



SRGC

Bulb Log Diary

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Erythronium revolutum hybrid



**Erythronium
revolutum
hybrid**

Last week I concentrated on the beauty and colour provided by the mass plantings of Erythronium - this week I am focusing more on some of the details of the plants. Erythronium revolutum is one of the most prolific seeders in our garden and when I study the

flowers of the many plants that have self-seeded around our garden I find there are many hybrids. I chose this Erythronium revolutum hybrid to feature as this week's cover picture because it has the darkest coloured flowers I have seen among this group which makes it stand out from the masses.



Erythronium revolutum



Erythronium revolutum hybrid

I find plenty of hybrids and the most obvious feature that makes them stand out as different from the species is the shape of the filaments – which in the species, above left, are wide at the base narrowing towards the top; in the hybrids they tend to be slender, above right, the dark zonal pattern around the centre is another indicator of hybridisation.



Erythronium revolutum



Initially I introduced *Erythronium revolutum* to the garden by getting as many collections of wild seed that I could acquire and from the start I saw some variations within the resulting seedlings. The flower above is the most typical of all the forms I raised while the one on the left, which I raised from seed collected in the Lake Cowichan area of Vancouver Island, has always jumped out at me as being untypical. While they stand out as distinct it is often difficult to pin the differences down or describe them in words however if you observe

the flowers carefully you will see in the first typical form the petals reflex further from the base so that when the flower is viewed from the side the bottom of the style and filaments are hidden from view while you can see all the way to the base in the second form. In addition, the length of the style in the first forms means it extends beyond the top of the stamens at maturity while they tend to be equal in length in the second; also in this form the anthers tend to grouped together in a bunch.



***Erythronium revolutum* (Lake Cowichan)**



On this page you see a colony of *Erythronium revolutum* which we have built up from successive years of garden seed taken from the original Lake Cowichan plants and notice how they retain those distinctive characteristics.

I am aware that the small number of seeds (around 10) we received in the original packet of wild collected seed may not represent the full range of the wild population - it could all have come from a single capsule.

I would be interested to learn if these features are consistent across the wild population.



Here is another group of the more typical forms *Erythronium revolutum* in the garden.



Also nearby we have a good seeding colony of *Erythronium revolutum* which contains a large number of hybrids.



Erythronium revolutum hybrid 1

Of all the *Erythronium revolutum* hybrids that have occurred in our garden I have only named and distributed one ('Craigton Cover Girl') but I am continually assessing a number of others such as the three shown here which are growing in mesh baskets in a frame.



Erythronium revolutum hybrid 3



Erythronium revolutum hybrid 2

It was a combination of their well-marked decorative leaves as well as multiple flowers per stem that lead me to select these out to trial - my problem is I keep finding others that I think are potentially better. As well as the decorative values the other main criteria of a good garden plant is that it should increase to form clumps at a reasonable rate.



Erythronium revolutum hybrid 2



Erythronium revolutum hybrid 3



Erythronium revolutum hybrids 2&3



Erythronium revolutum hybrids 1, 2 &3



Erythronium revolutum hybrids

This grouping of *Erythronium revolutum* hybrids is typical of the range we have growing across the garden.



Can you spot what makes this **Erythronium revolutum hybrid** stand out from the others?



Erythronium revolutum hybrid

Look carefully and you will see that it has white pollen rather than the golden yellow colour more commonly seen.



Mixed Erythronium species and hybrids



Erythronium 'Craigton Cream'



This is **Erythronium oregonum** growing in a plunge basket and below is a clump of hybrid seedlings deposited from this plant into the adjacent rock garden bed – note again the shape of the filaments in the species which are similar to those of *Erythronium revolutum* compared to the narrow shape displayed in the hybrids.



