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Bulb Log Diary

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Summer has come to the garden and we are experiencing the warmest driest May/ June that I can remember.

One of the many lessons we learn from gardening is that whatever the weather brings it will suit some plants better than others and for a change we are seeing the plants that enjoy warm sunshine flowering well while those that prefer our normal cool moist summer weather are suffering. I have had to start watering the troughs, slab beds and other areas of the garden.

In the raised slab beds Phlox, Oxalis, Dactylorhiza and Petrophyton hendersonii are all in full display. Another valuable lesson for the gardener is to learn to grow those plants that grow well in your conditions and that is what we have done through the years as we select the plants, or it would be better to say that the plants select us, and propagate from them.



We have tried hundreds of different saxifrages some of which barely last a year and never establish themselves in our normally cool mist conditions one that has proved resilient is *Saxifraga cochlearis minor* which is shown here spreading over half of this trough was just a small rooted cutting taken from another trough when I planted it.



I would not normally have to water this trough - it is landscaped with old roofing slates that form many narrow crevices - however due to the dry weather I have had to revert to watering the troughs and other parts of the garden.



Phlox and Oxalis



Phlox douglasii 'Crackerjack'



Another of the summer flowering saxifrages that grows well for us is this one with deep red flowers and like the previous one I collected cuttings from another trough, see picture below, rooted them and planted them here where they have been joined by a *Dactylorhiza* that has seeded into the cushion.



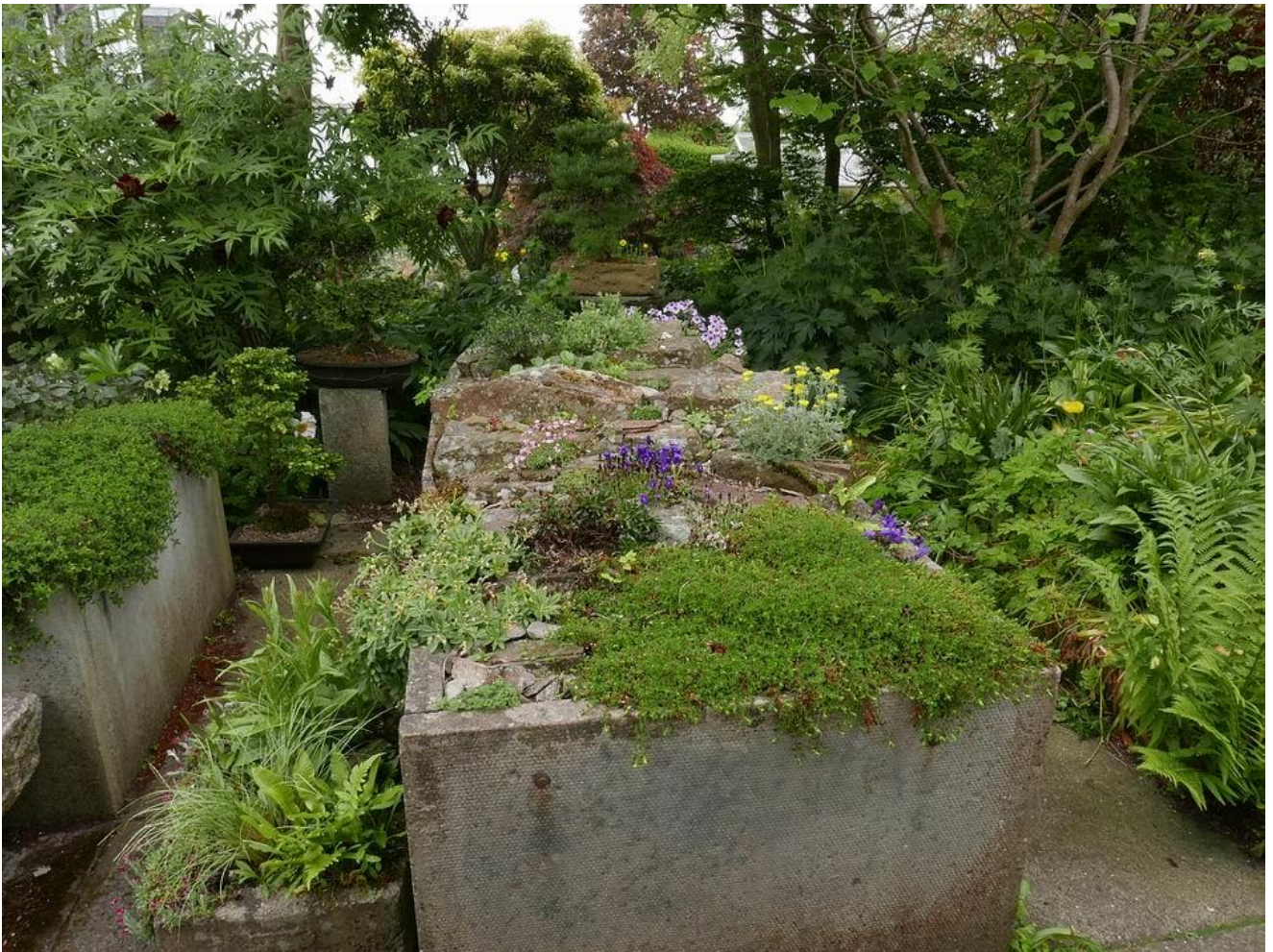
A constantly changing perspective and views are revealed as I walk around the four slab beds.



