



BULB LOG 18.....3rd May 2017





Erythronium elegans



A lot of weather has happened over the last week – the garden has been battered by cold winds rain, sleet, hail, snow and frosts resulting in many of the plants bearing the scars. The cover picture shows *Erythronium elegans*, which has come through relatively unscathed by the harsh weather. It is a stunning plant whose flowers are pure white turning pink as they age.



Erythronium montanum

Erythronium montanum looks very similar to *Erythronium elegans* but is less tolerant of most garden conditions. It is the last of the species to appear above ground and the first to retreat back underground; hopefully after gifting me some seed.

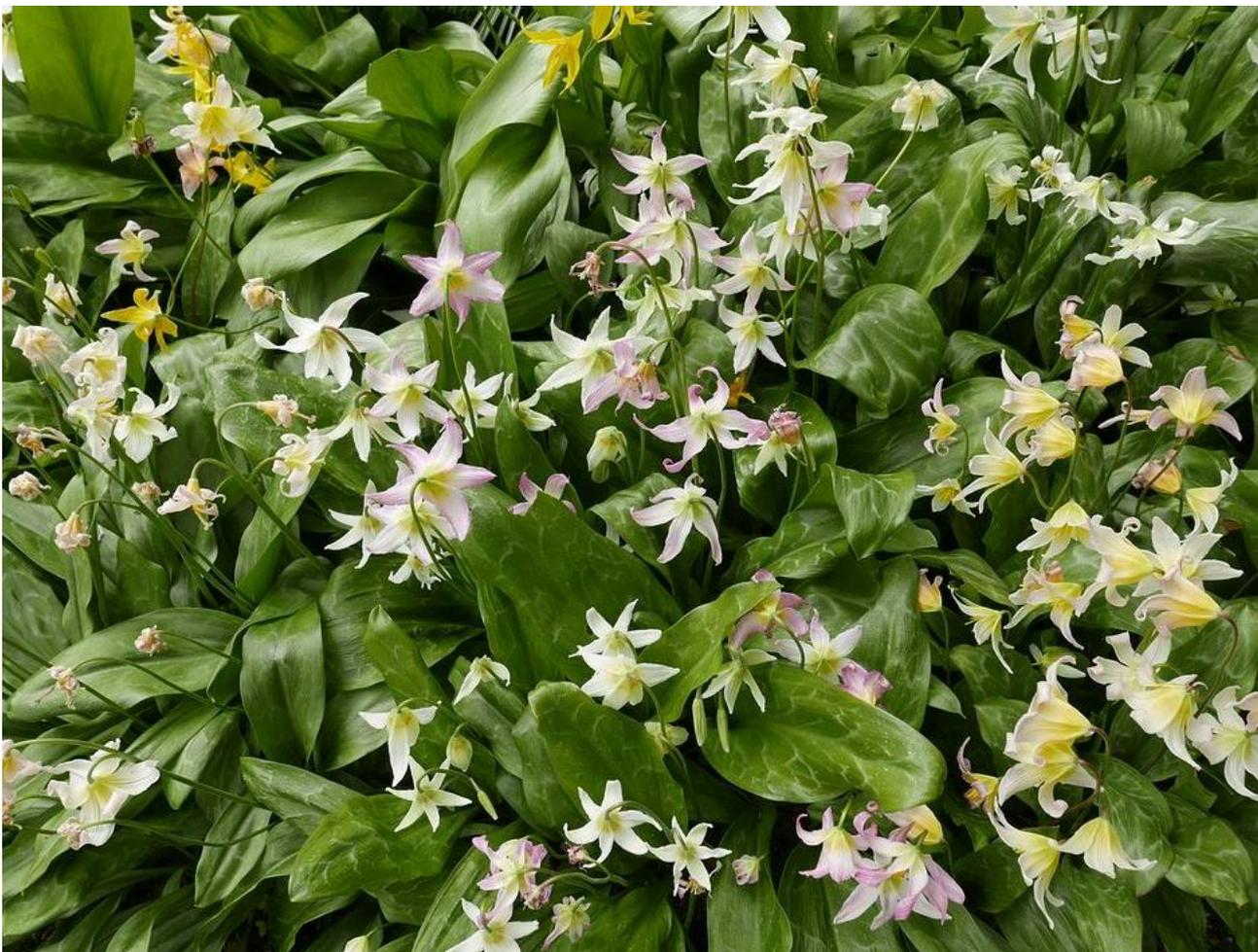
To the left of this picture are some **Erythronium oregonum** flowers growing in a plunge basket, to their right a group of its self-sown seedlings which have escaped into the adjacent rock garden and show signs of being hybrids.

