



BULB LOG 02.....15th February 2023

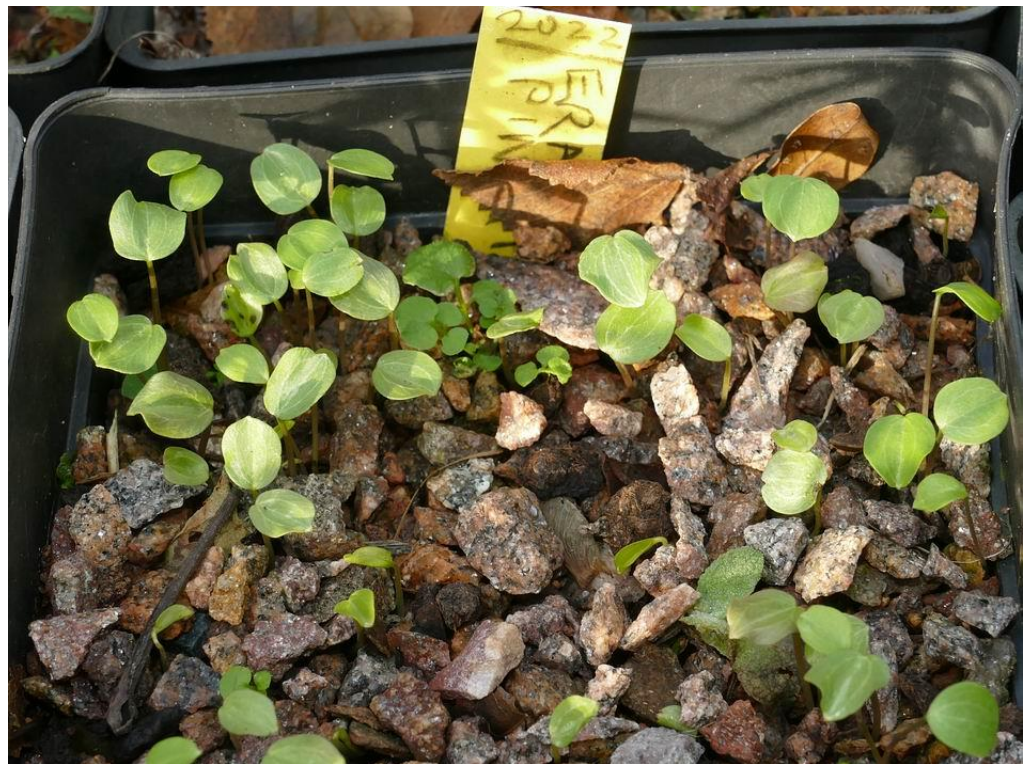


Eranthis pinnatifida



The first sign of growth on our *Eranthis pinnatifida* was visible at the very start of the year when the stem, bent over forming a U-bend, was breaking through the surface. The underground growth starts sometime in the autumn when available moisture stimulates the tiny tubers and from that time the roots and flower stem slowly grow pushing the semi-formed flower, which is not contained in a bud but fully exposed, to the soil, slowly upwards and I have often found them just below the surface from November onwards when I weed the pots they are growing in.

A comment to my January [Bulb Log Video Diary](#), where I showed this wee treasure, asked why I had so many pots of *Eranthis pinnatifida* seedlings. The reason is I am keen on variation but more importantly I am trying to build a population in the garden with as wide a gene pool as possible. To that end I cross pollinate all the plants we have plus we were sent seed of a number of clones from a kind friend in Japan - hence all the pots. Seed sown fresh, April/May in our garden, will germinate the following January, while seed stored for any length of time will germinate sporadically over a few years. The single small seed leaf like on this pot sown in May 2022 is the only growth you will see in the first year.



***Eranthis pinnatifida* seedlings**



In this pot of seed from Japan (left), sown in late April of 2021, among the moss and weed seedlings there is evidence of the sporadic germination of *Eranthis pinnatifida* with some single first year seed leaves along with the compound second year leaves of the seeds that germinated last year. We have flowered some seed raised plants in their third year of growth but on average they start to flower after four years of growth. My long term aim is to naturalise them in the garden and I did plant some out around three years ago but have not been encouraged by their slow growth: a few did flower the first year but none since then only leaves have appeared but as long as there is growth I am prepared to wait.