We grew this lovely *Erodium* from seed collected in Spain and remarkably it has survived our weather - it is particularly enjoying this warm dry period.



***Gypsophila repens*, *Edrianthus serpyllifolius*, *Potentilla pulvinaris* and *Erodium* flowering in this slab bed.**



Slab bed views





Gypsophila repens

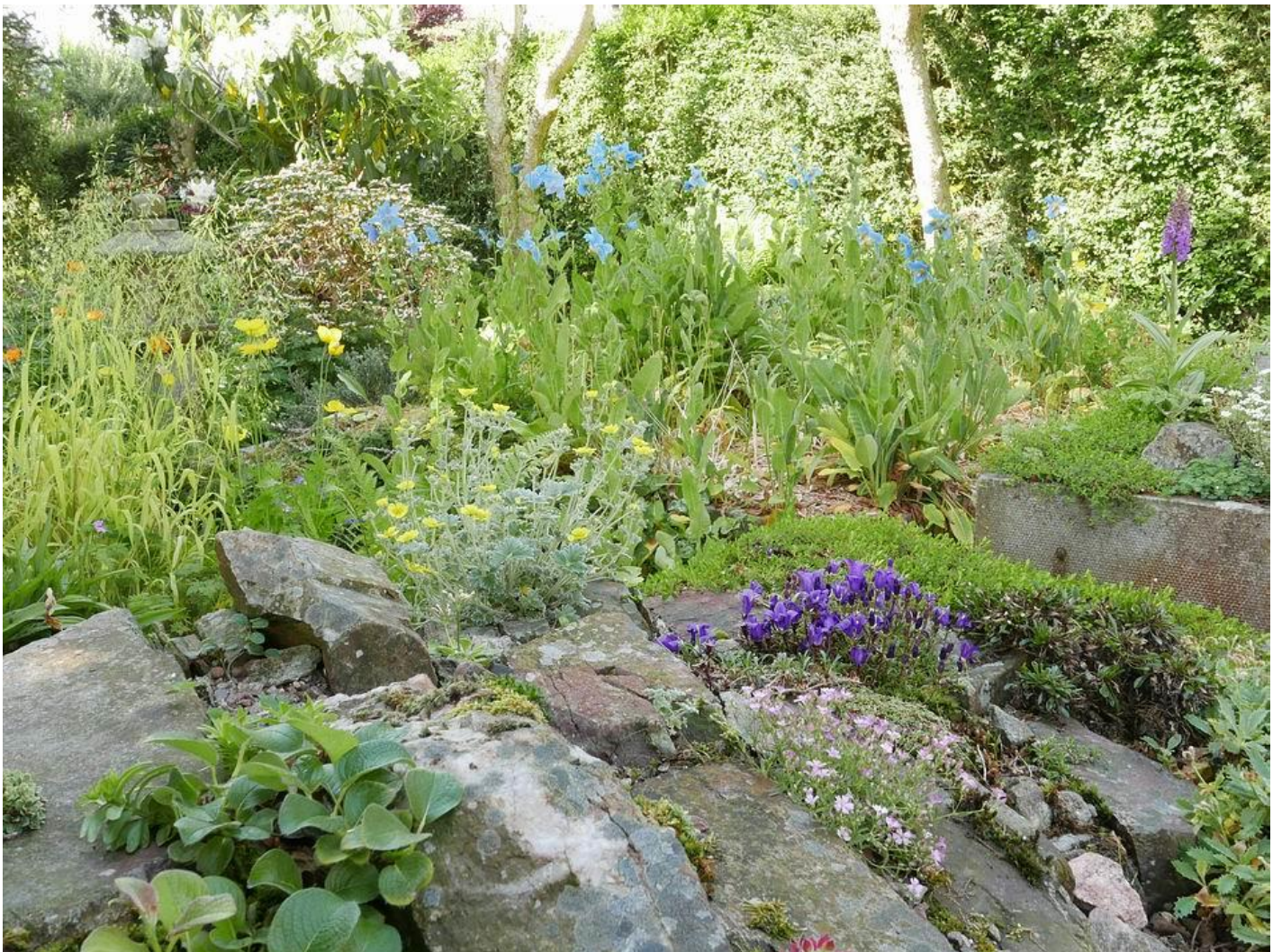


Edrianthus serpyllifolius





Slab bed views.





Edrianthus serpyllifolius and Potentilla pulvinaris.



We are trying once more to establish **Phlox adsurgens** 'Wagon Wheel' it has never survived through a winter with us so this time I have planted it in a well-drained area on the of one of the slab beds and may even give it a wee hat for the winter.