On examination of the flowers and in particular the shape of the filaments I can tell that the pollen parent was a different species, most likely *Erythronium californicum*.





Across the garden a good sized group of **Erythronium 'Minnehaha'**, an excellent Erythronium oregonum hybrid made by the late John Walker, with some Erythronium oregonum in the bottom right hand corner.



Growing so many different species of Erythronium close together leads to many spontaneous hybrids occurring. Looking down of this group you will see many variations but you need to become a 'flower turner'- looking inside the flower - to appreciate the full range of variation.



Erythronium 'White Beauty' is the pollen parent of the pink **Erythronium revolutum** hybrid to its right.



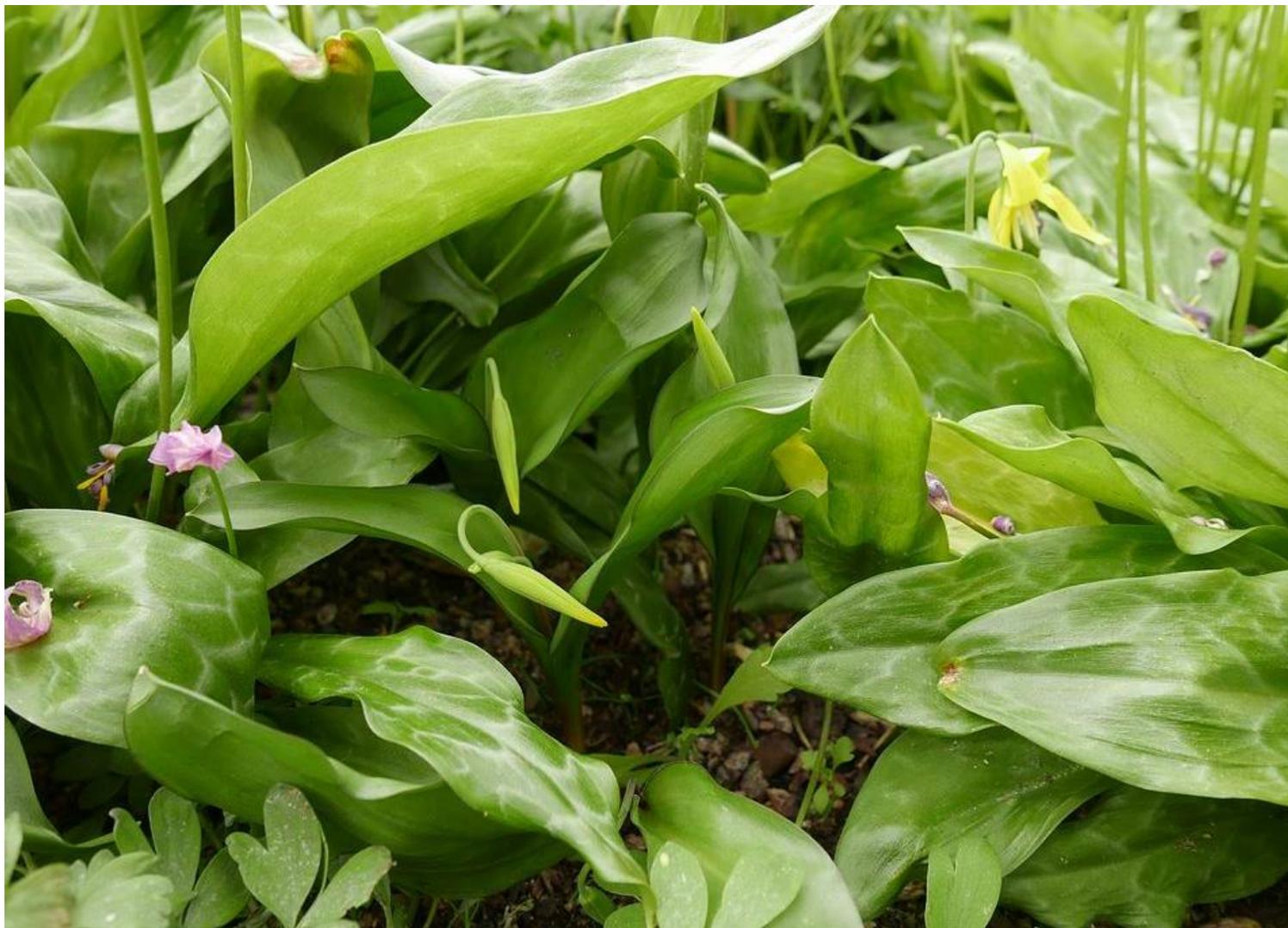
I have a number of these **Erythronium revolutum** hybrids on trial to see if any are going to be worthy of a name and distribution.



