



BULB LOG 17.....29th April 2015





**Eranthis byunsanensis, (ex Korea) and Eranthis pinnatifida Soryo-Cho (pink flower) (ex Hiroshima)
Flowered in February**



The garden is giving us a wonderful display of flowers but before I get on to sharing that with you that I want to show an interesting observation I made this week. Earlier this year I showed the first flowering for us of the pink flowered *Eranthis pinnatifida* Soryo-Cho (ex Hiroshima) and *Eranthis byunsanensis* (ex Korea), both raised from seed, now I am delighted to see the cycle complete as I now have fat seed pods on both of these. I will sow the seed as soon as the seed is ripe.

Eranthis byunsanensis and Eranthis pinnatifida with seed pods



The observation that I found so fascinating is the different way these two species hold their ripe seed capsule. Although this is the first time we have flowered the pink form of *Eranthis pinnatifida* we have often had seed from the more familiar white form and are familiar with seeing the fat capsules held erect above the leaves. The flower stem on *Eranthis byunsanensis* however has done a U turn, holding the seed capsule below the leaf ready to shed the seeds on the ground. The firmness of this stem suggests that this is a strategy evolved in this species.



Now to the garden and especially the many *Erythronium* that are in flower. This picture is dominated by a large clump of *Erythronium* 'Minnehaha' an excellent hybrid of *Erythronium oregonum* made by the late John Walker.



In the foreground of the above picture and this one on the left you will see some very attractive leaves with dramatic dark brown patterns - these are of *Erythronium oregonum*.

Erythronium oregonum
leaves



In the same bed we have lots of **Erythronium revolutum**, which comes in varying shades of pink, with *Erythronium oregonum* and *Erythronium 'Minnehaha'* behind. Also shown are *Anemone ranunculoides*, *Primula veris x elatior* and *Rhododendron ciliatum*.



Two shades of pink flowered **Erythronium revolutum**



Erythroniums are allowed freedom to seed around in our garden and all these **Erythronium revolutum** above have self-seeded into the edge of the path - who would want to weed them out? We find that Erythronium revolutum is among the easiest and most willing to seed around freely if you leave the seed to ripen and shed itself.



Nature has a way of bringing gardeners back down to earth with a bump. I have always said that we do not have our own weather we get other peoples' weather; it all depends on which way the wind is blowing. Recently the plants and ourselves have been getting used to and enjoying a period of unseasonably mild sunny weather brought to us by a southern wind along with a layer of fine sand lifted from the Sarah desert and deposited by the rain.

