



SRGC

# Bulb Log Diary

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BULB LOG 44.....28<sup>th</sup> October 2020



Autumn



I usually try to show different plants or scenes on the front cover but here I am illustrating the same tree that I featured just two weeks ago. This image cried out to be taken, in fact I took several as you will discover if you read through this week's Bulb Log. The red acer leaves brought down by autumn storms are carpeting the ground in a way that emphasises the lovely curves the paths take as they wind round the garden. The following series of pictures were taken on different

days some before and some after the storm that hit us for the best part of two days bringing a premature end to the red canopy above our heads. There are still some flowers to be found such as the *Eucomis bicolor* above among the collapsing foliage turning yellow as the herbaceous plants retreat underground before winter takes hold.



***Cyclamen hederifolium*** is one of the plants that produces its new leaves and flowers at the very time when many others are on the retreat and I take this as a positive message from nature that the garden will burst back into life again as the winter weather turns to spring.



***Paeonia emodi* leaves.**



The last few *Roscoea* have got the message from the night time frosts that it is time to move underground.



Over the years the **Crocus banaticus** (in the foreground) seeded into the Erythronium sand plunge. Regular readers may remember that when I replant the mesh baskets of Erythronium I also replace the various volunteers that I find such as Crocus and Corydalis which make perfect companions, flowering before and after the Erythroniums.



This is the parent group **Crocus banaticus** which can be seen in the background of the previous image.



**Crocus pulchellus**



This group of **Crocus speciosus** is flowering among the flowering stems of *Allium wallichii* which in turn are flowering among the now dried stems and seed heads of *Erythronium* all of which seed around in this shared space.



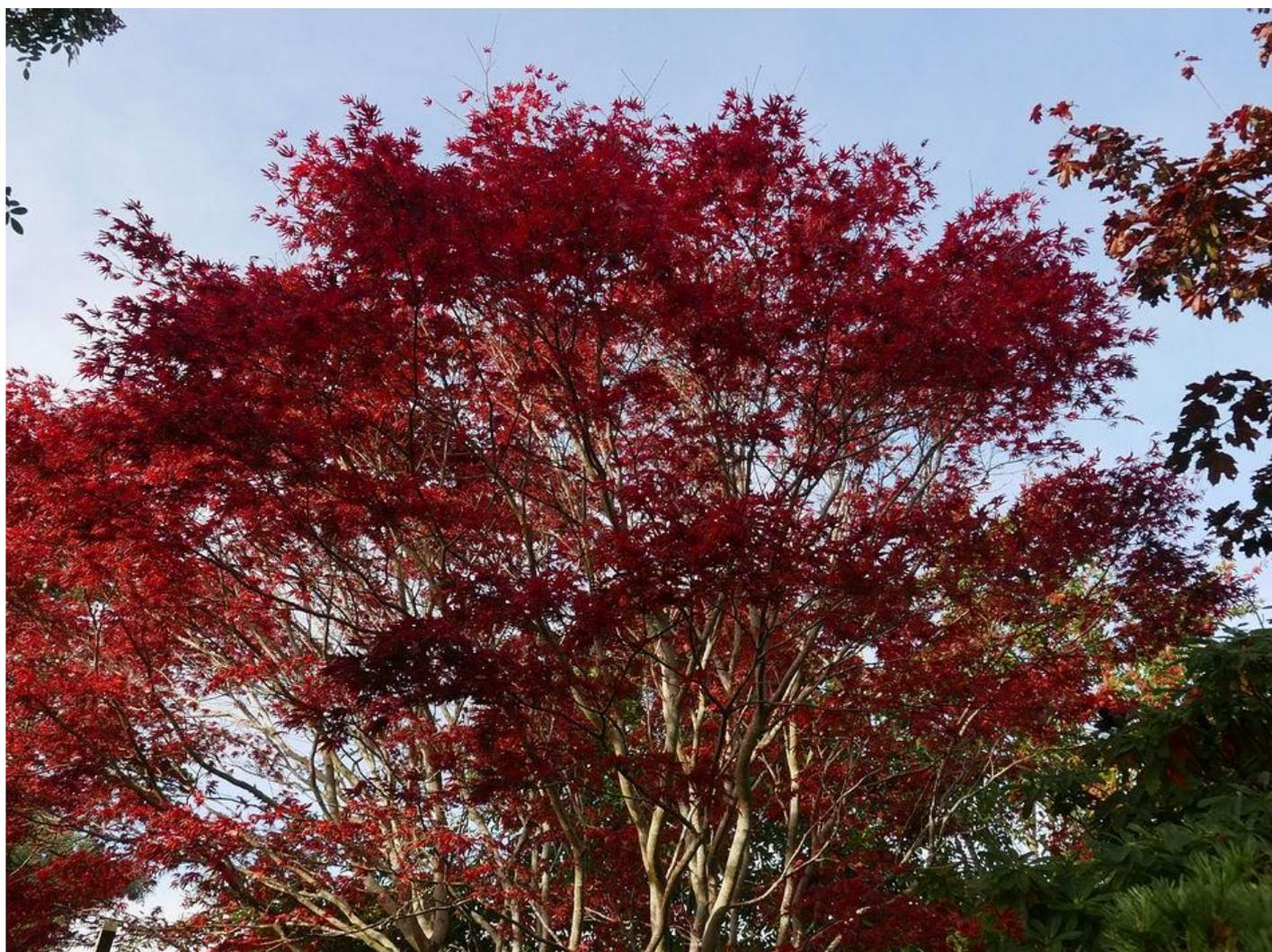
The Crocus flowers are easily damaged by the heavy rain and wind especially the taller ones such as the *Crocus speciosus* which can be 30cms tall but even when battered flat the flowers can be picked and brought inside where they open, sharing their sweet scent for a few more days.

