



BULB LOG 16.....19th April 2017





Trillium rivale

As I have just returned from Inverewe I prepared this Bulb Log in advance and choose to feature my favourite Trillium rivale.

In this frame you can see three mesh plunge baskets of seedlings This is how I like to raise them. Two of these were sown with our own garden seed and the third is the result of seeds I got from a kind

friend, these will introduce a wider genetic base and even more variations to our garden population.



Trillium rivale seedlings

Last summer I collected seed from selected dark-marked forms and sowed them immediately into this basket – if you sow them fresh they will produce their first leaves the following spring.



Sometimes I miss collecting some seeds.

If the seed has been stored dry then sown in the winter/spring you may have to wait a year before germination occurs - soaking may help speed up the process.

I leave the seedlings in the basket until they start flowering, feeding regularly during the growing season with a liquid tomato fertiliser. The first flowers can appear in the third year although four is more the average age before they reach flowering age.



This is also the way I grow many other bulbs such as these **Erythronium sibiricum** seedlings – these are the form with plain green leaves.



Erythronium sibiricum (krylovii?)

This is a basket of mature plants which is the seed parent of the basket of seedlings. I thought this plant to be *Erythronium krylovii* but since the description of that species has been published as only having white flowers I will have to revise what I call it. While it is obviously part of the *Erythronium sibiricum* complex, in my opinion, it is sufficiently different to be recognised by its own name.



Trillium rivale



A basket of **Trillium rivale** with another of **Trillium hibbersonii** in the foreground – note the seed that I missed collecting which is germinating between the two baskets.



