



SRGC

----- Bulb Log Diary -----

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Fritillaria stenantha

So far this year I have not mentioned much about the fritillaries as there have always been other things taking my focus but now the likes of *Fritillaria stenantha* is in full glorious flower, my attention has been captured.

A member of the distinctive *Rhinopetalum* group so named because of the deep horn-like nectary pits at the back of the petals. (Greek; rhino, nose) Some botanists split this group off into its own genus and so they would call this species *Rhinopetalum stenantha*.



Fritillaria pinardii

Just appearing on the left of the previous picture you will see a pot of *Fritillaria pinardii* one of many fritillaries with a brown and yellow colour combination. This is one of many in this variable species.



Fritillaria chitralensis



Fritillaria chitralensis is the smallest member of the *Fritillaria imperialis* section and is a real star. Here the four flowers are held at the top of a short, 20cm, stem. Depending on the growing conditions some years the stem has been nearer 30cms tall.

Looking inside we see the nectary pits have a dark rim and contain a tasty liquid which has evolved to help attract pollinators in to the flower.

Another of my favourite species is **Fritillaria sewerzowii**.

I have raised a number of forms from seed and as with all plants it is the variation within the offspring that I find so fascinating. This form has a lovely structure with its tiered glaucous leaves leading up to the multiple flowers each with its own bract – another good feature of this form is that it increases well by division of the bulb.



Fritillaria sewerzowii



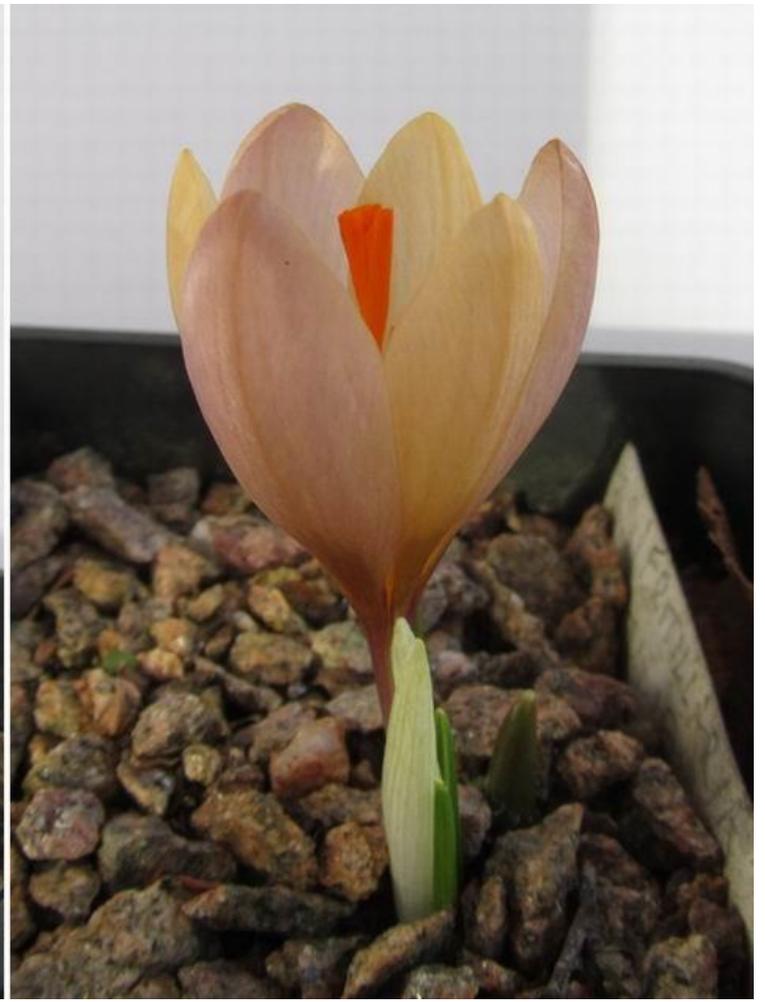
Here a form of **Fritillaria sewerzowii** raised from seed collected in the Gulkan Valley of Central Asia has larger flowers than the previous one and of a darker colour.



