



SRGC -----

Bulb Log Diary

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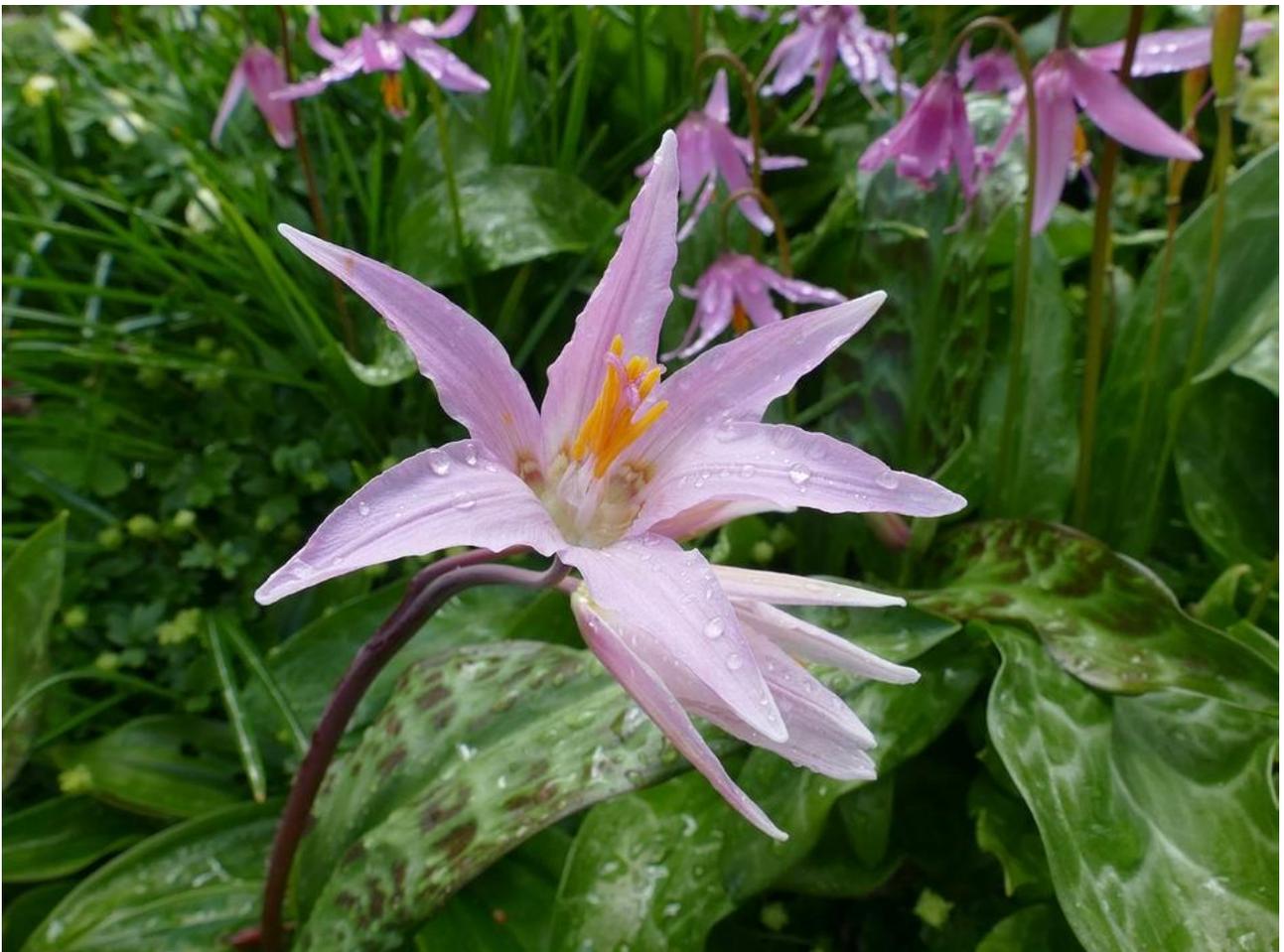
BULB LOG 19.....6th May 2020





Erythronium oregonum hybrid

Even though we are over the peak flowering of the erythroniums there are still plenty of the self-seeded plants coming out for me to study. This one with its large white upward facing flower stood out and demanded closer investigation. It is not unusual to find an erythronium flower facing upwards as it first emerges, most will then turn over to the traditional downward facing status as the flower matures - which this one did. This plant also differed in being larger than many of the other surrounding seedlings and my first impression was it is an *Erythronium oregonum* seeded from a nearby planting of that species which I raised from wild collected seed. Interestingly one of those wild collected seedlings has flowers which always open facing the sky before turning over. I quickly realised that this flower had features that I would not normally associate with *Erythronium oregonum*, namely some of the colours in the zonal markings and the purple style.



