



SRG

Bulb Log

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BULB LOG 37.....9<sup>th</sup> September 2020



*Veratrum fimbriatum*





**Veratrum fimbriatum** is endemic to California where it grows in the North Coastal coniferous forests of Mendocino County -some of our other favourite plants, such as *Scoliopus bigelovi*, also hail from there.

Its sculptural fan shaped foliage appeared some months ago but like a diva its flamboyant flowers make us wait in eager anticipation before they appear to put on their exotic display.



Although very different to the *Veratrum* the late appearing flowers of ***Eucomis bicolor*** also have an exotic look.





It is easy to see why **Eucomis bicolor** is sometimes called the 'pineapple lily'.



The stems are made all the more attractive by being decorated with dark purple spots which also make an appearance on the back of the leaves. So far this season the leaves are only lightly chewed: most years they are full of holes by the time they flower. The wet summer has

led to a big population of slugs and snails but plenty of water in the ground also means that many plants whose foliage would have died back by now are still green providing plenty of alternative sources of slug food.





***Arisaema nepenthoides***

*Arisaema nepenthoides* also has dark purple streaks on its stem which along with its other features makes me think that it would look perfectly at home in a Jurassic landscape. Now the fruits are turning red the plant has completed its annual growth and is starting to collapse as it retreats to its underground lair for the winter.





**Roscoea 'Harvington Imperial'**

Roscoea 'Harvington Imperial' is a plant with attitude: this hardy ginger makes a late appearance in the garden often waiting until August before it rises above ground then we have to wait a number of weeks before the first flowers eventually appear but when they do start they are worth waiting for and many more continue to appear until the frosts will send it quickly back underground.

**Roscoea  
purpurea  
'Red Gurkha'.**

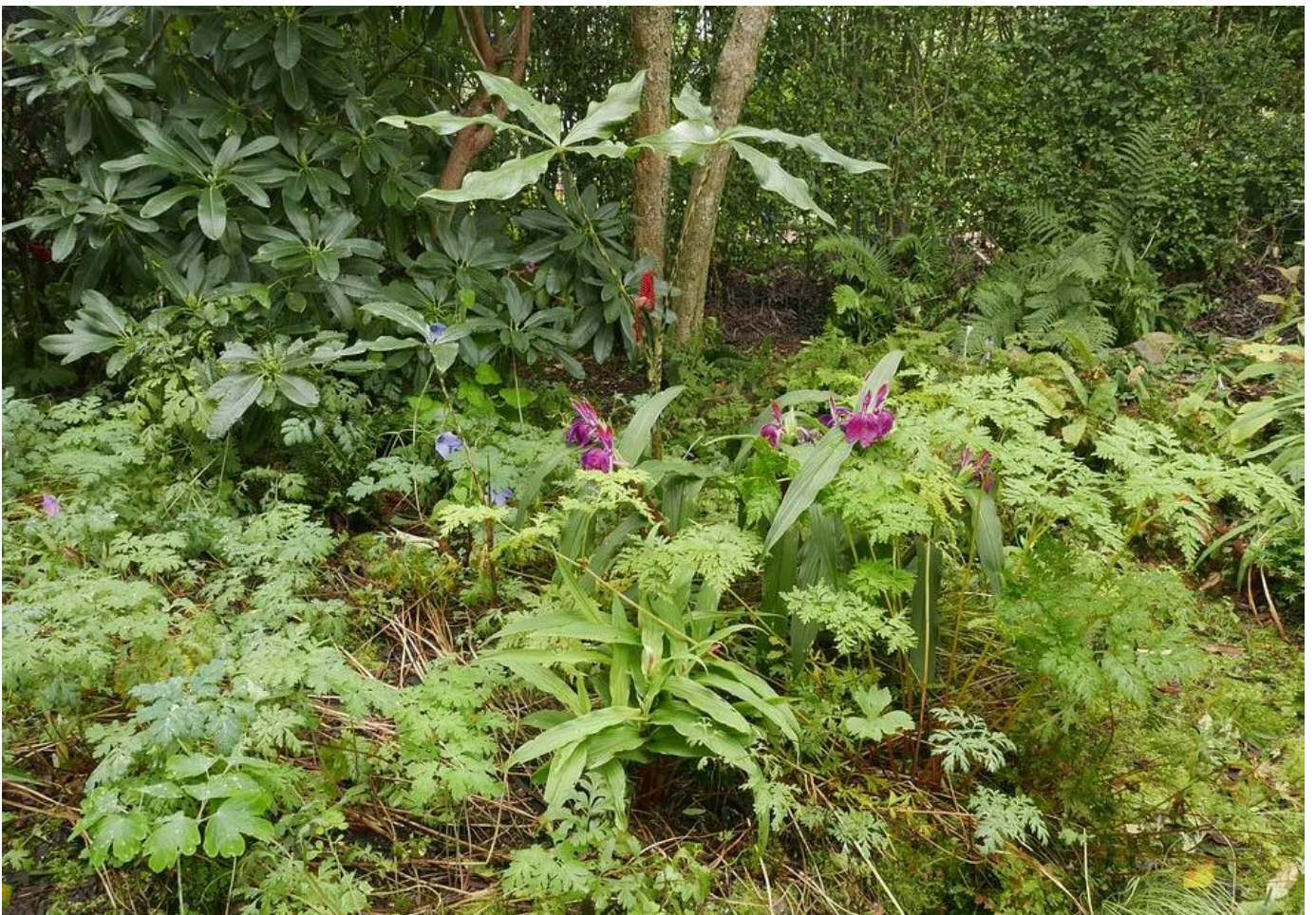
The first flowers of this Roscoea purpurea 'Red Gurkha' have only opened this week making it the last of the genus to bloom in our garden – it does not produce such a long succession of flowers as 'Harvington Imperial' does.