Erythronium oregonum hybrid



Erythronium multiscapideum



Erythronium hendersonii



Erythronium grandiflorum



***Erythronium sibiricum* complex**



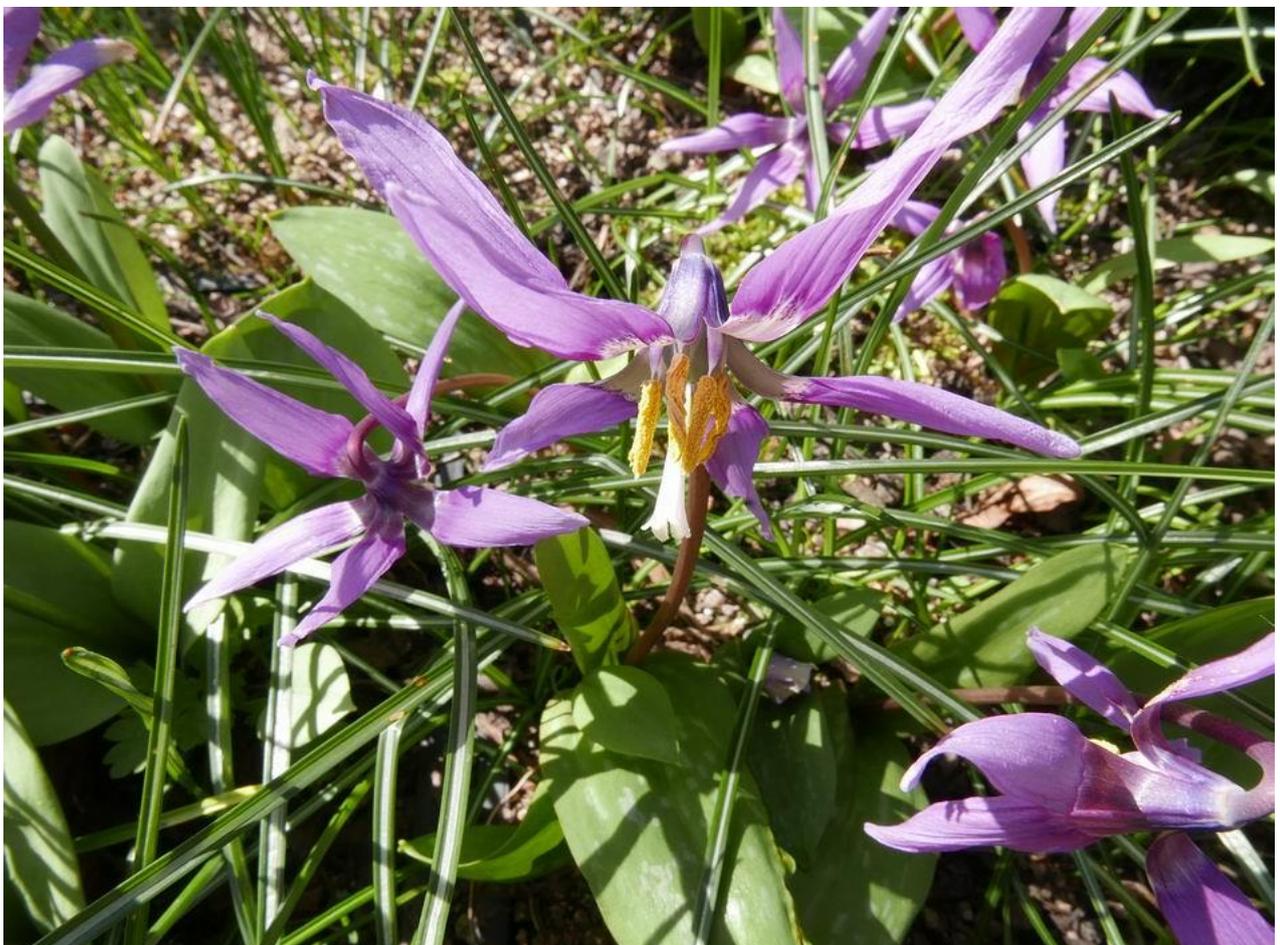
**Erythronium
sibiricum
complex**

I continue to be confused by the various names being applied to plants in the group so I will continue to refer to them as the Erythronium sibiricum complex - however I do recognise that there are a number of entities hiding under this name.

Once more we can learn much by observing the plants and flowers carefully. The form on the left has plain green leaves

and the flowers have a significantly different shape and colour to the other form shown below which has patterned leaves. Another difference that I observe in our garden populations that may be significant is that the style of the green leaved form does not extend beyond the end of the stamens at maturity again this needs to be verified by studying the plants in habitat.

Note the different colour and shape of the petals and the style which extends beyond the anthers at maturity. I have also noticed that in these forms the filaments become very slender towards the top often breaking and shedding the pollen bearing anther as it dehisces.



**Erythronium
sibiricum
complex**



Erythronium 'White Beauty'



Erythronium 'White Beauty' often produces seeds and I have found that the majority of the resulting seedlings appear very similar to the seed parent but occasionally, perhaps depending on the pollen parent, there are variations such as the one below which has yellow rather than white pollen.



