blue form of ***Hepatica transsilvanica*** is also flowering – this form does not set seed but spreads out by stems running just under the surface which form roots and so they can be lifted as independent plants.



*Primula marginata* 'Napoleon' and *Saxifraga* 'Theoden' bring early colour to this trough



A self-seeding colony of *Helleborus* catch the low sunshine.



I liken these early phases of flowering to waves of colour flowing over the garden which like with the rising of the tides, each wave washes ever further up until they completely cover the beach.



Some of the later forms of Galanthus are still flowering as the *Corydalis malkensis* and *solida* come into bloom.



**Trillium ovatum maculosum**

This *Trillium ovatum maculosum* is always the first of the trilliums to flower each year in our garden and it is not as if it is growing in a warm spot, quite the contrary, it is in the front garden at the north of the house and rarely gets any direct sunshine this early in the year. The early flowering must be genetically controlled as is the spotting of the leaves which makes it distinct from the typical plain green leaves of *Trillium ovatum*.



There are many *Trillium* seedlings that are now in growth all around the garden where their decoratively patterned leaves add interest even though they may not yet be of flowering size.



Another group of *Trillium kurubayashii* seedlings which are of flowering size.



Paeonia and Trillium



In front of this **Trillium kurubayashii** something is pushing the pine needle mulch up to form a hump.



I carefully adjusted the mulch to allow the *Trillium rivale* growths to see the light. I know this plant has been reclassified and I am supposed to call it *Pseudotrillium rivale*, a new genus that was proposed in 2002 on the basis of morphology and molecular evidence, but old habits are hard to break and for now I will stick with calling it *Trillium rivale*.



The dark patterns on the leaves of *Erythronium* seedlings only start to develop in their third year of growth and will not be fully developed until the plants are five years old as illustrated across this group of self-sown seedlings.



*Erythronium revolutum*



*Crocus heuffelianus* are still flowering in the cobble bed.



*Tecophilaea cyanocrous* and a *Muscari* flowering in one of the bulb-house sand beds.





***Eranthis byunsanensis*** and two forms of ***Eranthis pinnatifida*** showing the variation in their foliage.



The flower stem of this *Erythronium caucasicum* has fallen to the ground and if you look very carefully just in front of the plant you will see the thin grass like first leaves resulting from last year's seed germinating now.



*Primula marginata* flowering in a mini- crevice landscape which was my solution to what could have been an ugly unnatural looking gap between two troughs that I used to form an edge to the new bed by the pond.





*Narcissus cyclamineus*



It is not just at ground level that we are enjoying waves of colour above our heads **Rhododendron thomsonii** heralds the start of the main rhododendron flowering.



**Rhododendron 'Cilpinense'**



All the plants in the front drives, including this **Narcissus bulbocodium**, were grown by simply scattering seed on the gravel.



I will leave you this week with the Narcissus bulbocodium and a link to the latest [Bulb Log Video Diary Supplement.....](#)