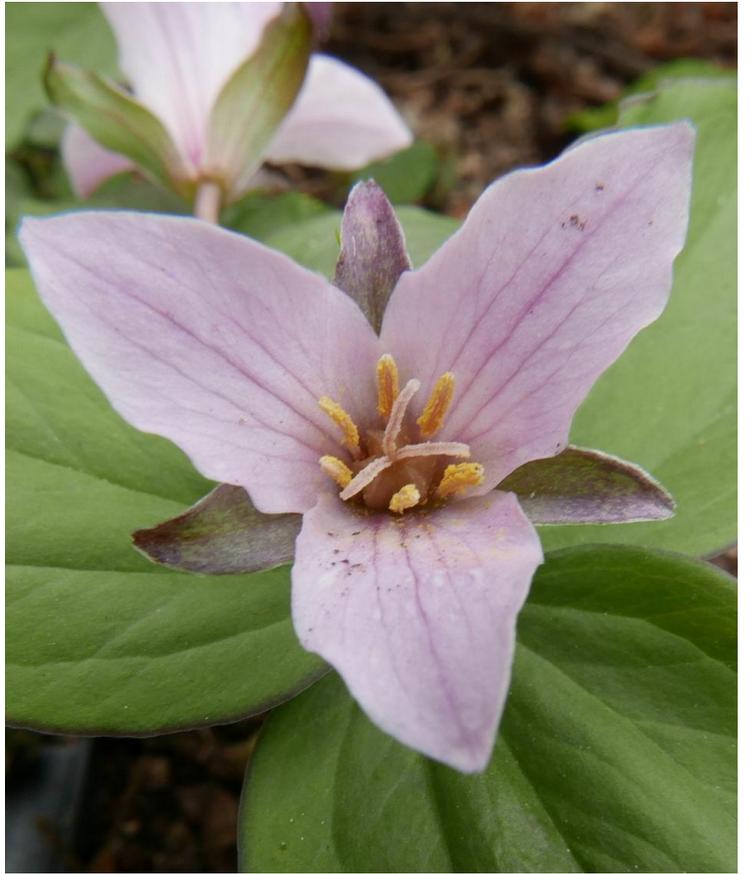
Trillium rivale



Trillium rivale

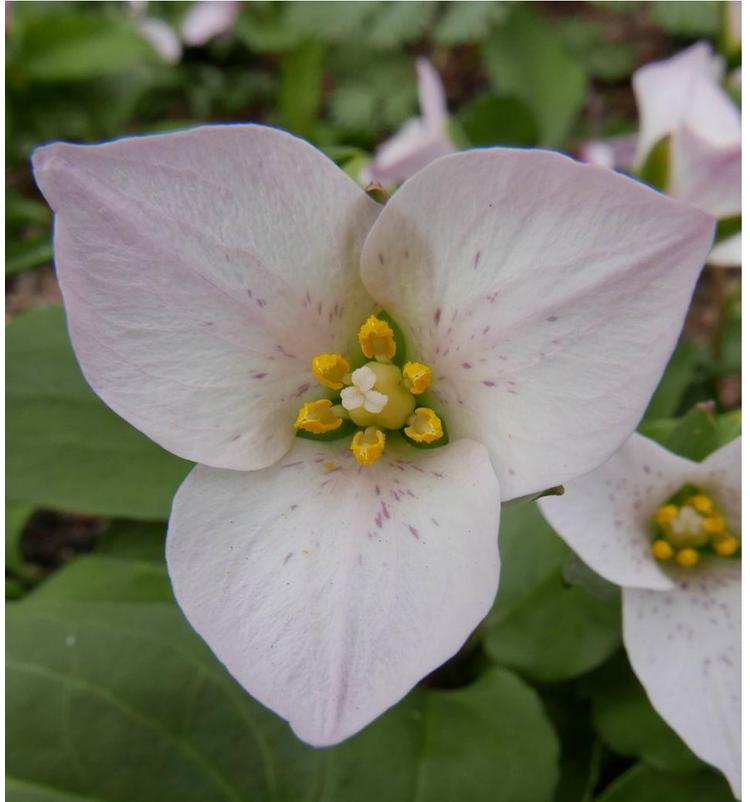


Trillium rivale



Trillium hibbersonii

Just to test your observation I have thrown in a picture of a *Trillium hibbersonii* flower here – there are differences in the shape of the ovary and the style although their growth habit makes it difficult to confuse these two species. Despite raising hundreds of *Trillium hibbersonii* from seed I have never had any of the variations that we get in *Trillium rivale*.



Trillium rivale



Trillium rivale



Trillium rivale



Trillium rivale



Trillium rivale



Raised wall

This raised wall is one of the many places where we grow *Trillium rivale*. There are large groups on the top and I am especially keen to also have it colonise the gaps between the rocks all the way down to the ground below the smaller pine.



Primula marginata and a number of dwarf shrubs take up some of the spaces on the wall but there are still plenty opportunities for *Trillium rivale* to get a hold.



Trillium rivale



The large group was grown from seed in a basket and which I planted out en masse when it started to flower - since then I have left it to self-seed. Because there are no fauna attracted to help distribute the seeds in our garden you will see quite a group of seedlings clustered around the base of the plant, so that is where my intervention is required. I do gather and scatter some of the seeds around the wall as

they ripen but I am also lifting some of the seedlings and transplanting them directly where I want them to grow.



Trillium rivale seedlings

Now is a good time to transplant the seedlings and as they are growing in a very humus rich open soil it is easy to lift them without doing any damage to their roots





Trillium rivale seedlings planted between rocks.

I watered them in well as I planted them and will continue to ensure they do not get dry until the roots get establish.



Further along the same wall there is a second small pine where I planted out another basket of *Trillium rivale* seedlings - these are now also self-seeding down the face of the wall.



Trillium rivale peeps out from under a dwarf Rhododendron, surrounded by Anemone, Narcissus cyclamineus and of course, Erythroniums.



Jeffersonia dubia



I received some seeds of **Jeffersonia dubia** from a friend some years ago and now I have a number of plants coming into flower in the raised wall. Growing from seed is always my favourite way to introduce plants to the garden – firstly it minimises the risk of introducing diseases but importantly for me it allows me to plant out groups of plants showing their variation. I hope because they are different clones that I will now get seed to set which will allow me to raise even more of these beauties. As there are not too many flying pollinators around just now I have been cross pollinating with my paint brush.



Jeffersonia dubia colour variations



Jeffersonia dubia



Jeffersonia dubia



Another plant I am seeking to increase from seed is **Anemonella thalictroides**. We have a few small plants and I would love to get them to set seed. All these plants enjoy the cool moist weather and the humus rich woody-soil they are growing in.



Anemonella thalictroides



My plan is slowly coming to fruition as the first of the **Trillium rivale** are flowering in the wall with plenty more seedlings around them hopefully in around five years it should be living up to my vision. It takes time and patience to achieve my ideal garden, none of that “instant garden” stuff goes on here.

In this [Bulb Log Video Diary Supplement](#) I walk around some of the Trillium rivale in the frames and the wall.....