



BULB LOG 12.....18th March 2020

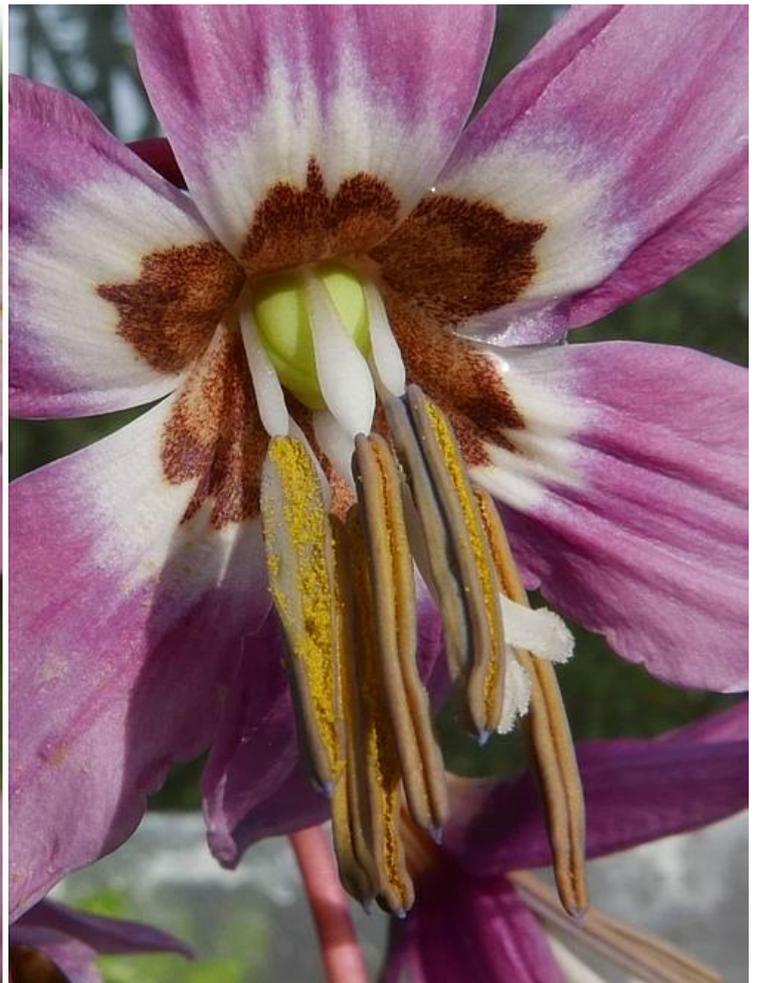


Erythronium dens-canis

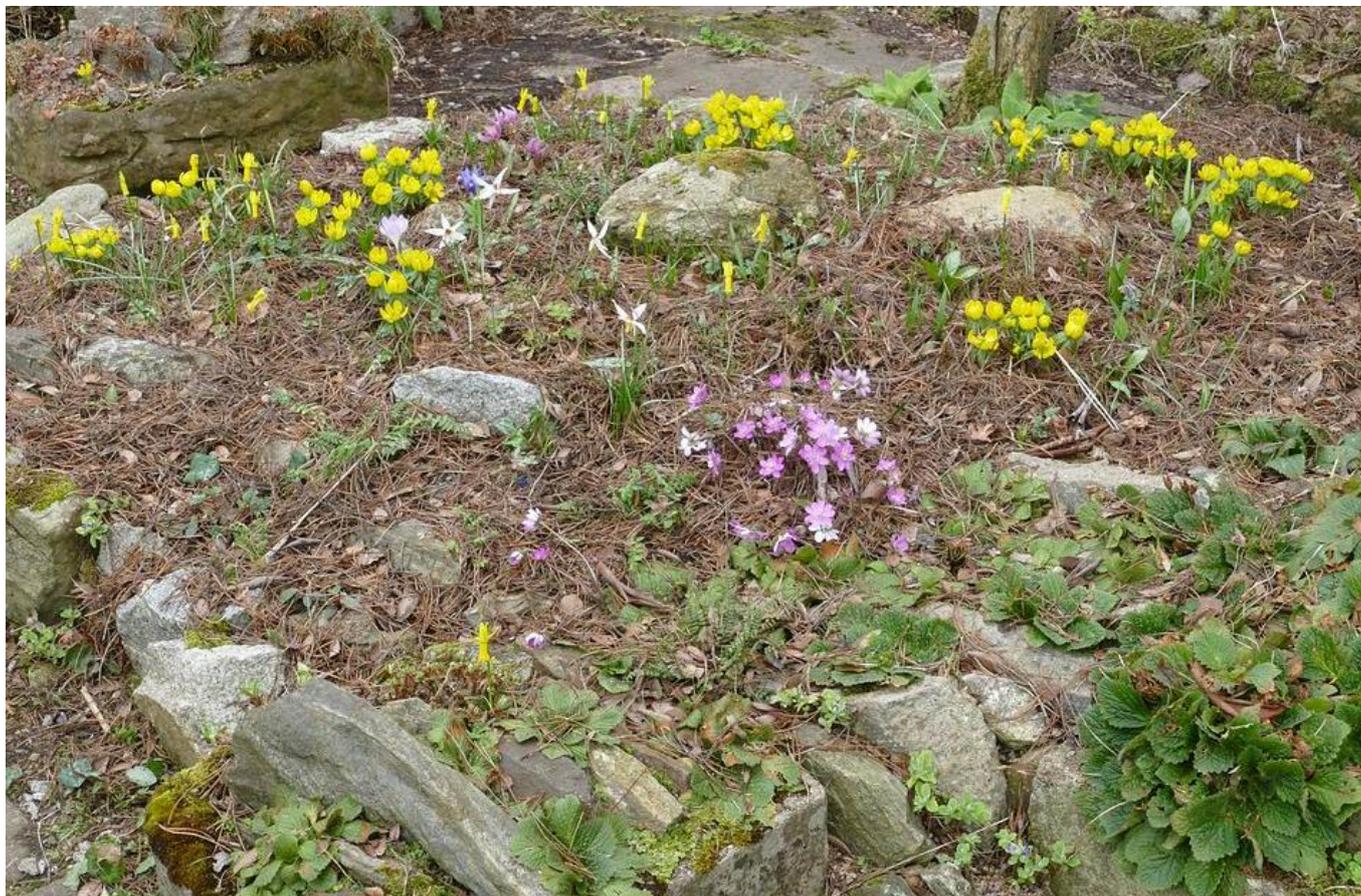


Erythronium dens-canis

These Erythronium dens-canis are from the most easterly known distribution of the species in Zhytomyr in the Ukraine and you should particularly take note of the yellow/brown colour of the pollen.



Erythronium dens-canis with purple pollen on left and the yellow pollen on the Ukraine forms on the right. This colour is a significant variation because,, apart from those from this population, all the other forms of Erythronium dens-canis I have seen have dark purple pollen. You may also note that there is also a difference in the shape of the filaments where they taper towards the end in those with purple pollen but narrow more abruptly in the Ukraine forms.



I created the ‘**new bed beside the pond**’ a few years ago and planted it with some of my favourite plants from the seed frames and each year it brings me more interest – at the moment I am spending more time studying this bed than any other part of the garden and there will be so many more treasures popping up in the coming weeks.



A number of these seed raised **Erythronium caucasicum** are flowering for the first time; others with just a single leaf are still too small to flower but should grow enough to flower next year. The observant among you will note that the flower in the foreground has extra petals but this is unlikely to be repeated next year.



More views of the new bed beside the pond with the white flowers of *Erythronium caucasicum* along with yellow flowered *Eranthis 'Guinea Gold'* and *Narcissus cyclamineus*.





Eranthis 'Guinea Gold' growing through the mulch of pine needles.



Erythronium dens-canis



Narcissus cyclamineus



Narcissus cyclamineus hybrid



Moving into one of the bulb houses where the various Narcissus flowering in one of the sand beds continue to delight us.



Narcissus asturiensis and *Narcissus x susannae*



Although it is not a valid name I continue to call this **Narcissus eualbidus**, which is the name it came with.

