



BULB LOG 10.....5th March 2014



Ipheion ‘Rolf Fiedler’ and Ipheion ‘Alberto Castillo’

Even though we grow both these plants unprotected in the open garden I like to keep some in pots so I can enjoy them under glass – the first flowers are opening outside as well. Another bonus of keeping a selection together

under glass is cross fertilisation happens with the seedlings showing interesting variations



The first *Orinthogalum* sp. are also opening under glass. I am increasing drawn to these fascinating plants and think they are very under-rated in gardens. Both the species I am showing these week are from Turkey but I have not yet looked into identifying them – one day I hope to. As the number of bulbs has now built up I will try planting one of each outside in the summer and see how they will do in a clod Scottish garden.

***Orinthogalum* sp. Turkey**



Ornithogalum sp. Turkey

While superficially similar to the previous species note the very different leaves.



Crocus dalmaticus

More of the spring Crocus such as *C. dalmaticus* are in bloom and the bulb houses are warming up enough now to encourage the flowers to open



Crocus kosaninii



Crocus olivieri balansae



Crocus pestalozzae

One of the smaller species that is thought to be one of the parents of *Crocus x jessoppiae* shown below.



Crocus x jessoppiae



Crocus, Narcissus and other plants are also flowering in the garden.



Crocus sieberi sublimis tricolor

Crocus tricolor has to be one of my favourite colour combinations and it is an easy garden plant providing that you can keep the slugs off it.



Eranthis hyemalis



***Eranthis x tubergenia* 'Guinea Gold'**

Eranthis x tubergenia is the grex name given to crosses between *Eranthis hyemalis* and *Eranthis cilicica*, the most famous of which has the cultivar name 'Guinea Gold'. I find *Eranthis cilicica* tender in our garden and have always lost it after a few years. One year when we did have some in flower I tried the cross between the two species for myself and got just a few seeds to set on *Eranthis cilicica*.



Eranthis x tubergenia

This year I have the very first flowers on one of the seedlings – I will grow it on in a pot for a few years to try and build up a small stock before I try one in a garden bed.



Narcissus 'Don Stead' is a lovely hybrid raised by the late Don Stead and I understand that it was a hybrid between *N. cantabricus* and *N. bulbocodium*.



Narcissus 'Don Stead' and other hybrid



I have another two of Don's hybrids the one on the left has a deeply lobbed corona and is the one that I wanted to name for Joan Stead but sadly I am struggling to build it up.

The third one is a much better grower and in many ways is like a good deep yellow form of the white N. 'Don Stead' – see the comparison pictures above.

I have no information regarding the parents but I suspect that this may be the same cross involving N. cantabricus and N. bulbocodium.



Don Stead deep yellow Narcissus hybrid.



Narcissus cantabricus petunioides

The pots of *Narcissus cantabricus petunioides* that I first showed a few weeks ago is now in full flower.



A number of years ago I made the cross between *Narcissus triandrus* and *Narcissus cantabricus petunioides* and this is the plant. These two species hybridise in the wild and are known as *Narcissus susanna*.



The yellow flowers are a form of *Narcissus bulbocodium* and the long conical white flowers are a volunteer seedling that I found in the sand plunge and have built up over the last few years.



Narcissus perez-chiscanoi confusus

The name that I knew this plant as, *Narcissus perez-chiscanoi*, has been retired and is replaced by *Narcissus confusus*.



Narcissus cyclamineus x Narcissus 'Mini Cycla'

Another cross that I made using the pollen from Narcissus 'Mini Cycla', shown right, back on to Narcissus cyclamineus, one of its parents. I tried the cross both ways but the only seed I got was on Narcissus cyclamineus.

Many Narcissus hybrids will produce fertile pollen that can be used successfully to fertilise other plants but they are not capable of forming seed themselves.

My hybrid plant, above, is similar in size to N. 'Mini Cycla' but has more reflexed petals showing the increased influence of N. cyclamineus but the biggest advantage is that it seems to be a more vigorous grower.



Narcissus 'Mini Cycla'



Narcissus cyclamineus growing in the rock garden with **Crocus**, **Hepatica** and others.



Trillium ovatum maculosum

I raised this lovely form of *Trillium ovatum* with dark patterns on the leaves from seed – I planted the seedlings out in the front garden last year during phase one of our major reworking to open up what had become an overgrown shrubbery.....