A pale pollen form or hybrid of *Erythronium revolutum* – it is sometimes not possible to tell conclusively if they are hybrids without exploring their DNA.



Mixed *Erythronium* in one of the beds.



These **Erythronium grandiflorum** buds are just appearing while the flowers of many of the other species and cultivars have gone over, extending the Erythronium flowering season in our garden well into May.



Erythronium grandiflorum



Erythronium 'Craigton Cover Girl' with Trillium grandiflorum.



The type **Trillium grandiflorum** is white but there is also a very attractive pink form which we grow - these are some of many seedlings that I made by cross pollinating these two different forms.



The very deepest pink colour I have seen in **Trillium grandiflorum** is the **Gothenburg pink** form, as shown here. Nearly all *Trillium grandiflorum* flowers will develop pink pigments as the flowers age but as you can see above the best forms have deep pink colouration even as they emerge from the bud. Interestingly many of the flowers that open pink fade towards white as the age.



Path view showing *Trillium grandiflorum*.



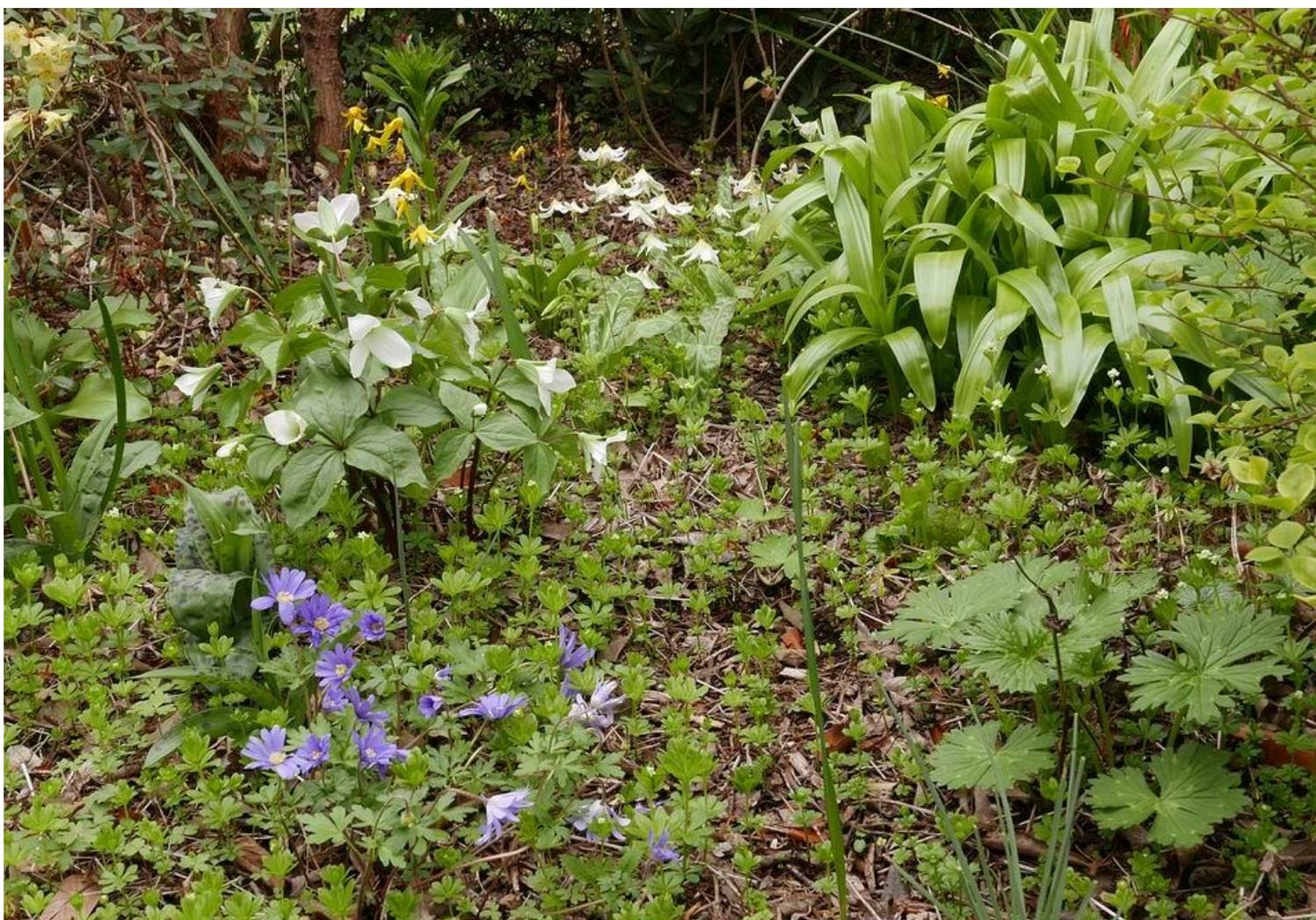
This form of **Trillium grandiflorum** is a prolific increaser and needs lifted and divided every three to five years to keep it from becoming too congested which could cause flowering to decrease. I lift and divide Trilliums in the green after the flowers fade - for more information on this check out [Bulb Log 2213](#) .



Trillium grandiflorum and **Trillium kurubayashii** feature in many beds around the garden.



Trillium self seeding.



Trillium grandiflorum also features in the front garden where I took the next series of pictures.