My suspicions were confirmed when within a day or two as the flower turned over it also started to turn a soft pink colour.



Erythronium oregonum hybrid

My conclusion is that this most attractive plant is likely to be an *Erythronium oregonum* x *revolutum* hybrid. One of the features that make erythronium hybrids good garden plants is that they form good clumps as the bulbs produce multiple offsets: however despite being a mature plant this one is showing no signs of clumping.



As the days passed the flowers developed a more intense pink colour.



As I looked around I spotted a number of the other seedlings had a similar look and although their flowers did not start facing upwards they shared the other characteristics. I am now convinced that this is most likely a group of *Erythronium oregonum* x *revolvatum* hybrids; however I cannot rule out *Erythronium* 'Minnehaha' (which is an *Erythronium oregonum* hybrid) being one of the parents of these plants. None of them are clumping up at any speed



so it is unlikely that they will become a widely available good garden plant. It may be possible that they can be slowly increased through a seed line and hope that it carries the same attractive features.

Erythronium oregonum* x *revolvatum



***Erythronium oregonum* x *revolutum* hybrid**



There is some extensive foliage growth on the rock garden bed as the leaves of the early flowering bulbs are joined by *Meconopsis* and other herbaceous plants but there are still a number of erythronium flowers.



Erythronium elegans and *montanum* are among the species I originally planted here and they in turn are seeding around producing some plants that do not confirm with the type species so may also be hybrids.



***Erythronium montanum* ?**



Erythronium elegans seedling

This seedling retains much of the elegance that inspired the specific name.



It is obvious that some of the *Erythronium elegans* seedlings have hybridised here with *Erythronium revolutum*.



***Erythronium
elegans* x
*revolutum***

I have been watching this seedling growing in the gravel for several years now and there is no secondary growth from the bulb however it does set seed and is surrounded by as yet un-flowered seedlings.

Erythronium howellii

is one of a number of yellow eyed, white flowered species that are not so easy to grow in many gardens.

With so many established garden plants such as *Erythronium* 'White Beauty' that share this colourway perhaps this is one of the species that is best left to the more specialist growers.



Erythronium grandiflorum is a beautiful species that I wish was more widely grown but despite the large free flowering populations I have been shown in the wild it remains a scarce plant in cultivation.