Nature helps us in our garden in so many ways not least by showing me how such plant combinations can work. All but the first few bulbs of the *Allium*, *Crocus* and *Erythronium* that I planted have self-seeded in these ever expanding community plantings we enjoy so much around the garden.





In the days before the storm the Acer leaves above our heads in all their autumn glory formed a bright orange/red canopy that glowed in the sunshine against the sometimes blue sky.





Below our feet the ground and paths were also getting covered in the rich tapestry of shapes forms and colours of the fallen acer, rhododendron and other leaves.



For a time we can enjoy the colourful seasonal carpet before they turn brown and the job of clearing up has to start.



Rhododendron and acer leaves.



This mixture of grasses, ferns and leaves of all kinds took my eye.



Autumn



The fresh green new leaves of **Narcissus bulbocodium**, just starting their life cycle, push their way through the fallen red acer leaves which have served their purpose.



**Veratrum fimbriatum** flowers glow in the sunshine as its leaves are turning brown.



**Jeffersonia  
diphylla**



Starting out on their growth path Cyclamen leaves with varying shapes and markings are in sharp contrast with the autumn leaf fall.





Sometimes one picture is not enough to fully capture a scene so I took many from different angles and positions around this tree and the curved path - a few of which I am sharing here



The colours change as I move around the garden where the evergreens such as the pines and rhododendrons are never without leaves - they do shed leaves every year but only after the new leaves have grown.



A shady area under **Rhododendron rex subsp. ficolacteum** and **R. bureavii** where the fallen leaves, below, reveal the lush cinnamon coloured indumentum on their back.