***Erythronium tuolumnense*, 'White Beauty' and *Trillium kurubayashii*.**

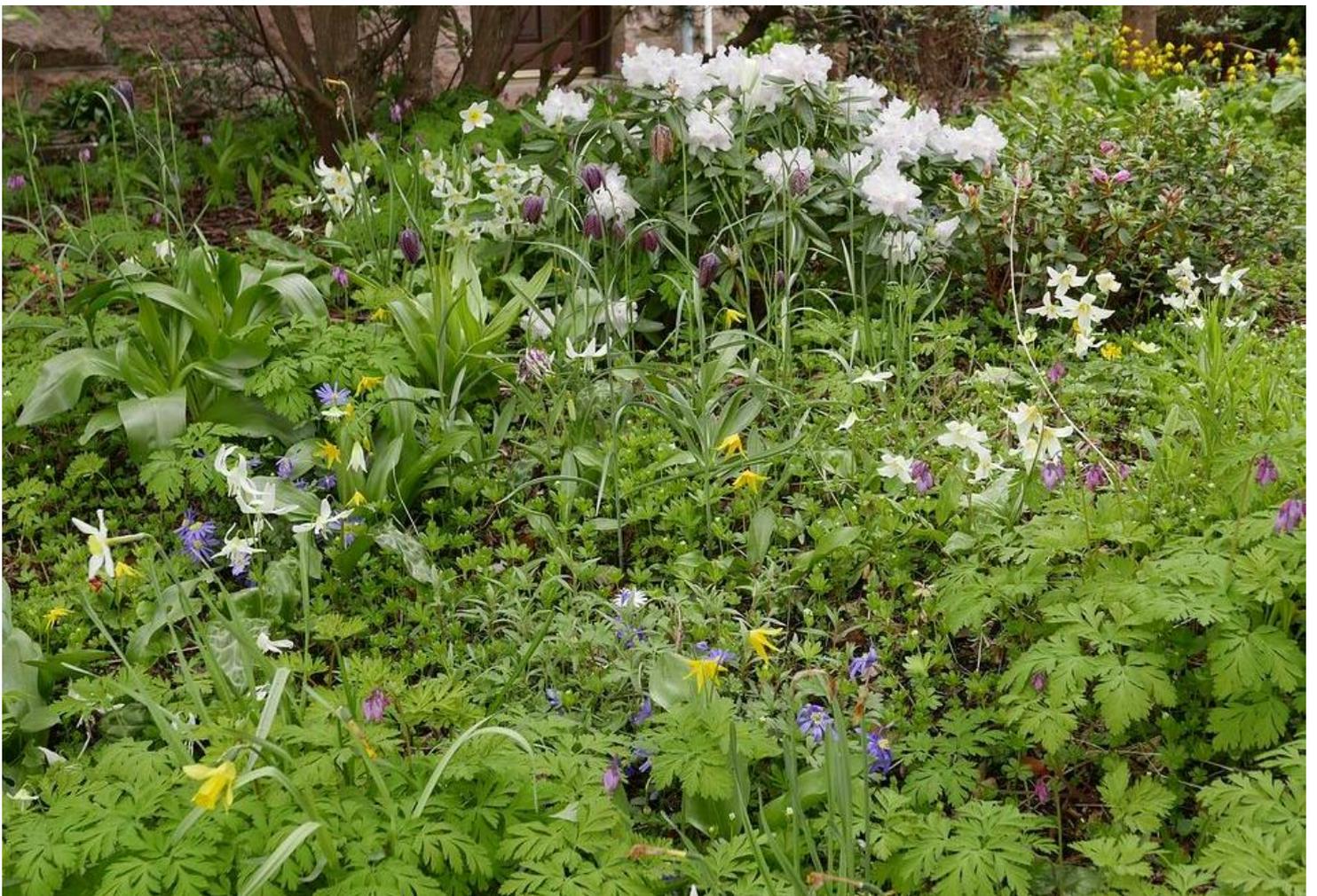


***Erythronium oregonum* hybrids planted out in the front garden**



Mixed Erythroniums in front garden.

Our front garden is north-facing and noticeably colder than the south-facing back garden so many plants flower a bit later.