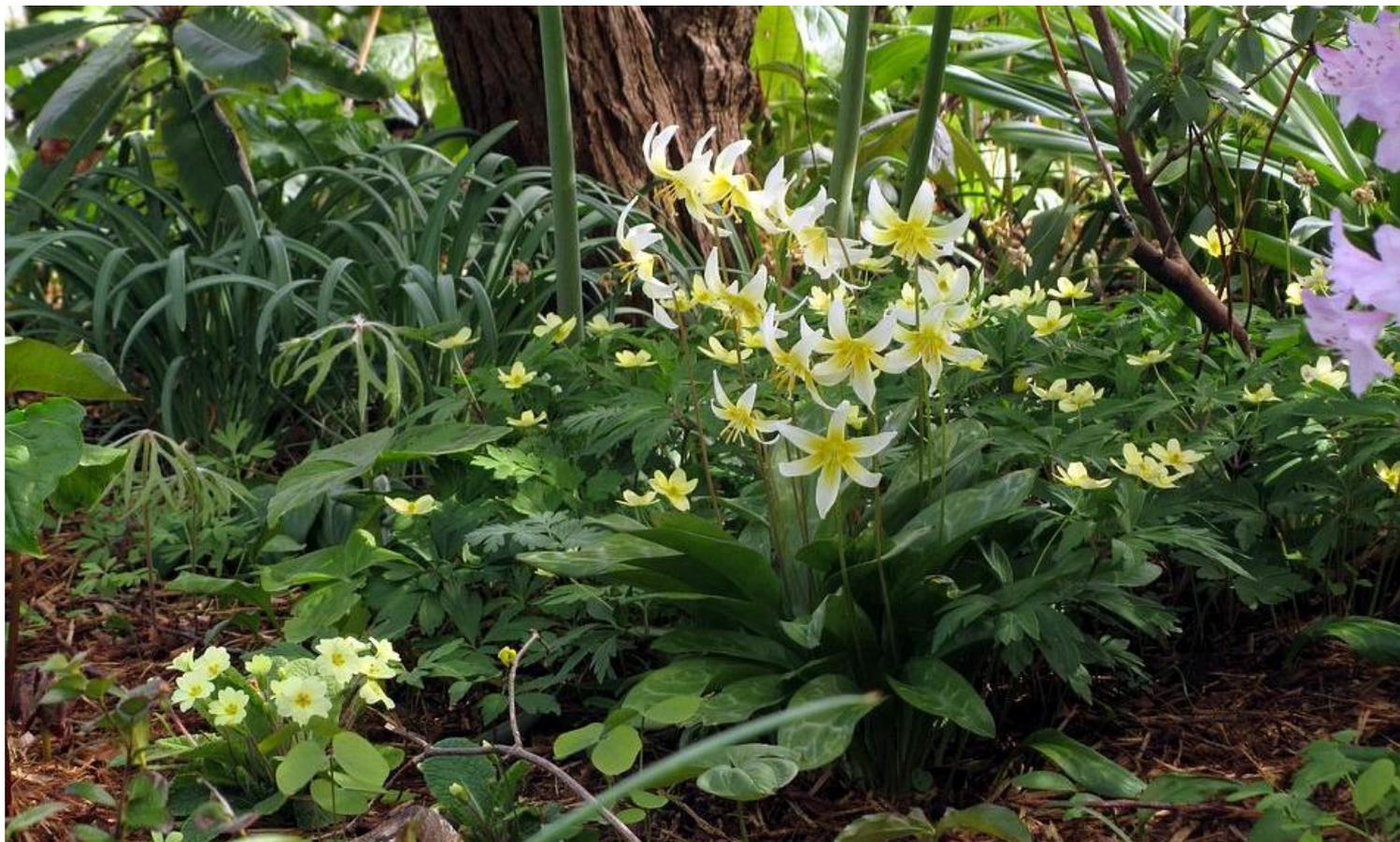
Then the wind turned coming from the North delivering icy blasts and snow all the way from the Arctic.



Back to the sunny days before the arctic winds arrived when we were enjoying Erythroniums, Trillium and Rhododendrons all in glorious flower.



Erythronium 'Citronella' is one of the larger hybrids and is especially useful in holding its own among the leaves of other larger bulbs such as Colchicum and Fritillaria imperialis.



Erythronium 'Craigton Cream' is perfectly happy growing under the shade of a small Rhododendron as are **Anemone x seemanii** and **Primula vulgaris**.



Erythronium revolutum hybrids appear among our seeded plants and here are a few. I watch them all carefully to see if any are going to be worthy of naming, see three candidates in my [Video Diary - Bulb Log supplements](#)



