



BULB LOG 17.....27th April 2011

Life has almost returned to normal, or what serves as normal in this household, after the International Conference and a stream of visitors. I must say what a pleasure it has been to meet up with friends old and new and share our garden with you both through my talk at Nottingham and in person for those that made the long journey north.



**Erythronium grandiflorum?
new sp**

I have just flowered this Erythronium for the first time from seed collected on Mount Prevost and passed on to me by Ian Christie. It is possibly a form of Erythronium grandiflorum but some people who are familiar with it in the wild suggest that it could possibly be a new species. Here is both a picture of the plant and a close up of the flower to show the diagnostic details. There are certainly

some differences in the shape of the style and the filaments from the various forms *E. grandiflorum* and this plant is also much smaller but I will wait for another year or two for it to mature by which time I hope that some of the other seedlings will also have flowered giving me a better chance to assess it.



Erythronium pluriflorum



The next group of pictures are of another first for me in the way of *Erythronium pluriflorum*.

This is a small yellow flowered species from California where it is found in the south central Sierra Nevada.

As with the plant above this is the first flowering of an immature specimen so it does not necessarily represent the full stature of the plant.

It is recorded that this species can have up to ten flowers per stem.

What can be seen, especially in the detail below, is that the style and filaments are all yellow matching exactly the colour of the petals.



Erythronium citrinum* subsp. *roderickii

Not a first flowering of this subspecies but the first flowering from my own seed of this beautiful *Erythronium citrinum* subsp. *roderickii* distinguished by the brown pollen on the anthers.



Erythronium americanum

Above and below are pictures of the proliferating form of *Erythronium americanum* which was originally planted in the spot above at the top of a dyke and after a number of years I noticed it was growing in the bed below. At that time it had never flowered so it had to have spread by the stolons plunging down around 75cms to appear below.



Erythronium americanum

As you can see it has since spread extensively and for around the last five years it has produced a reasonable number of mature flowering bulbs every year.



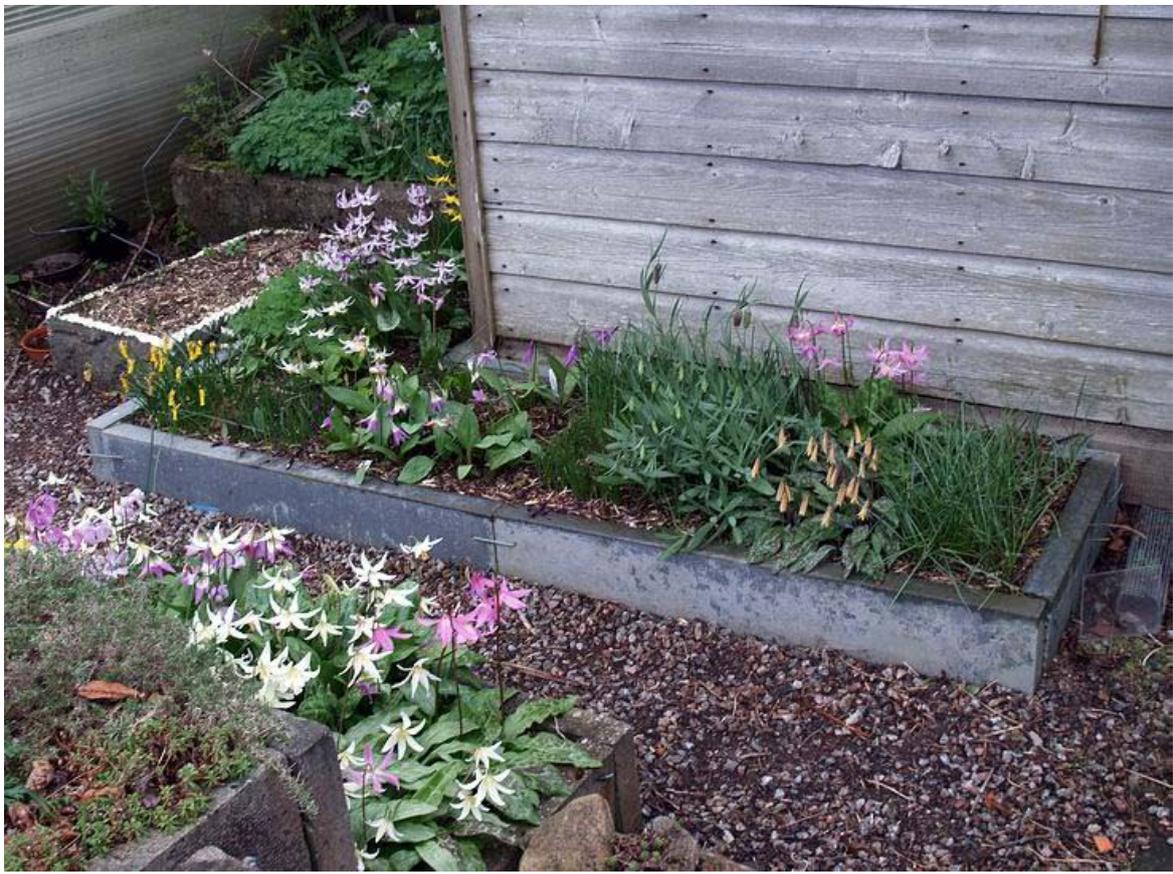
Erythronium americanum 'Craigton Flower'

I named a selected form of *Erythronium americanum* 'Craigton Flower' as it flowers well every year and, from all the keys that I have access to, it seems to fit in as *Erythronium americanum*.



