



BULB LOG.....20-03-2004



Frame 1

I thought that we should have a quick tour of some of the frames to see how growth is doing, then you can compare it to your own plant growth. Frame 1 is full of erythroniums to the right with corydalis and trilliums as we go left, plus other plants that like a cool frame, such as the *Narcissus cyclamineus*.



Bulb frame

Most of the narcissus are in the Bulb frame which is in a sunnier spot in the garden and as well as the narcissus we have fritillaria and crocus species. All are in plastic pots except for the top right hand corner where the *Crocus scardicus* and *pelistericus* are plunged in mesh pond-baskets - they are just starting to show through the plunge.



Fish boxes

Our favourite containers are these deep polystyrene (styrofoam) fish boxes which are excellent for growing erythroniums and corydalis. Here the first form of *Erythronium tuolumnense* is just opening.

Corydalis 'Beth Evans' & 'George Baker'

This picture makes it easy to compare how *Corydalis* 'Beth Evans' flowers ahead of *C.* 'George Baker'. They do have an overlap as *George Baker* comes out just as *Beth Evans* is going past its best.



This lovely dark form of *Erythronium dens-canis* is just coming into flower in the garden

Narcissus perez-chiscano

A very nice dwarf trumpet daffodil is *Narcissus perez-chiscano* and I have to admit I am going to go and read up about it as I cannot remember any details- that is the thing about plants you never know it all and you certainly never remember everything about them.



Narcissus rupicola marvieri

If only you could smell this one, it has such a sweet scent. This form of *Narcissus rupicola* has a longer and broader corona than the normal species so it is called ssp *marvieri* - it originates from North Africa.

Narcissus bulbocodium pallidus

Also from North Africa, this lovely form of *Narcissus bulbocodium* comes from Morocco. As you can see from the small inset picture, *Narcissus bulbocodium pallidus* is not a tall plant, but it has huge flowers (fully 4cms across) that resemble in colour some forms of *N. romieuxii*. While it is superficially similar to *romieuxii*, it is very distinct in other ways and could never be mistaken for *N. romieuxii*.





Fritillaria house

In the frit house growth is accelerating and a number of them have open flowers now but if you check back to bulb log 12 last year you will note that this year's growth is about two weeks behind.

Fritillaria sewerzowii

This is a pot of seedlings of *Fritillaria sewerzowii* grown from seed collected by a friend in the Karatan Mountains of Kazakhstan and sown in November 1996. They are just starting to flower now six years after germinating.



Fritillaria sewerzowii lilieflora seedling

This is an outstanding form of *Fritillaria sewerzowii* that I got from Janis Ruksans that he called 'lilieflora seedling'. It has very large flowers for this species, 6cms across, two or three times the normal size.



Potash feeding

The view of the bulb house shows that the winter flowering narcissus are going over now and the inset is to remind you to get feeding again with the potash. It is now, as the flowers are fading and the seed pods are swelling, that the bulb growth that will sustain next year's flowers is taking place, so food and water are essential.



Watering in potash

It is the same for the frits, they need this boost of potash as well. You can see that I sprinkle a small amount onto each pot and then water it in well: this not only feeds the bulb but acts as a tonic, boosting its immune system, helping it fend off fungal attacks.