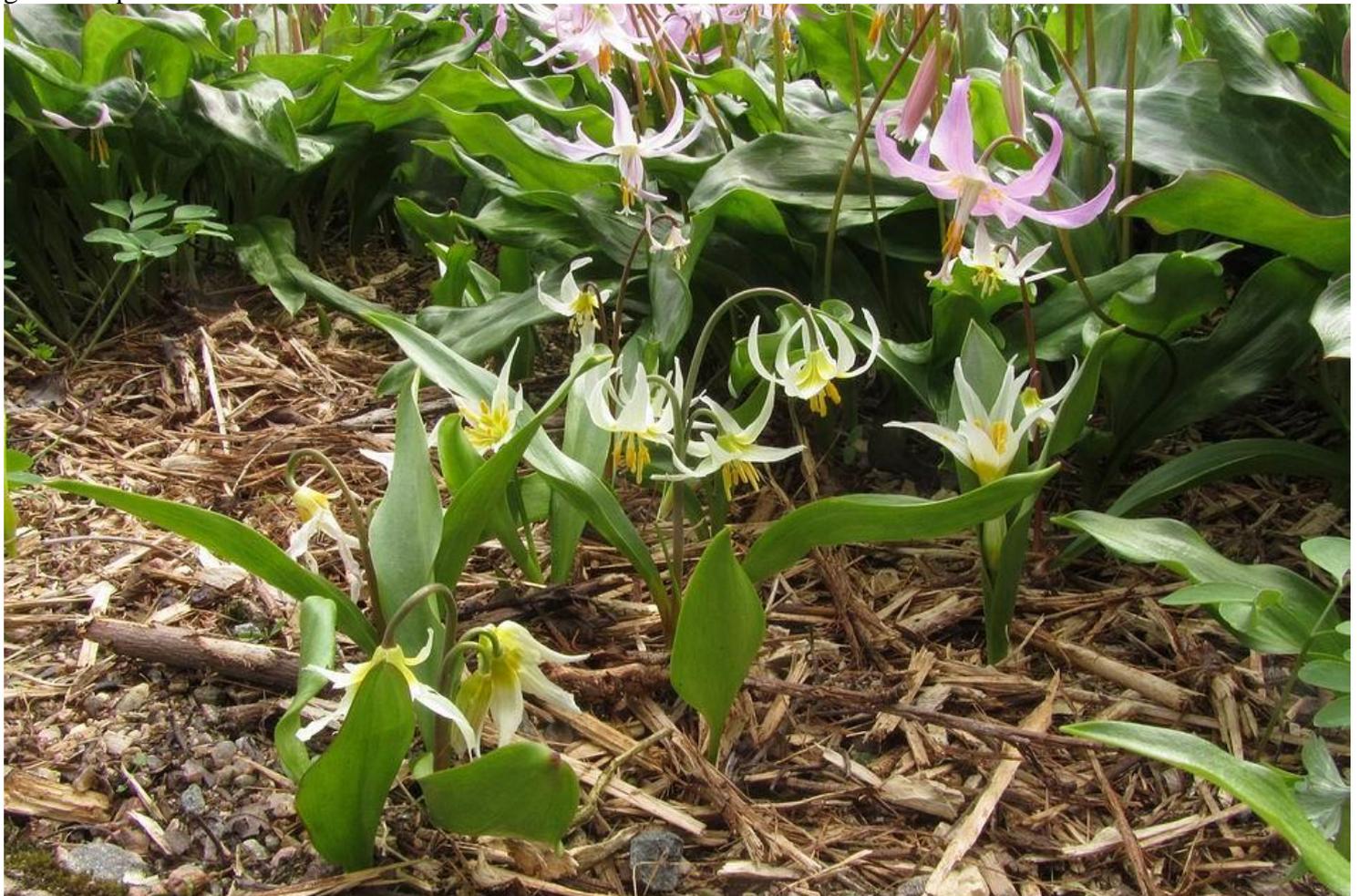
Lots of Erythronium flowers enjoying the warm sunshine, these are grown in mesh baskets plunged into sand, their flowers reflexed, in response to the heat, forming that familiar pagoda look. [See Bulb Log video diary supplement.](#)



Then came that arctic blast – but these flowers are adapted to such conditions and the flowers simply move their petals down protecting the style and anthers, umbrella fashion. If the cold weather persists it may inhibit the growth of pollen resulting in a poor seed set but if it just a brief cold period I can hope for plenty seed.



A view across the rock garden and adjacent Erythronium sand plunge bed to a frame where Erythroniums are grown in pots.



Erythronium klamathense grows in a mesh basket in the sand plunge and produces seed in good years. I will be looking in detail at all the species we grow in chapters of 'Erythroniums in Cultivation' - I will publish these when there is not so much in flower in the garden.



***Erythronium americanum* 'Craigton Flower'** growing in the small sand plunge, shows why I named this selection.



***Erythronium americanum* 'Craigton Flower'** flowers freely both in the frames and in the open garden beds where we have planted it. I feature this plant in another of my [Bulb Log video diary supplements](#).



Erythronium americanum
'Craigton Flower'

Growing here in the raised wall bed, notice the small leaves as it spreads slowly by stolons but not so prolifically as another form of this species.



This is the one that is in common circulation – for obvious reasons I call it the proliferating form of **Erythronium americanum** - because even immature bulbs send out stolons which are reluctant to grow into mature flowering bulbs. For many years we got large patches of single leafed immature bulbs that never flowered then a number of

years ago some matured, produced two leaves and a flower since then we get a reasonable number of flowers every year.



Flowers on the prolific **Erythronium americanum**



This is a basket **Erythronium sibiricum** raised from our own seed – it has a mixture of forms some with plain green leaves others with patterned leaves and I have also observed also some differences in the flowers. I was very interested to see pictures of plants in the wild that have been named **Erythronium krylovii**.