Mist propagation unit.



To keep a garden well stocked it is important to continually propagate from your plants and regular readers will know that I am a big promoter of growing from seed however I also continually take cuttings and at this time of year they are rooted under mist. Soft growth cuttings root extremely quickly under mist; some are ready to be moved on in two weeks.

Some such as these *Salix* cuttings root so easily that I place the cuttings in a box of moist sand that is kept watered and shaded where they soon root.

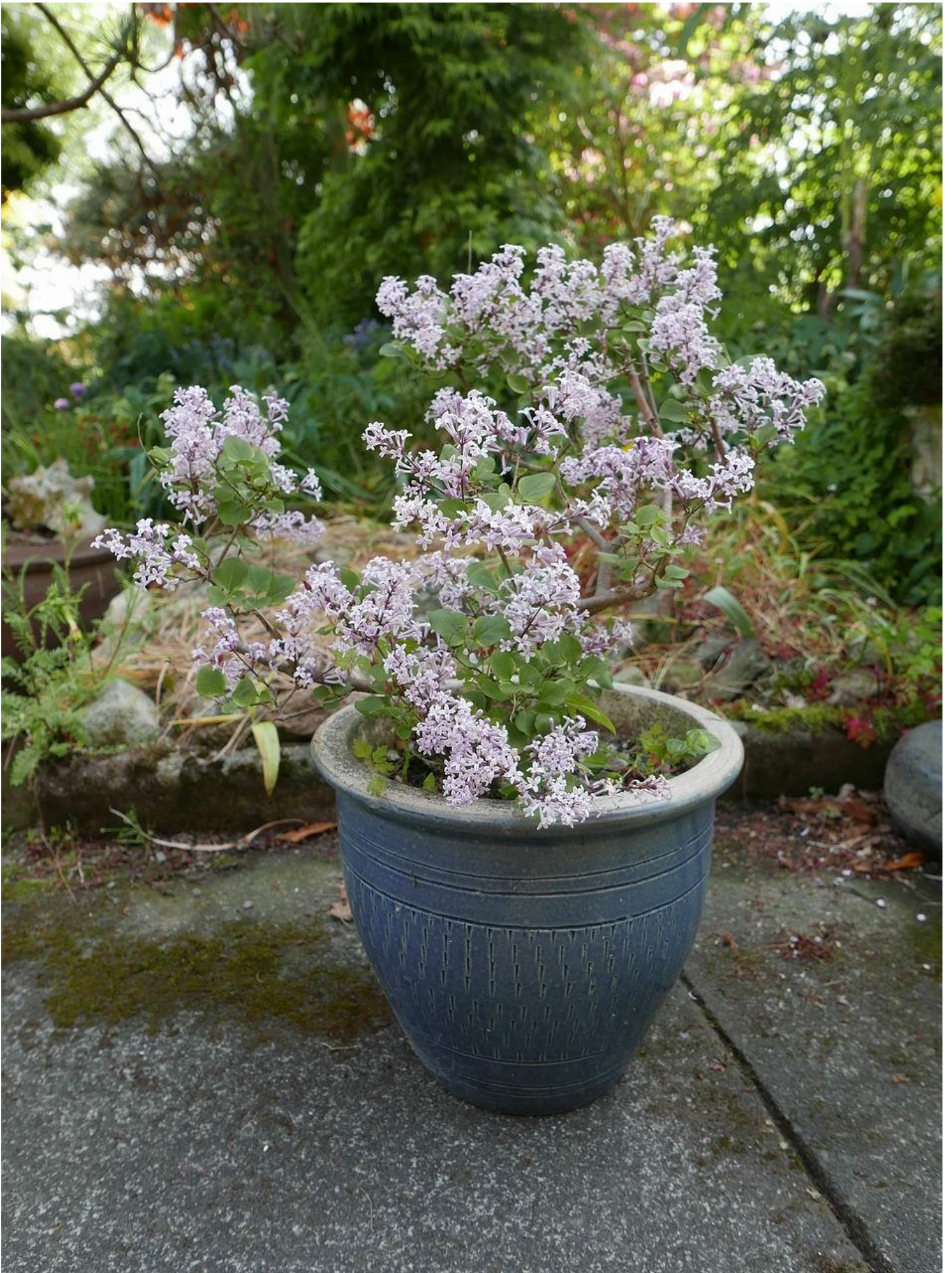
I also often place cuttings rooted under mist into boxes of sand like this to wean them off the high dependency before planting them out.