Erythronium 'White Beauty' seedlings



This is a group of **Erythronium elegans** seedlings flowering for the first time in one of the seed frames.

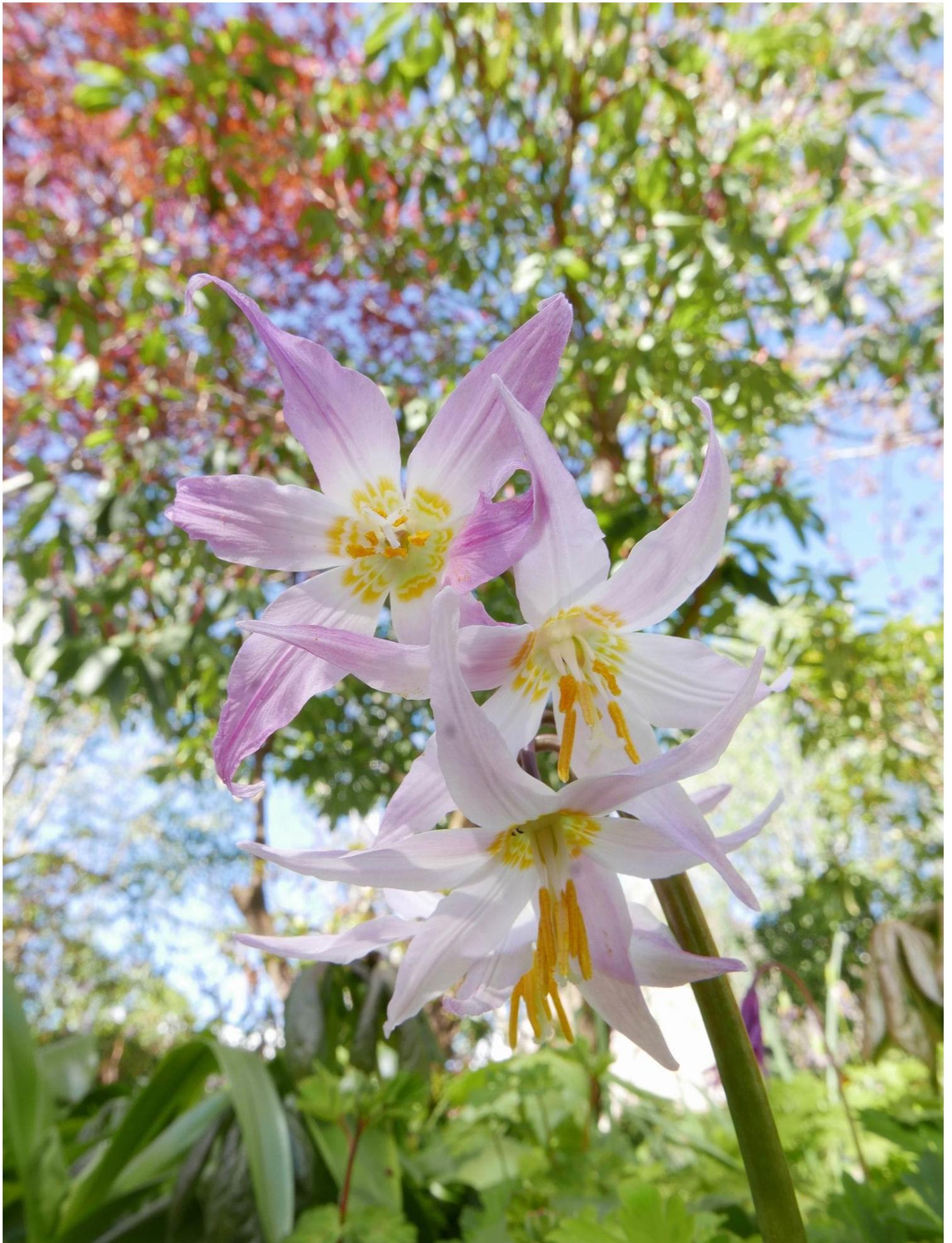


**Erythronium
elegans x
revolutum**

Left to their own devices in the garden the pollination falls under the whim of the pollinators and I often find hybrids between Erythronium elegans and Erythronium revolutum.



Erythronium elegans x revolutum



Erythronium elegans x revolutum

Many of the Erythronium elegans x revolutum hybrids are very beautiful but unfortunately none of them have yet shown any ability to increase at any speed so they are unlikely to become good garden plants.....