Erythronium japonicum



Fritillaria pallidiflora



Erythronium californicum, sibiricum, Fritillaria aurea and Dicentra cucullaria



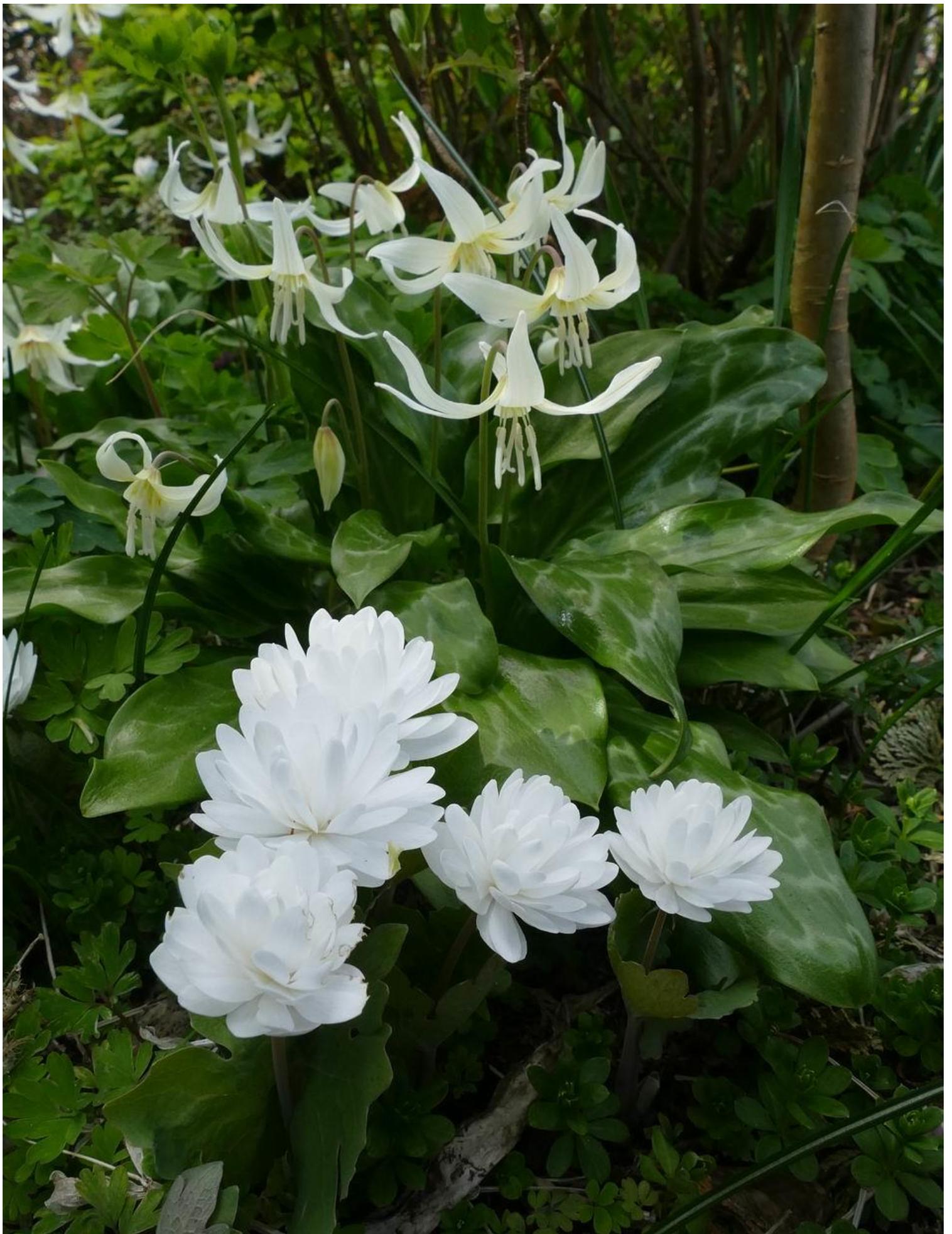
All these are growing in the new bed beside the pond.



**Fritillaria
aurea**



Fritillaria tubiformis ssp. moggridgei



Sanguinaria Canadensis multiplex* and *Erythronium californicum

The latest statistics confirm that we have had the driest April on record which is reflected by the growth in the garden. The foliage growth is less lush than I am used to seeing at this time of year and it is interesting to observe how different plants are responding to the drier than normal conditions.



Erythronium revolutum hybrids B, C & D

All the remaining pictures for this week are showing different details of four *Erythronium revolutum* hybrids, A, B, C, & D, that I have been trialling for a number of years and now I am appealing to you to help me assess them.



Erythronium revolutum hybrids B, C & D

Clone A is out of frame to the left of this picture - it can be seen in the picture below.



Erythronium revolutum hybrids A, B, C & D

All are growing and increasing well although A is slightly less vigorous.



Clone A

Viewed from the outside clone A has a bicoloured effect with the petals looking as white striped on pink.