Rooted cutting of *Salix nakamura* var. *yezoalpina*.

Leucogenes leontopodium was one of the very first plants we bought at Jack Drake's Inschriach Nursery in the early 1970's and I have kept it going by cuttings ever since.





A cutting from the dwarf lilac, **Syringa meyeri 'Palibin'**, growing in the front garden lives in a pot on our back doorstep where it is flowering freely in the sunshine.

We are lucky to have **Meconopsis baileyi** as one of the plants that choose to grow for us and indeed it seeds around freely. We did not plant any of the meconopsis you can see in this picture: they seed themselves around in the rock garden and the *Erythronium plunje*.



I have seen it stated in print that that *Meconopsis baileyi* is not perennial – well that may be the case in some gardens but here it is soundly perennial. The flowering stem does die back as the seeds ripen but side growths which you can see in these pictures form at the base and in suitable cool moist growing conditions these establish new flowering growths for next year. The plant on the left seeded itself into this tough.



This **Lilium monadelphum** stem is now nearly as tall as I am and it will continue to grow until it flowers. Where it grows it is mostly in shade but caught enough of the hot sunshine for the leaves to get sunburned see below.



Scorched leaves of
*Lilium
monadelphum*.



Sitting in better shade are the large leaves of *Cardiocrinum giganteum*.

The new bed I made beside the pond continues to bring me pleasure and work as there are plenty weeds that came in with the compost from our compost heaps that I used build it up.



When I built it last year I planted out many young seedlings as well as scattering seeds so all weeding is done under our normal garden rules – that is you identify the plant before designating it a weed to be removed, if we do not know what it is we leave it to grow until we can find out!



It is the turn of a pale pink form of **Ramonda myconi** to flower in the trough that forms part of one side of the bed while across the other edge below some of the rocks *Cornus canadensis* grows and flowers (see below).