Crocus hybrid

A number of years ago I found this self-sown Crocus flowering, in a pot of *Fritillaria tubiformis*, in one of the outside frames. When repotting I have continued to keep the two very different plants together in the same pot. I can only speculate what the parents of the Crocus are but the most likely two are *Crocus cvijicii* and *veluchensis* both of which grew in the same frame.





Formerly a subspecies of *Crocus sieberi*, ***Crocus sublimis*** has been elevated to species rank and the most attractive and widespread form is ‘**Tricolor**’. Although this is an easy plant to grow I like to keep some in a pot so that we can protect them from the ravages of the weather and enjoy the flowers in perfect condition.



Crocus sublimis
‘**Tricolor**’.

Outside in the garden the flowers are subject to damage by the weather and being chewed by foraging slugs but still put on a delightful display.



We actively encourage the bubs to self-seed in the garden and the *Crocus atticus* has produced a massive crop of seedlings in front of the parent clump. For all these seedlings to reach maturity I will have to intervene by lifting some and planting them elsewhere: also note the leaves of self-sown *Erythronium*.



Not everything is allowed to seed at will in the garden: there are some plants that I do remove and I am sure these are familiar to many of you.



We only do hand weeding and the rule is identify before you remove – if in doubt about what it is we wait until it can be confirmed. By far the best tool for weeding in the garden is a builder’s trowel, which is also favoured by archaeologists –using the tip allows me to pick the small weeds out from among the many bulb seedlings while using the flat tapered shape it can easily remove larger plants as well as digging holes for planting bulbs.



This cluster of **Trillium seedlings** are germinating where the capsule fell to the ground and while I was picking some of the weeds shown above out from among them with my trowel I dislodged a few so took the opportunity to record them in the picture below.



After taking this picture showing some of the stages of **Trillium seed germinating** they were carefully replanted.



There are also many **Erythronium seeds germinating** around our garden, many of which can be seen lying on the surface with the new growing root twisting around seeking out the safety of the soil – which is where I spotted something I had never observed directly before.



Twins - here there are two seedlings emerging from a single **Polyembryonic Erythronium seed**.

On doing some research I found the production of two embryos from a single seed is termed as Polyembryony apparently it is more common in plants such as citrus and avocado but I have never been aware of it in bulbs before. Plants are a continual source of fascination to me no matter how long you have been growing and observing there are always new things to learn: when you think you know it all then perhaps you should stop.



Galanthus nivalis

As some of the first snowdrop flowers to open are fading others, such as *Galanthus nivalis*, continue to open. This trough will be familiar to regular readers as where I grow *Sanguinaria canadensis* flora plena for propagating – one year a single *Galanthus nivalis* appeared which gradually increased to such an extent that other year I removed a couple of hundred bulbs to plant elsewhere before replanting these back in with the *Sanguinaria*.



Galanthus hybrids



Galanthus hybrids

The snowdrops growing in warmer areas are mostly over here many are still fresh and others continue to open.





Galanthus hybrid



Galanthus woronwii



The earliest flowering bulbs will gradually be over taken by the next wave of flowering which is already starting to emerge with the *Corydalis*.



Just a few weeks ago the bulb bed looked quite bare and we could see lots of bare ground but now it is full of growth including the *Fritillaria imperialis*.



Two views of some of the flowers appearing in the rock garden bed.