Clone B



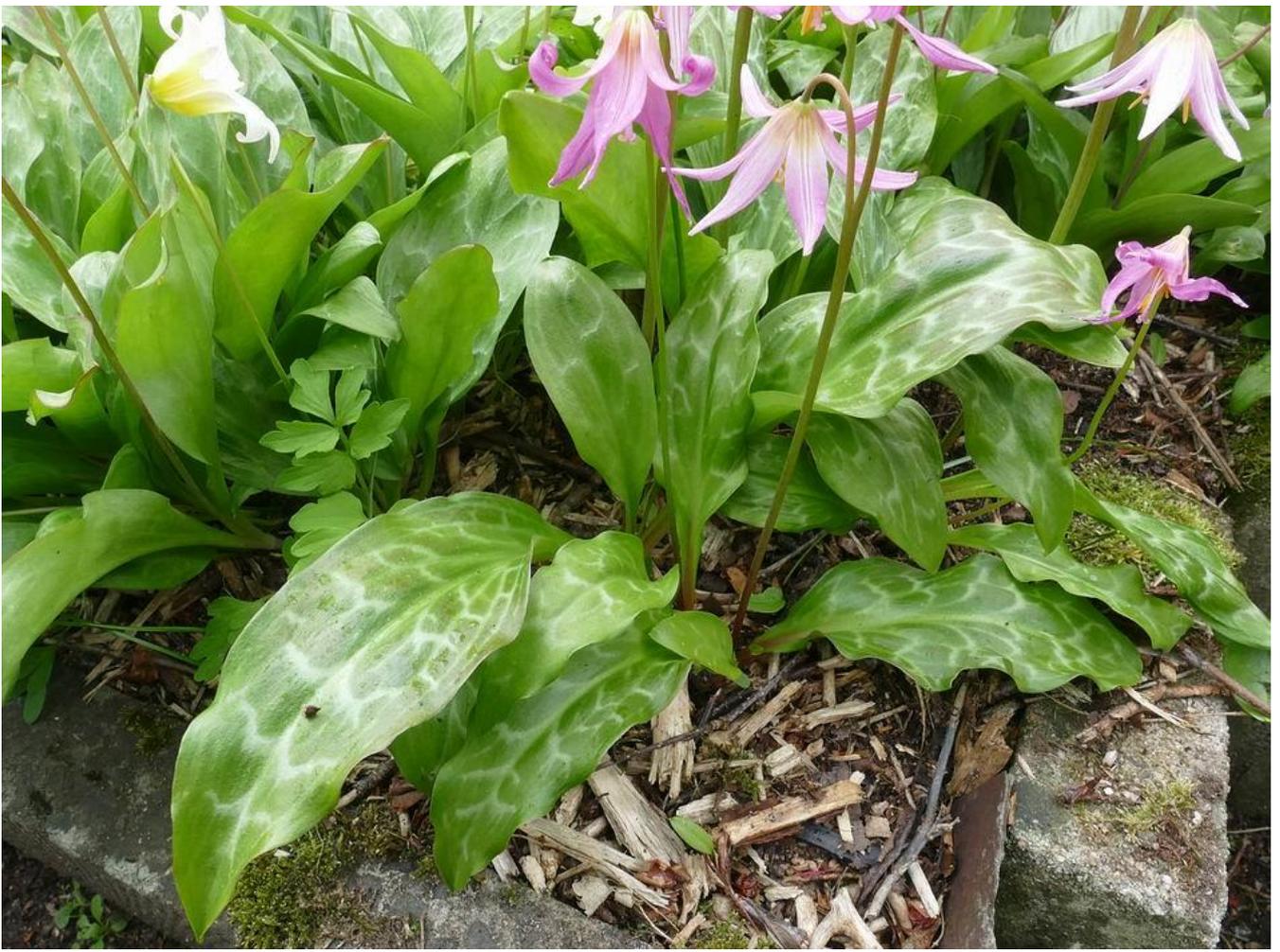
Clone C