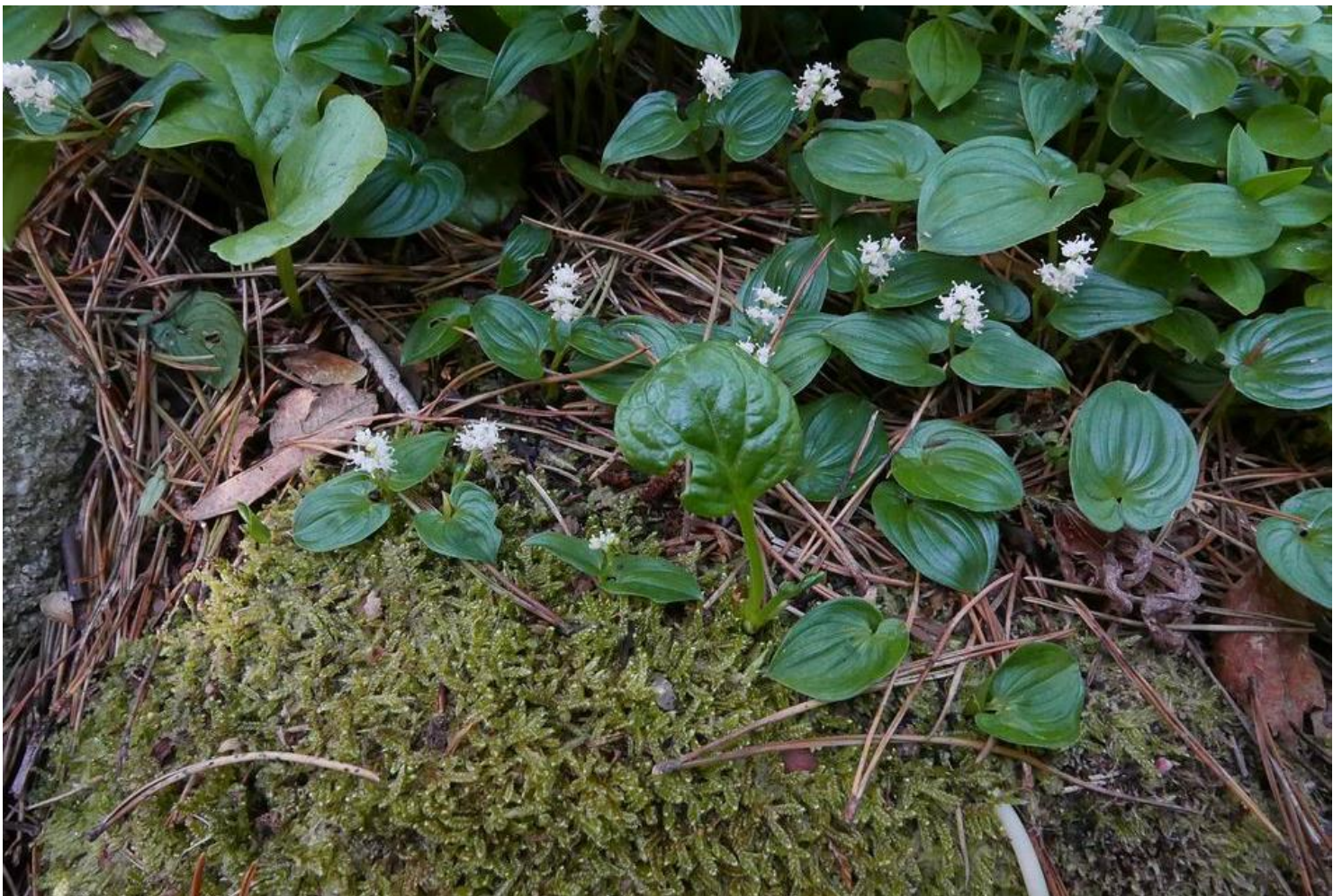
Cornus canadensis



Close-by on the raised wall I planted ***Cornus suecica*** which I hope will also settle down and flower - it grows here among ***Pyrola media***, ***Maianthemum bifolium* var. *yakushmanum*** and ***Trillium hibbersonii*** to the left.



My aim in the garden is to create micro habitats where groups of plants thrive and I get a lot of pleasure from groups where all the smaller plants grow happily through one another.



These three diminutive plants spread out by runners just below the surface and I was delighted when I spotted that the *Pyrola* and *Maianthemum* were running into the moss covering the rocks that form the edge of the bed – I hope that the *Cornus* follows suit.



Last week I shared a picture of the yellow form of **Fritillaria camschatcensis** that came from Japan I will finish off this week with it growing beside the Alaskan form of *Fritillaria camschatcensis*.....

Click the link for the latest [Bulb Log Video Diary Supplement](#) looking around the troughs and slab beds.