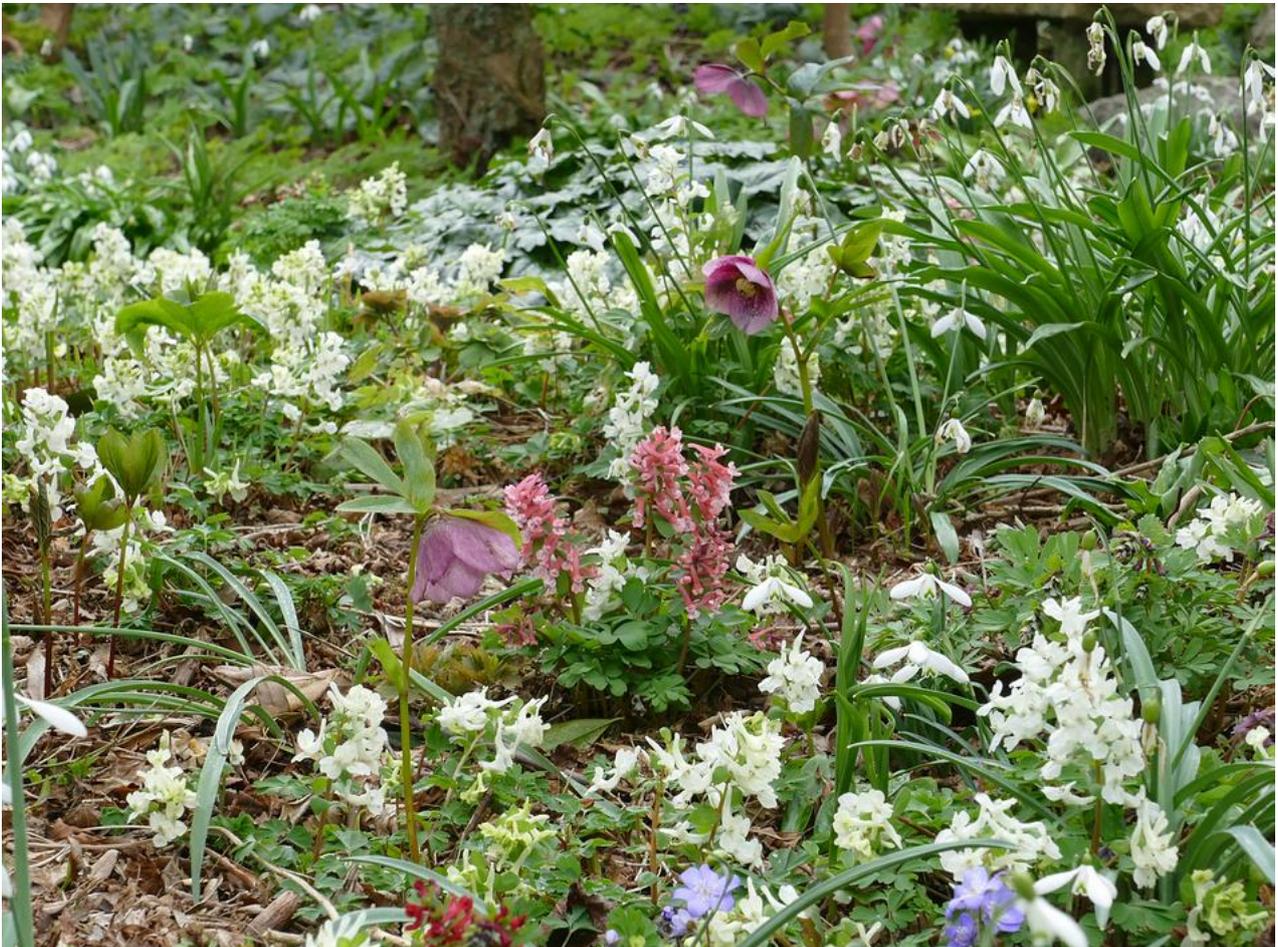


**Helleborus
x 'Eric Smithii'**

This plant of Helleborus x 'Eric Smithii' featured on the cover of Bulb Log 0920 and now even more of the flowers have opened.

As I write we are all facing a future of unprecedented uncertainty. Because of the Corona virus all shows, meetings and gatherings are cancelled and we have to self-isolate which for many will be difficult to cope

with. As gardeners we can be happy spending more time working with and enjoying the plants in our garden. I am often travelling to give talks at this time and indeed I have cancelled all my talks until we are through this period however I will continue to write the Bulb Log every week as well as posting Bulb Log Video Diary Supplements to share our garden with you.



Everyone can join in sharing pictures and thoughts online at the [SRGC forum](#) or other media like YouTube and Facebook. Click the link to view the latest [Bulb Log Video Diary Supplement](#).