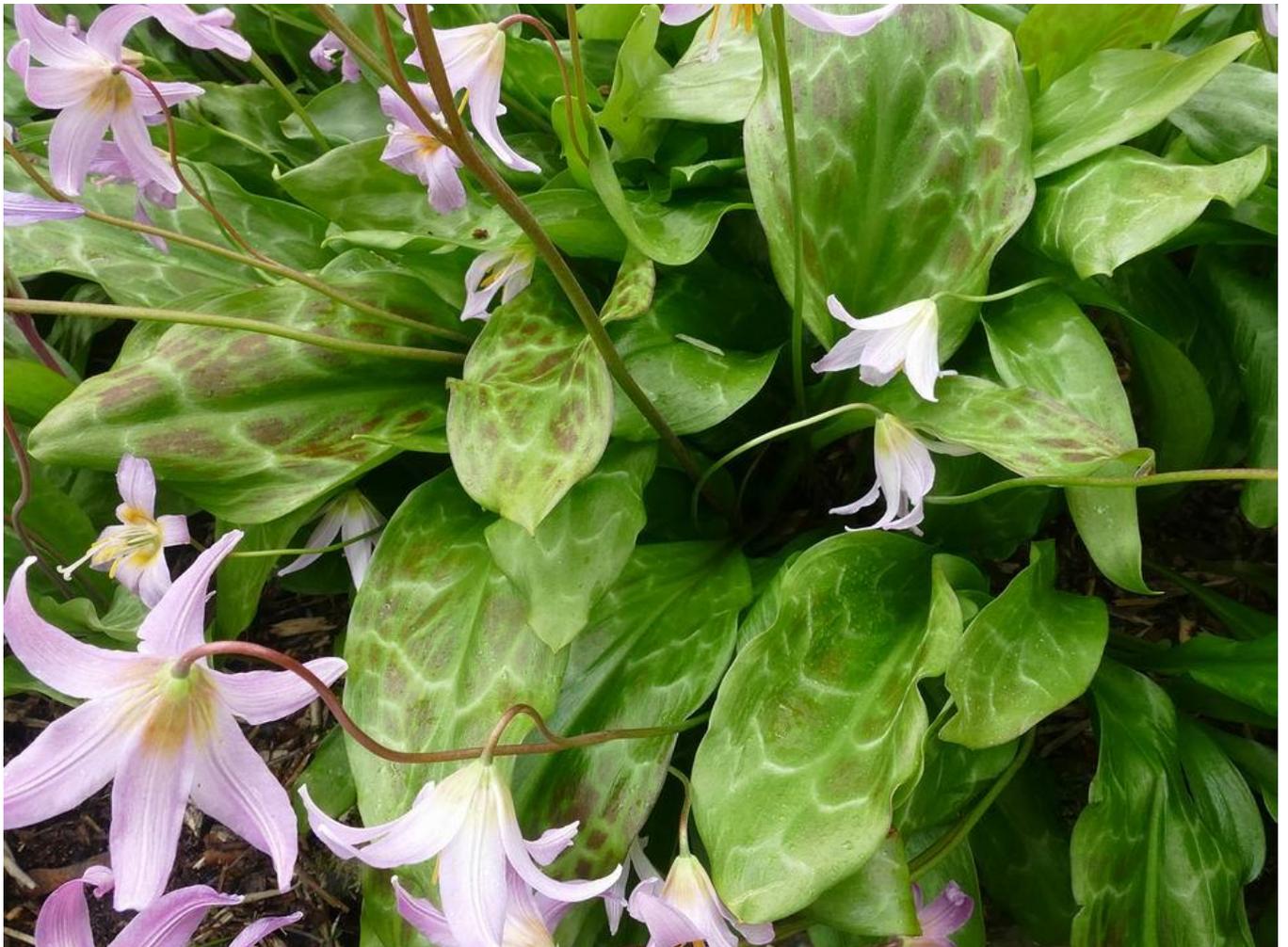
Clone D has the palest pink flowers.