***Eranthis pinnatifida* seedlings**

Being among the first fresh new growth to emerge in a year makes their small stems very susceptible to being eaten or plucked off by curious birds and as they are so precious I am probably being over cautious about risking them in the garden. They are perfectly hardy as the frame the pots sit in is fully open and exposed all year round but here at least I can exercise some protection against the foraging fauna.



We have a single pot of ***Eranthis byunsanensis*** which looks very similar to the previous species but we have only had a few seeds set last year after several years of growing it – we will not give up trying.



Now for some of the hoop petticoat Daffodils which have flowered all through the winter in the bulb houses.



The majority are grown from our own seed and so there is a real mixture of hybrids and species, many of which defy accurate identification but I just love them for the display they give us.



Narcissus 'Craigton Clumper'



Narcissus romieuxii ex JCA 805



Narcissus 'Shiraune'

Now for a couple from the great grower, breeder and supplier of bulbs Anne Wright of [Dryad Nursery](https://www.dryadnursery.com/)



Narcissus 'Tethys'



One of our unnamed Narcissus seedlings I think you can see why I have selected it for increasing.



This nice bunch of yellow flowers some involving *Narcissus bulbocodium* is growing in the sand bed jungle.



While the hoop petticoat narcissus currently dominate the bulb houses a sea of white is spreading out across the garden as every day more Snowdrops emerge.



Every year we lift, split and replant some clumps spreading them into areas where there were none before.



Many came with names but I don't label them in the garden if they are distinct enough we should be able to identify them if not we just enjoy them for all the variations that appear. This one looks like it could be 'Diggory'.



I think these large flowers are **Galanthus 'Glenorma'**.



Growing nearby and small in comparison is a clump of **Galanthus woronowii**.



Miscellaneous Snowdrops growing with the leaves of some autumn flowering Colchicum in the foreground.



When a clump gets to around this size it is best split up but there are so many around the garden that they are often left to increase until we notice a dropping off of flowers; a sure indication that they need spread out.