Erythronium plunge frames

The next few pictures show some of the *Erythronium* plunge frames that I have squeezed in around the trough area. They are not exclusively filled with *Erythronium* but other bulbs that enjoy similar conditions such as *Crocus pelistericus*.



Plunge beds



The bed above has fourteen plunge baskets of Erythronium species growing happily in an area 180 cms by 45 cms.





Erythronium hendersonii

The main group seen in this picture is *Erythronium hendersonii* with the white *Erythronium elegans* just in front and *E. montanum* just starting to open on short stems also visible towards the lower right of the picture.



Erythronium hendersonii

I have heard a lot about forms of *Erythronium hendersonii* that bulk up well and while I am sure that such a plant could exist I have yet to see one that is the true species – most have hybridized. Compare this flower with the one below and pay particular attention to the colour here where the purple zone spreads into the white to sometimes pinkish-purple petals.



Erythronium hendersonii hybrid

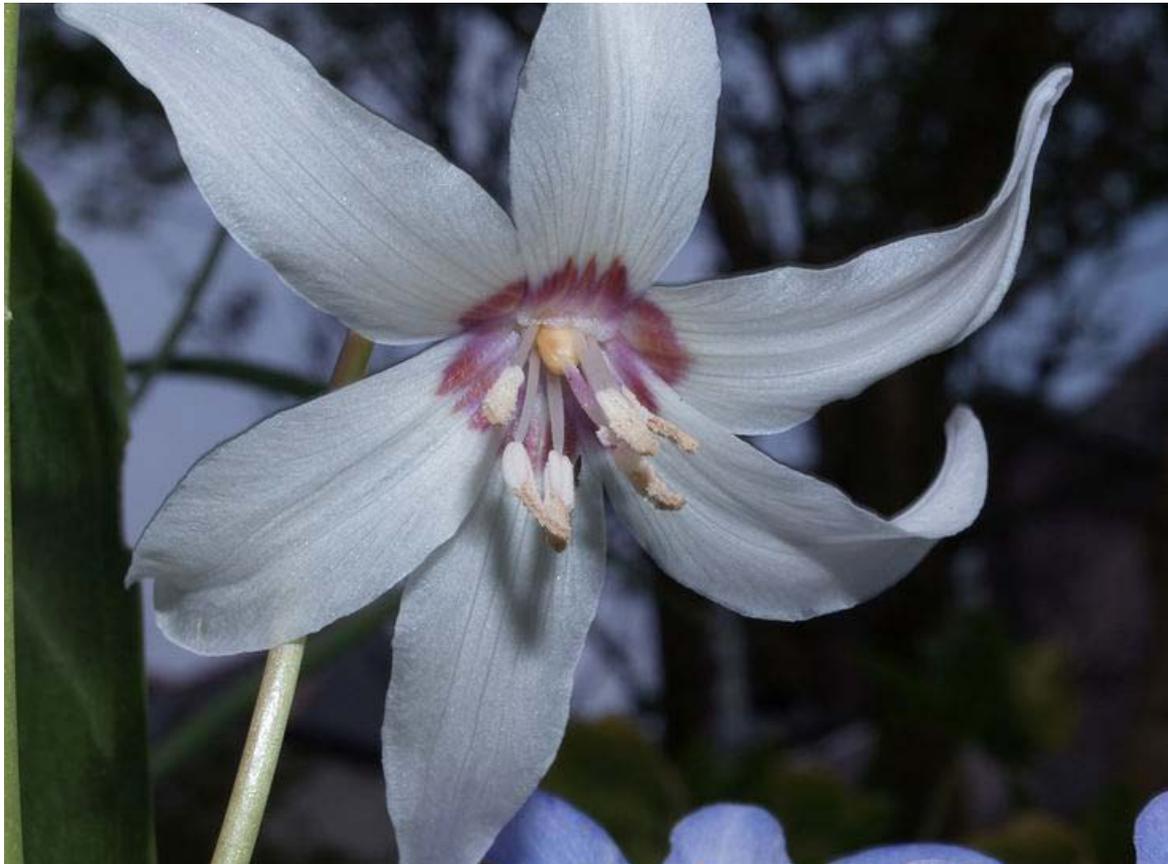
Now notice that this flower has the same basic colour zones but there is some yellow appearing at the transition zone between the dark throat and the petals – this is a sign of hybrid genes. These hybrids can make very fine garden plants because the hybrid vigour sometimes also brings the ability to form clumps quite quickly.





Erythronium hendersonii hybrids

These are a few more of the *Erythronium hendersonii* hybrids that have appeared in our seedlings most retain some degree of the dark blackcurrant colour in the centre but as you can see the anther colour can vary depending on the other parent.





Erythronium hybrid

This is another interesting hybrid with a large white flower and good yellow centre that continues well up the perianth segments. Another view of the same flower below shows that it also holds its flower sideways so you can see into its face without having to tilt the flower which is another desirable feature; all I need now is for it to also be a good increaser.



Erythronium hybrid



Erythronium revolutum hybrid

Another species that produces a number of hybrids is *Erythronium revolutum* and I am showing just a few of the many we have here. Unfortunately they do not all increase well so no matter how attractive they may be they will never be produced in large enough numbers to become wide spread. Also notice that the flower on the left has extra petals, stigma and that the style is divided into five not three branches at the end – not an attractive feature in my view.





Plunge frames

These are the plunge frames where many of the seeds that produce the hybrids come from. Below is the best garden worthy hybrid that I have raised because it is both a fine plant and a generous increaser E. 'Craigton Cover Girl'.



Erythronium 'Craigton Cover Girl'