This is another basket that only contains the plant I now believe to be **Erythronium krylovii** – it also happens to be the form of what we knew as *E. sibiricum* that performs best in our garden.



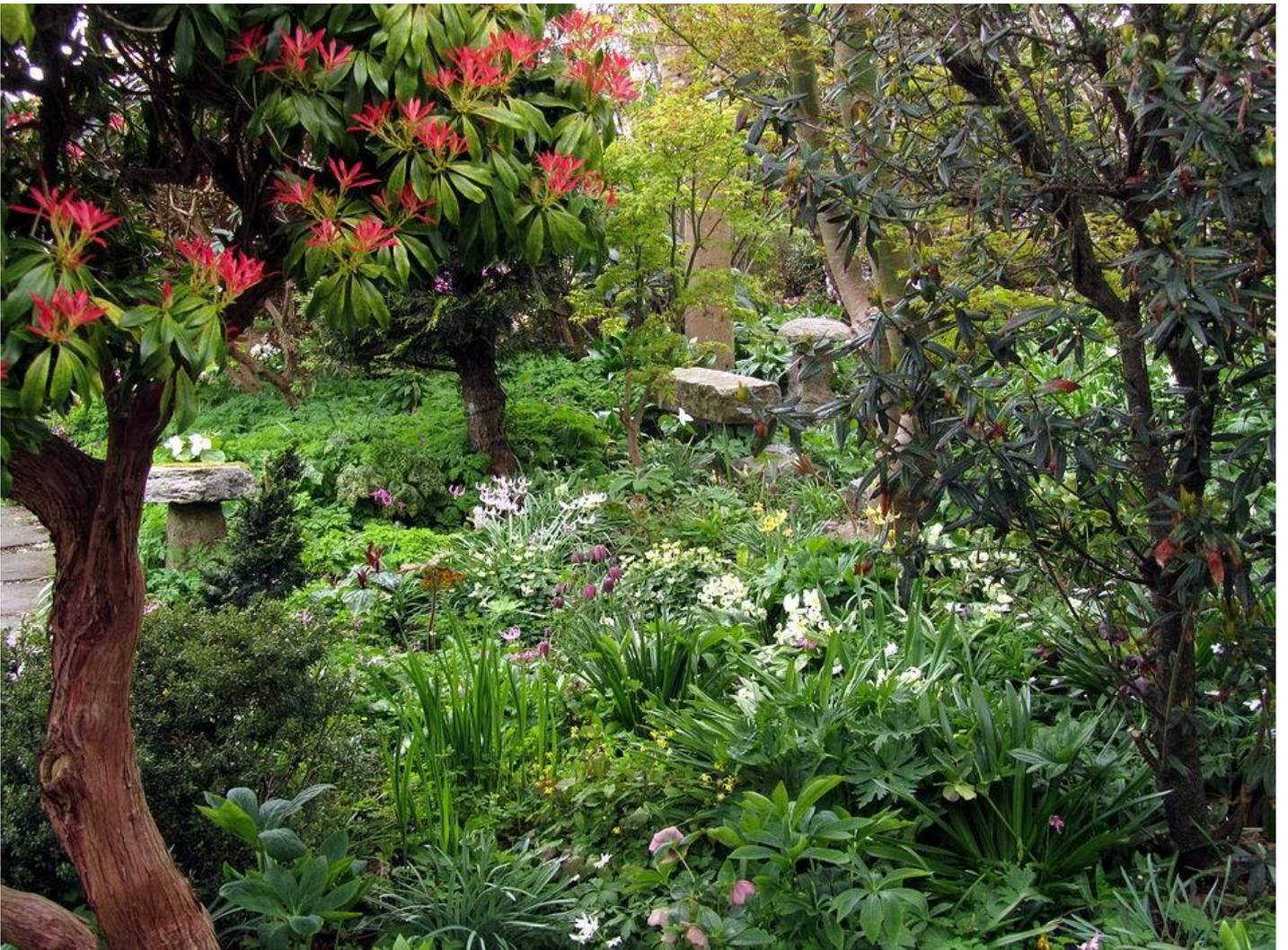
Here is a basket of **Erythronium sibiricum** with patterned leaves – the flowers are slightly different and it tends to flower later than *E. krylovii*. It may be that there are a number of new taxa formally contained in *E. sibiricum* that will be described.