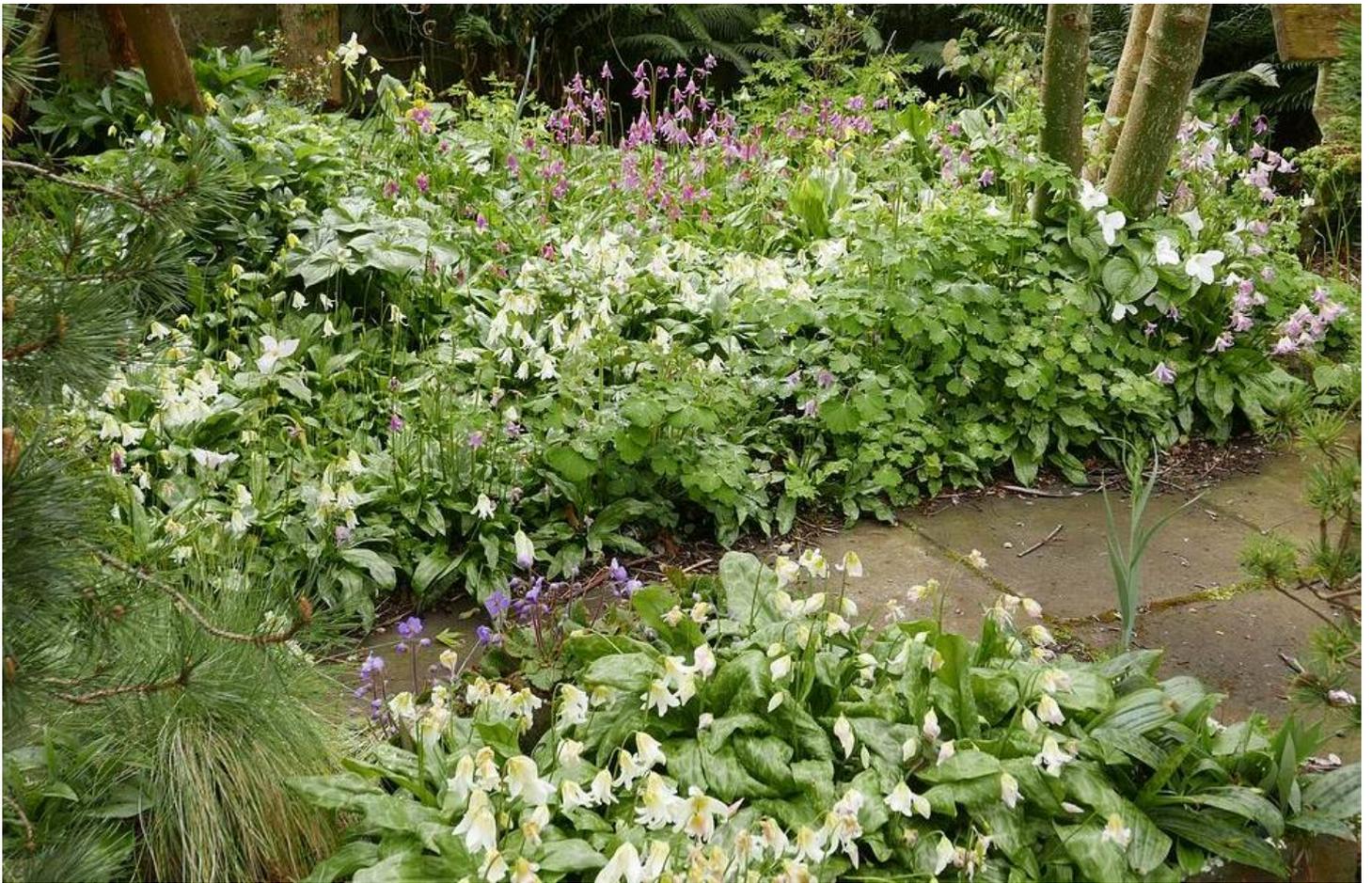




Front garden
Rhododendron
'Dora Amateis'
is one of those we cut right down to a stump a few years ago when we reclaimed the front garden from the overgrown shrubbery it had become. 'Dora Amateis' had grown to over 1.5 meters high but now it is flowering again at a fraction of that height. Our intention is to pinch out the new growth on a regular basis to keep it compact and retain the open areas.



Rhododendron 'Dora Amateis' in the back garden which we also regularly prune back to keep the ground below open for further planting.



Erythroniums and Trillium are allowed to naturalise in this bed at the south end of the garden.



As the flowering season of the early bulbs passes foliage becomes more important both visually and as a 'mulch'. A carpet of low growing plants used as a form of mulch is the most efficient way to preserve moisture as the leaves shade the ground keeping it cooler and so reduces the evaporation rate.



The gravel parts of the paths leading up to and the area surrounding this seat have become perfect beds for plants to self-seed into. In this picture you can see the mass of seedlings of all types and ages growing right in front of the bench shown in close up in the picture below.



Self-seeding



This group of self-seeded **Erythronium revolutum** are characteristic of forms that I first raised from seed collected on Vancouver Island.



Further round the path there are more **Erythronium revolutum** seedlings some of which are hybrids.



The weather has been too cold and/or wet for the flowers on **Erythronium americanum** to open so far this year.



The last group of images give a good impression of how the garden is looking at the moment.







Join me on a walk I made around part of the garden on the 2nd May in this latest [Bulb Log Video Diary Supplement](#).