Fritillaria sewerzowii

The largest flowered form of *Fritillaria sewerzowii* that we grow I raised from seed taken from a Janis Ruksans selection chosen for having larger flowers. Some botanists place this species in the separate genus of *Korolkowia* and I can well see how you could do this as it has many differences from what we know as the typical fritillaria however, from my experience of growing them, I also think that most if not all of the North American frits are also very different and could be placed into their own genus – just as well I am not a botanist!

Over the last few weeks I have been experimenting with video recording and have published a few short videos firstly on Facebook as a trail. I have now uploaded two to YouTube which are the start of my [Bulb Log Video Diary supplement](#) you can view and listen to them via the SRGC forum pages. Please let me know what you think of this project and thank you to all who have already commented.



Crocus hybrid

While checking a frame I spotted this crocus growing in a Fritillaria pot, you can see the frit shoots just emerging. Obviously this Crocus has self-seeded into this pot and I speculate that it is a hybrid between *Crocus veluchensis* and *Crocus civijicii* both of which we grow in this frame and flower simultaneously.



Some of the pots of Ipheion in the bulb house show the amount of leaf that they can have and perhaps why they are not more widely seen on the show benches. I have several pots of seedlings with a range of colour variations which you can compare on the next two pages.



Ipheion seedlings



Ipheion seedlings



Bulb house

Growth in the bulb houses has reached a peak with the majority of the hoop petticoat Narcissus now past their flowering prime so my mind turns to feeding them with potassium. This week I will stock up on Sulphate of Potash which I will start feeding to all the bulbs. This is one of the critical times to make sure that your bulbs get sufficient water and potassium if you want to get a good flowering next season- failure to get these factors correct is often the reason why growers find they end up with lots of small nonflowering bulbs.





As flowering of the hoops starts to decline we can now enjoy the trumpet daffodils here the one I still refer to as **Narcissus perez-chiscanoi**. The plants above were raised from our own seed and includes a number of hybrids with *Narcissus cyclamineus*.



A close look at **Narcissus perez-chiscanoi** lets you see the attraction of these medium sized plants.



Narcissus calcicarpetus

Of similar size and a first for us is this *Narcissus calcicarpetus*, again raised from seed. There are a number of bulbs in this pot that have not yet reached flowering size, I will be interested to see if there is any variation when they do.



Narcissus eugeniae

Very similar to the previous species *Narcissus eugeniae* is another first time flowering for us – most obviously it differs in having a much paler colour. I did not raise this one from seed, it was a gift from a kind friend. The current thinking is that all these three plants are part of a single species *Narcissus confusus* and that certainly makes it easier for us but I suspect that these plants will retain separate names at least in cultivated forms. If you have not looked at the [Narcissus pages](#) on the forum you are missing out on a wealth of beautiful images from many growers and some amazing pictures of *Narcissus* in the wild by such as Rafa Diez Dominguez who has so much knowledge and experience.



Narcissus jacetanus

Getting smaller in size to the previous two species is *Narcissus jacetanus* – this is a pot of seed raised bulbs and the picture below shows the scale and different sizes of the seedlings.



Narcissus jacetanus

So much work has been done on the taxonomy of *Narcissus* in recent years I find it hard to keep up with what the latest opinion is so I tend to stick with the name that I know for now. We (growers and enthusiasts) desperately need an updated book on this Genus.



Yet another new introduction to us is this hybrid **Narcissus 'Fringella'** one of the many wonderful crosses raised by Anne Wright of [Dryad Nursery](#).



Bulb house

One of the later flowering hoops with good yellow flowers with a *N. cyclamineus* hybrid in the background.



Last week I showed this tiny flowered unknown *Narcissus* species from Morocco this picture gives you a better impression of how small the flowers are.



Narcissus x susannae

I will finish off this week with my absolute favourite *Narcissus x susannae* – again it may not be the latest adopted name but the one I know this wee beauty as.

Don't forget to take a look at the [Bulb Log Video Diary Supplement](#) and let me have your feedback.....