***Roscoeia purpurea* 'Red Gurkha' and *Roscoeia* 'Harvington Imperial'**



The *Roscoeia* and *Arisaema* from the previous pictures are all together in this area along with a *Codonopsis* - can you spot it?





**Codonopsis  
grey-  
wilsonii**



When **Codonopsis grey-wilsonii** cannot find something to climb up it is perfectly happy scrambling along at ground level: here are some flowers with a similarly coloured **Crocus nudiflorus**.





I have been assessing some plants in the new bed beside the pond and decided that I need to intervene.



Some of the *Meconopsis* that self-seeded into the middle of the bed have grown so well that they could be detrimental and hinder the growth of smaller bulbous plants and certainly the larger *Meconopsis* leaves will obscure our view of the many autumn flowering *Crocus* that are starting to flower.





There is one corner towards the back of the bed where I planted slightly larger plants including *Meconopsis* but I am lifting two plants that seeded into the middle.

I have found a new home for the *Meconopsis* nearby.





Now the scale I intended for this bed is reinstated and we can watch for the Crocus to flower.



The Codonopsis scrambles through the Meconopsis foliage at the back corner of the bed their flowering mingling with those of Crocus nudiflorus.



**Crocus nudiflorus** is among the first to come into flower this autumn.



**Crocus speciosus ssp. xantholaimos**



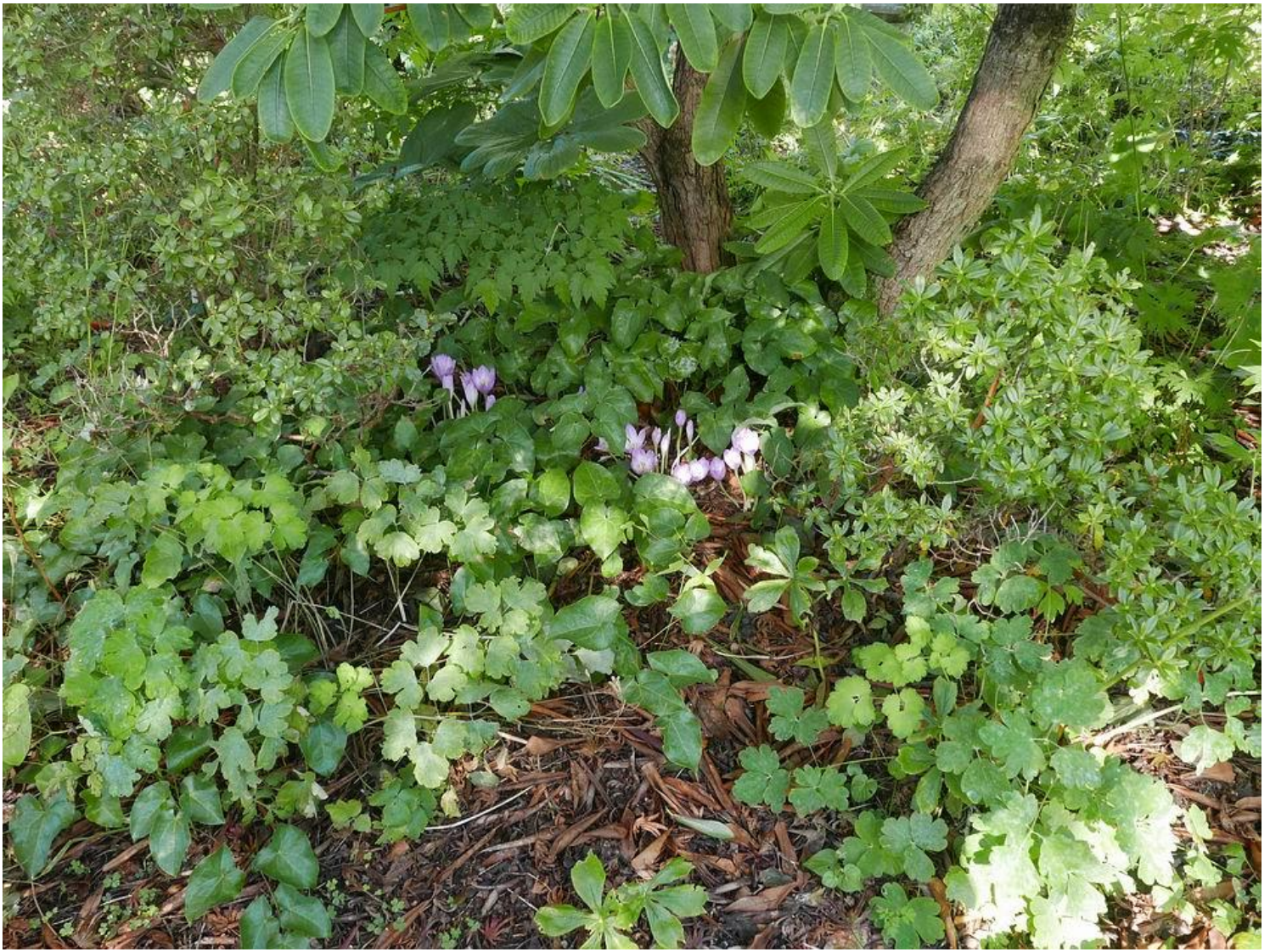


***Crocus speciosus* ssp *xantholaimos* seedling.**

Colchicum flowers are also bringing colour to the autumn garden – every day more are appearing.







Autumn  
flowering in  
our garden is  
dominated by  
three genera  
of bulbs -  
Crocus,  
Colchicum  
and  
Cyclamen.





Mixed *Colchicum* cultivars



*Cyclamen hederifolium*





***Cyclamen hederifolium album***



**A very dark form of *Cyclamen hederifolium*.**





Last week I showed evidence that some of the bulbs were anticipating the season with clear signs of growth even though they were completely dry - now just a few days after watering that growth has accelerated and many leaves are starting to appear.







I will leave you this week with one more picture of **Crocus speciosus ssp xantholaimos**.....