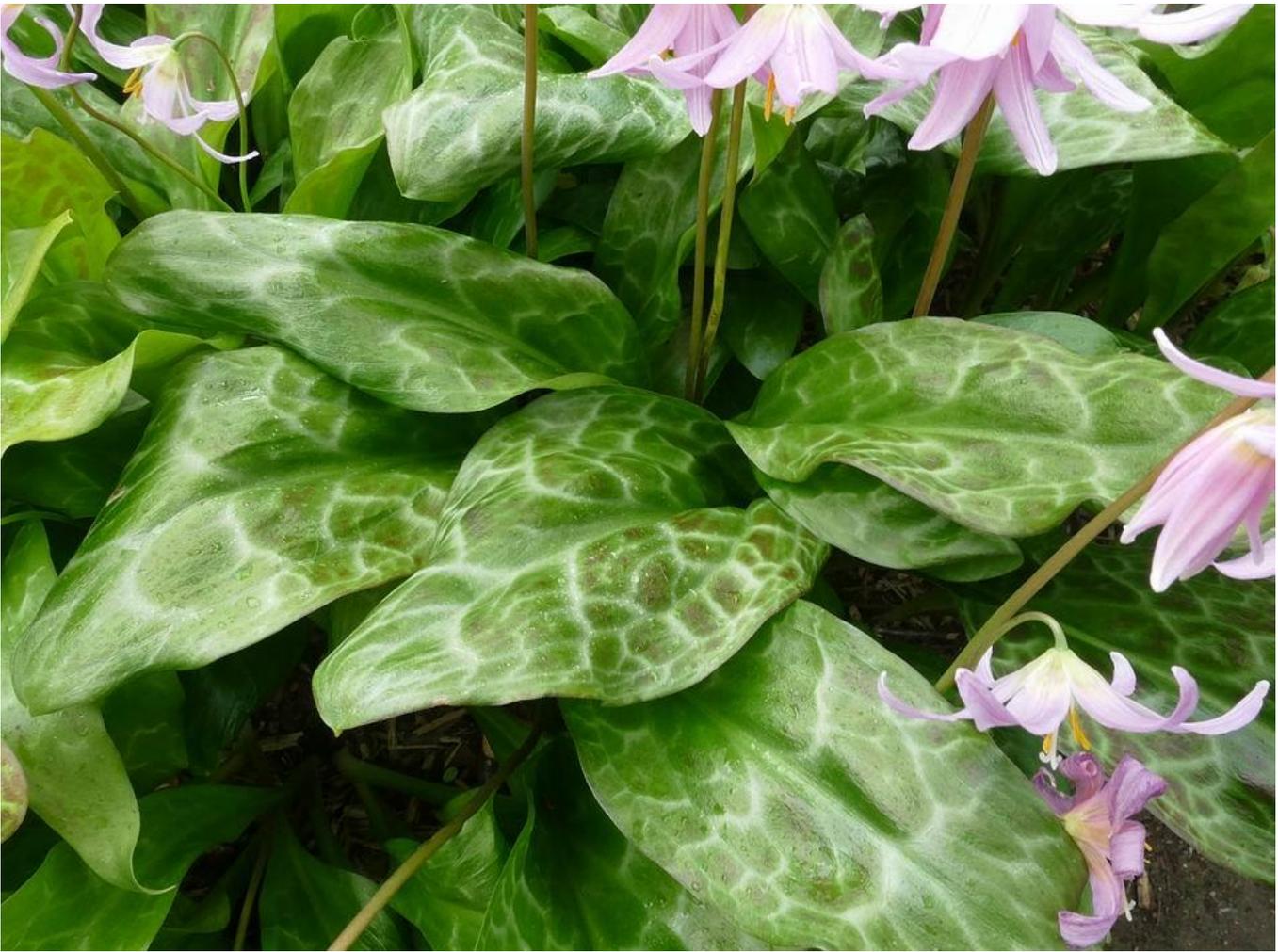
Clone D on the right



Clone A



Clone B



Clone C



Clone D



While superficially similar, look carefully and you will start to notice significant differences, such as the dark ovary on Clone B and while they all have three flowers on a stem they are more spaced out in Clone A and bunched at the top in Clone C.



A

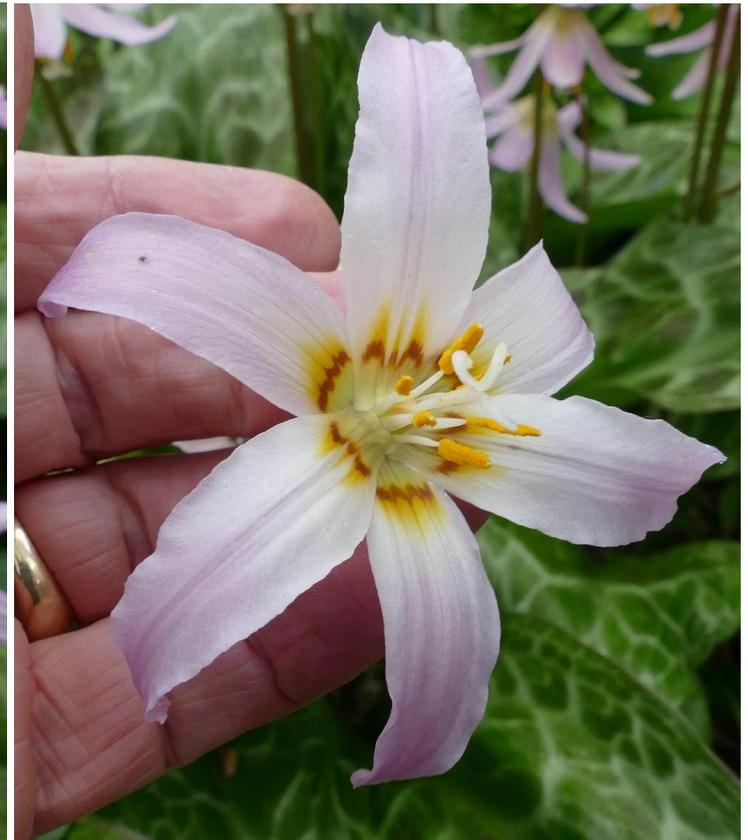


B

Erythronium revolutum hybrids



C



D

I would be delighted to read your comments on these hybrids taking leaf markings and flowers into account which one would you mark as best? Should they all be named or are they too similar with none of them deserving of a name. Please let me know your opinions through the feedback page on the [SRGC Forum](#) or via Facebook.

Click the link to view the latest [Bulb Log Video Diary Supplement](#) featuring Molly and Trilliums.
Thank you to everyone who watches my Bulb Log Video Diary this week it has passed 100,000 views.....