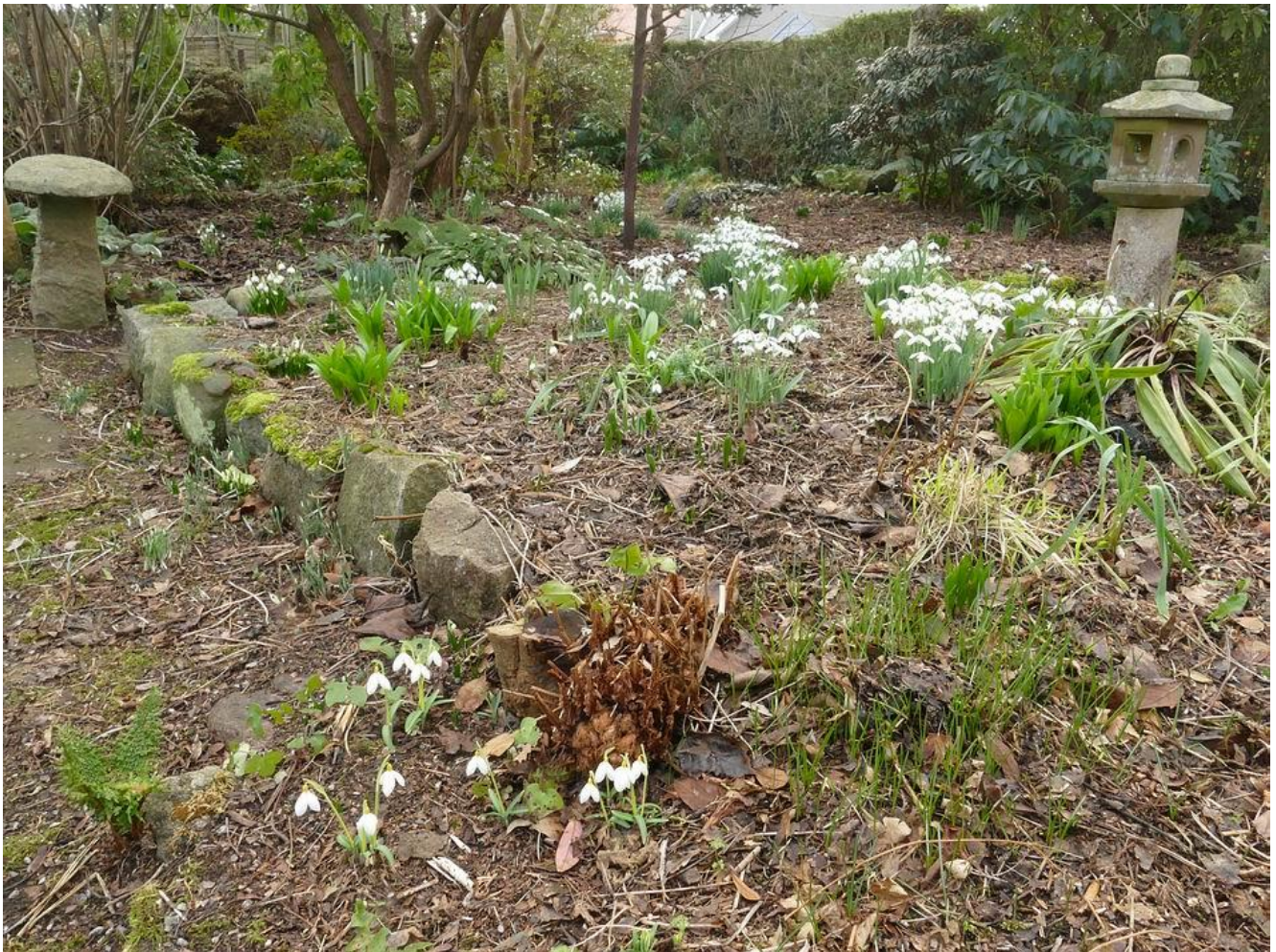




I can see why Snowdrops get some people so excited. I love them but I cannot share the enthusiasm for wanting to name every slight variation. Instead I would stick to naming the ones that clearly stand out, there are plenty of them, and enjoy the endless continuous variations within the masses.



The back lighting makes these Snowdrops jump out against the dark shaded background.



Over the coming month the white wave will wash further across the garden.



We have a number of Anne Wright's Dryad Gold series which are excellent growers increasing well for us.



One of the older yellow forms we have grown for many years.



I much prefer small groupings of a few stems like this recently planted **Galanthus plicatus** type over great clumps.



Then the **Eranthis hyemalis** adds yellow to the growing carpet of colour.



Eranthis and Galanthus are happy companions around the garden.



Eranthis and Galanthus





After a frosty start we have enjoyed some lovely sunny days with the temperature pushing upwards towards double figures and at around 9C the Snowdrop and Eranthis flowers will open fully.



While tidying on the rock garden bed I was taken by nature's beautiful planting of a tiny mushroom growing with some moss.



Also growing among the moss in the same bed is **Crocus laevigatus**.



The mild conditions have encouraged a number of the early crocus such as these self-seeded **Crocus chrysanthus** cultivars.



Always reliable and among the first to flower for us is **Crocus atticus**.



Crocus abantensis grows on a number of the raised slab beds.



Narcissus cyclamineus

Shoots of promise hold offerings of flowers to come in the coming weeks and months.



***Erythronium caucasicum* shoots.**



Robert Barnard, a regular and discerning poster on the Forum, from Northern California, recently commented on my [Bulb Log Video of the garden in snow](#) *'For me sound is an element of the garden that is frequently overlooked. I especially enjoyed the sound of the ice-crusting snow as you walked through the garden.'* Robert's insightful comment on the importance of the sound element was one of the main reasons I made that video. While we appreciate the visual elements of a

garden we are not always so aware of all the other sensations we are experiencing including touch, sound and smell. As you walk up our front drive you step from hard concrete slabs onto a very different feel with the gravel crunching under my feet while your eyes are attracted first to the cloud pruned tree which leads to the pale pink flowers of *Daphne bholua* 'Jacqueline Postill' then you experience the delicious scent emerging from this relatively small specimen greeting us as we approach our front door. Sometimes it is the scent that you experience first.



***Daphne bholua* 'Jacqueline Postill'**



I will leave you with a final thought that we should make full use of all our senses when we are in the garden and nature appreciating the full glory of our sight, sound, scent and touch.....