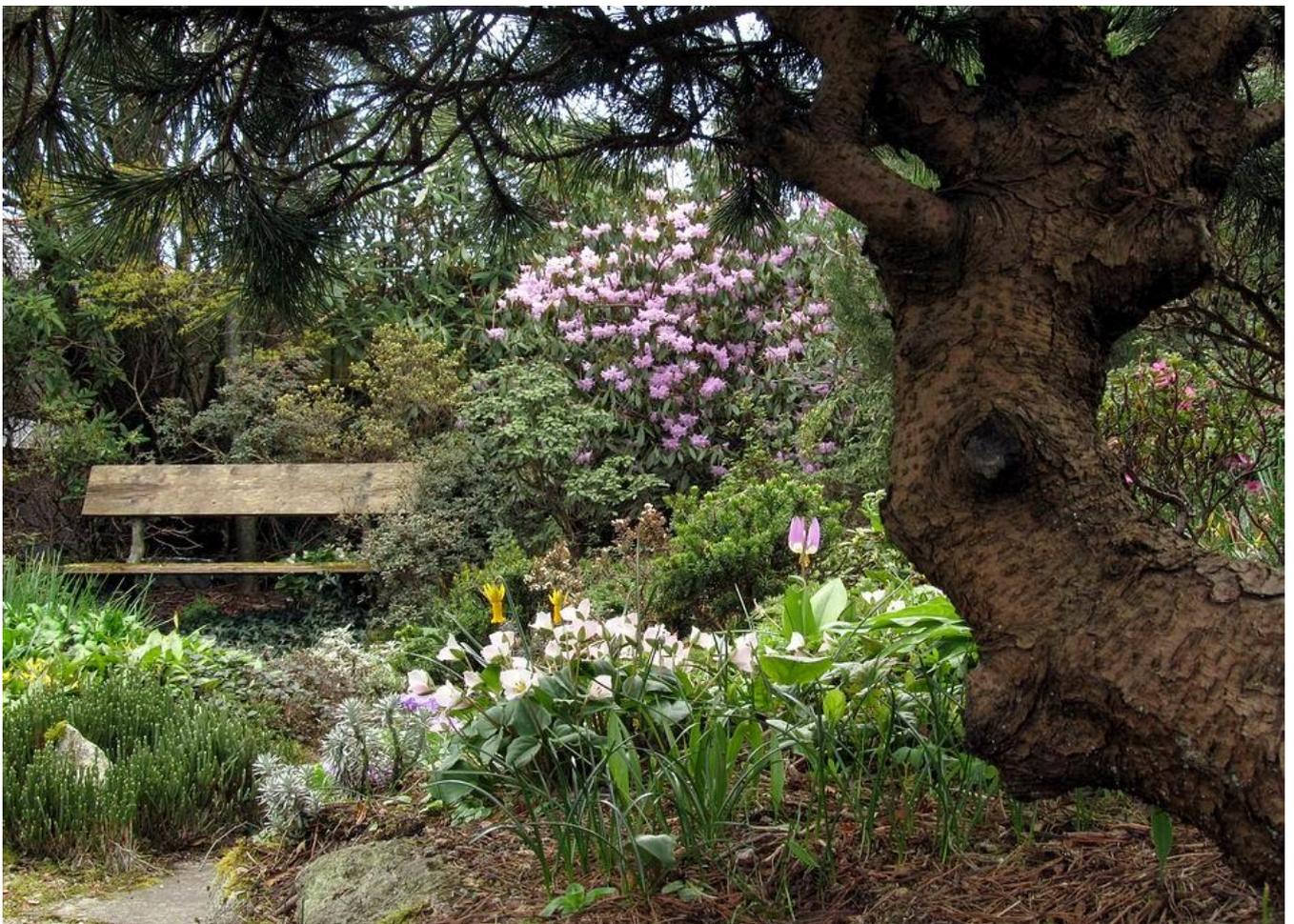
Erythronium japonicum is another member of the Eurasian complex that also includes *E. sibiricum*, *caucasicum* and *dens-canis*. Here it flowers at the base of *Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii*, the white Himalayan birch.



Erythronium with *Fritillaria meleagris* and a pale, well-behaved cultivar of *Ranunculus ficaria*.



