



BULB LOG.....24-02-2004



Leucojum x2

It seems that Galanthophiles are out in force just now wallowing about in the cold wet dubs* looking at wee green marks. Once again I make the appeal for an uprising of the Leuco-Jocks, stand up for Leucojums, start looking for minute variations and see what we can find !! Above left is *Leucojum vernum* var *carpathicum* 'Podpolozje'. Originally collected near the village of Podpolozje in the eastern Carpathians, it bears twin flowers with greenish yellow tips. I find that the yellow on the tips of var *carpathicum* varies depending on growing conditions and exposure to light - the more exposed the plant the more yellow the tips, you can even find that the tips on the sunny side of a flower can be yellow while those on the opposite side are greener. On the right is *L. vernum* var *vagneri* which is a robust usually twin flowered form with quite broad leaves.



Crocus tommasinianus 'Lyn's Pink'

'Lyn's Pink' is a lovely colour selection of *Crocus tommasinianus* that I got from Lyn Byzzant: it is the most striking colour form that I have seen from this variable species. 'Tommies' often get a bad name for being a weedy species that can become a problem - I have never found that in our garden and I think there are some super forms around. I make no apology for this *Crocus* dominated log: it is just the way it is in the bulb-houses just now, where they are the stars of the moment on a sunny day, not just for their looks, many also have a delightful scent.



Crocus alatavicus 2 forms

Two forms of *C. alatavicus* that we grow, the one on the right is quite prolific multiplying well by offsets but I prefer the left hand form with its much larger more impressive flowers. I have of course been transferring the pollen between these two forms in an attempt to get offspring that will combine the best features of the two forms - the prolific form came from Janis Ruksans which leads nicely into the next crocus.



Crocus reticulatus x *angustifolius* 'Janis Ruksans'

This lovely cross between *reticulatus* and *angustifolius* has been named after Janis and it is a wonderful crocus that increases well and produces up to five flowers from a single corm.

Crocus malyi

One of the best of the white crocus you can grow is *C. malyi* which is equally happy in a pot or a sunny well drained spot in the garden. I should say that most of the Crocus that I am showing will grow well (if not better) in the garden. It is often the rarity (which equates to price) of a crocus that makes us frightened to try it in the garden. In my early growing years I have nearly lost some of the crocus in pots and when the corm got so small I often as a last resort (or had I given up hope) put it into the garden and that is how I saved many a total loss from occurring as most of them then thrived under their own management. This also bought me time to learn how to grow them in pots.





Crocus paschei & *C. versicolour* enjoying the mild sunshine.



C. olivieri x2

C. olivieri has one of those lovely shiny yellow flowers that are like miniature suns shinning up at you. On the left is *C. olivieri* ssp *olivieri* and on the right is *C. olivieri* *balansae* which I like so much I am showing you another picture of it.



Crocus olivieri balansae

I think it has quite an unusual shape for a crocus flower.



Crocus vernus leucostigma

C. vernus is another very variable species and this is the form *leucostigma* which has a white stigma.

There are so many superb forms of *C. sieberi* it is hard to pick out an all-time favourite, I think for beauty I would go for *C. sieberi sieberi* (log 6) but for the combination of beauty and availability then it is very hard to beat *C. sieberi* 'Hubert Edelsten'.



Crocus sieberi 'Hubert Edelsten'

Crocus sieberi atticus is one of the very best growers in our garden it increases steadily wherever we plant it, I will leave you this week with a picture of it taken in the warm sunshine of the other day - it is snowing and freezing again as I write this log such is the Scottish climate.



Crocus sieberi atticus & *Iris* 'Katharine Hodgkin'

*dubs is a Scots term for mud