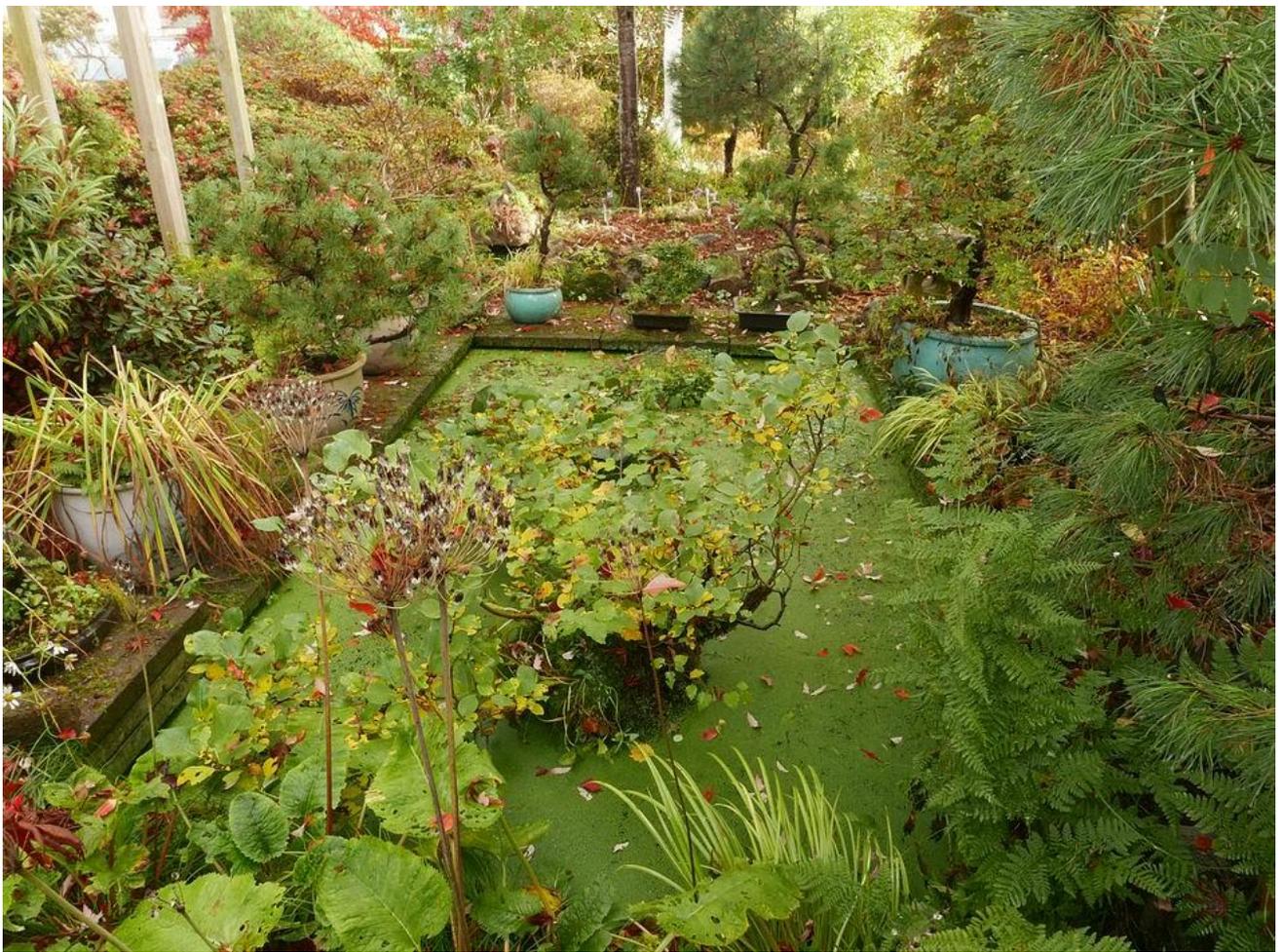




**Maianthemum racemosum**, now turning yellow, runs about in the deep shade under the rhododendrons.



The pond area is still relatively green.



Pond



View looking north.



We will enjoy the autumn colours while they last before the tidying up starts when we will gather the leaves into heaps to make leafmould which we will use as a mulch enriching the soil and keeping the goodness in the garden.





The last of the Colchicum to flower for this year is in the front garden.



I round off as I start with the scene that has attracted me the most this week.....