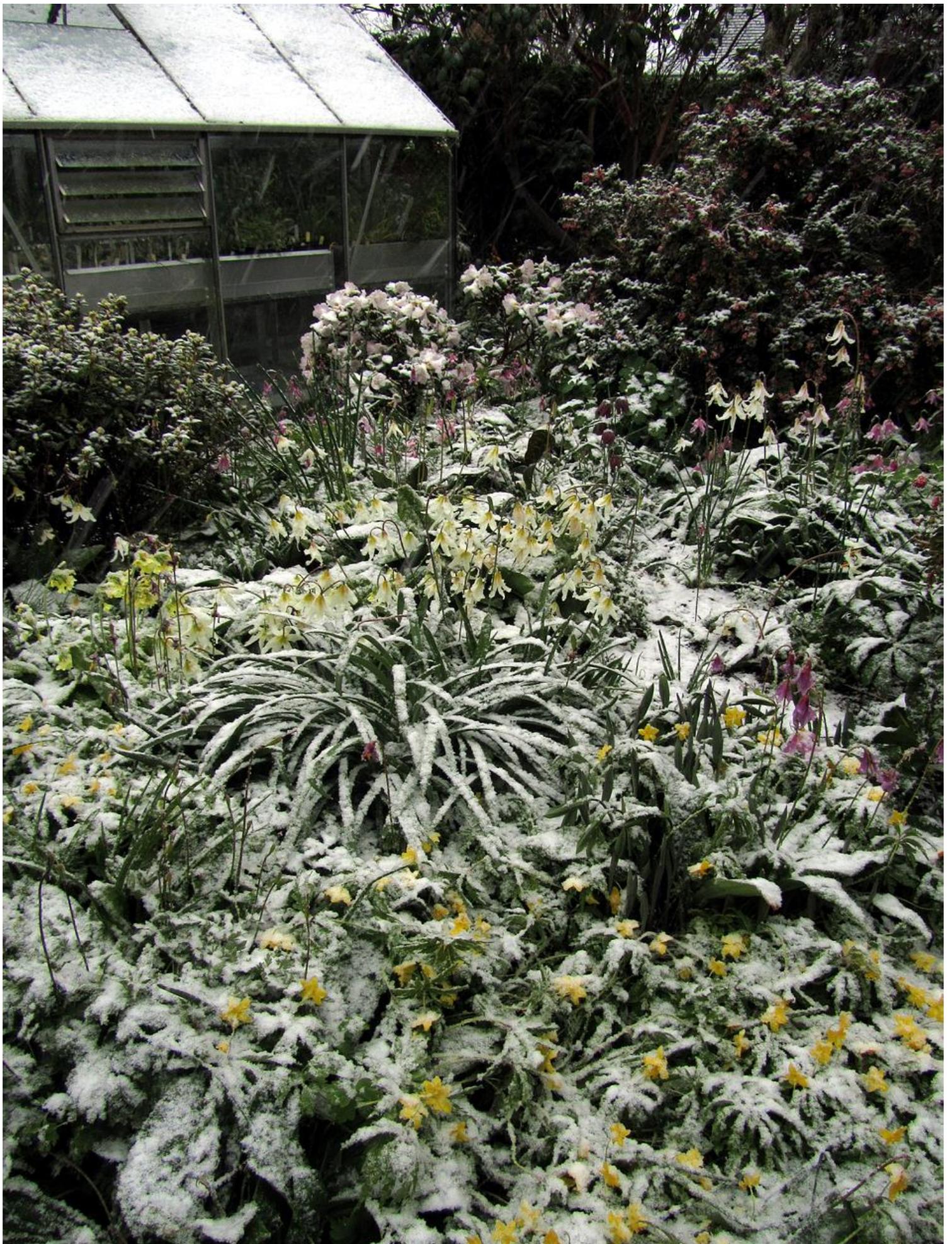
A view showing a typical mixed planting of bulbs in our garden.



Every garden needs a seat or two.



This view was taken on Saturday before we had the snow storm on Sunday evening the last picture, below, for this week is the after the storm. Also I have uploaded a number of new [Bulb Log video diary supplements](#) this week.



The wind and snow has battered a lot of the plants flat but thankfully most will stand up again - the main damage caused has been to the open Rhododendron flowers, many of which have turned brown and are falling off. As gardeners we have to learn to accept these events and if anything it teaches us to fully appreciate the flowers when we can..... Look out for a number of new Bulb Log video diary supplements loaded this week.