



BULB LOG 42.....19<sup>th</sup> October 2016

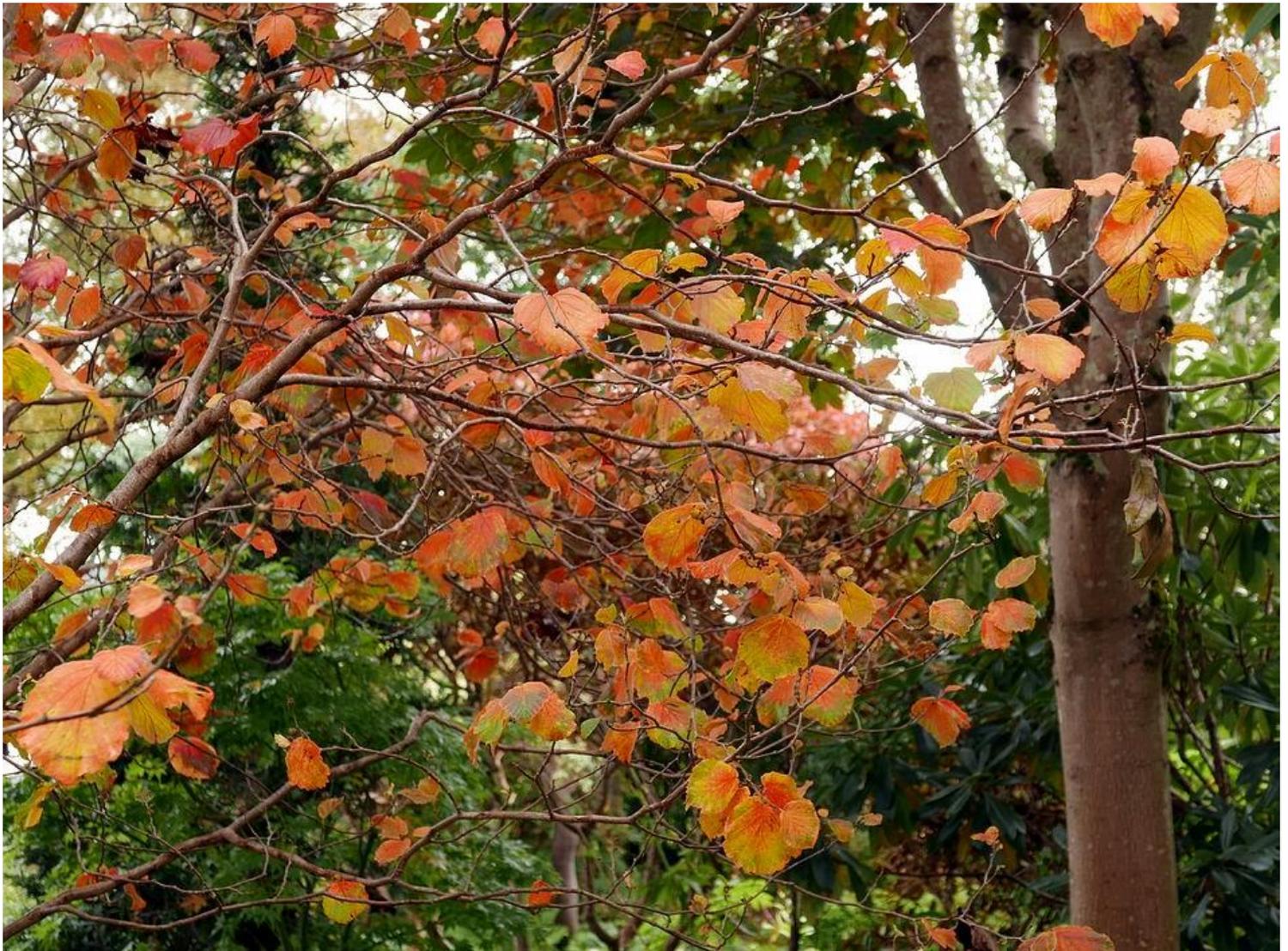




I must correct a silly mistake I made last week in miswriting *Colchicum speciosum album* when I meant *Colchicum autumnale album* when referring to the cover image. It was one of those things where you don't always write what is in your head; I did get it correct further down it was just where I wrote the heading!

Having enjoyed a long period of dry weather we have just had three days of almost consistent rain and wind which has hastened the leaf drop as well as battering the *Colchicum* and *Crocus* flowers as you can see in this updated image (left) I used for last week's cover. This week's cover shows a scene that many of you will be seeing in your own gardens where fallen leaves are littering the ground. This does bring work as they will all have to be lifted or at least the ones that fall on the paths and gravel areas – the ones in the shrub areas can be left to decay naturally- however for now I can enjoy the changing colourful carpet they have created.

Many of the following images need no words: it is a short photo essay of the autumn garden.



**Hamamelis**



Hamamelis leaves have some of the best colours - if you like orange.



**Arisaema** fruits



As many plants lose their leaves and go dormant for the winter **Cyclamen hederifolium** produces its new leaves which will decorate the garden until they die back next summer.



The first flowers have already served their purpose with the stems coiling up drawing the fertilised seedpods down towards the tuber where they will stay for almost a year before the seed is shed. The mass of small leaves are last year's seeds germinating – as we have no ants the only thing that distributes the Cyclamen seeds in our garden are the humans - if they remember.



**Mixed blue berries**



***Vaccinium floribundum***

We do get some edibles from our garden like the blue berries in the bag above, one kilo so far of mixed berries to be frozen to add to my breakfast muesli. The majority are from *Vaccinium floribundum*, a beautiful low-growing shrub that has lovely red new growths that appear in the spring along with the striking pink flowers which, as you can see from the fruit, are produced in great numbers.



**Vaccinium smallii**



**Vaccinium smallii**

The berries of *Vaccinium smallii* tend to hide under the foliage and you could easily miss them but about a quarter of my harvest in the bag was from this shrub. Growing nearby is *Vaccinium ovatum* which also produces lots of berries but these are only just starting to ripen and will give me a second harvest.



**Vaccinium nummularia** is another very decorative small mound-forming shrub that provides interest all year round with the bonus of a harvest of small but intensely flavoured berries. While the Blueberries that we are offered in the shops are much bigger than any of these they do not have anything like the flavour. It seems that flavour comes after size and other specifications for the modern commercial breeders.



**Acer japonicum 'Aconitifolium'**



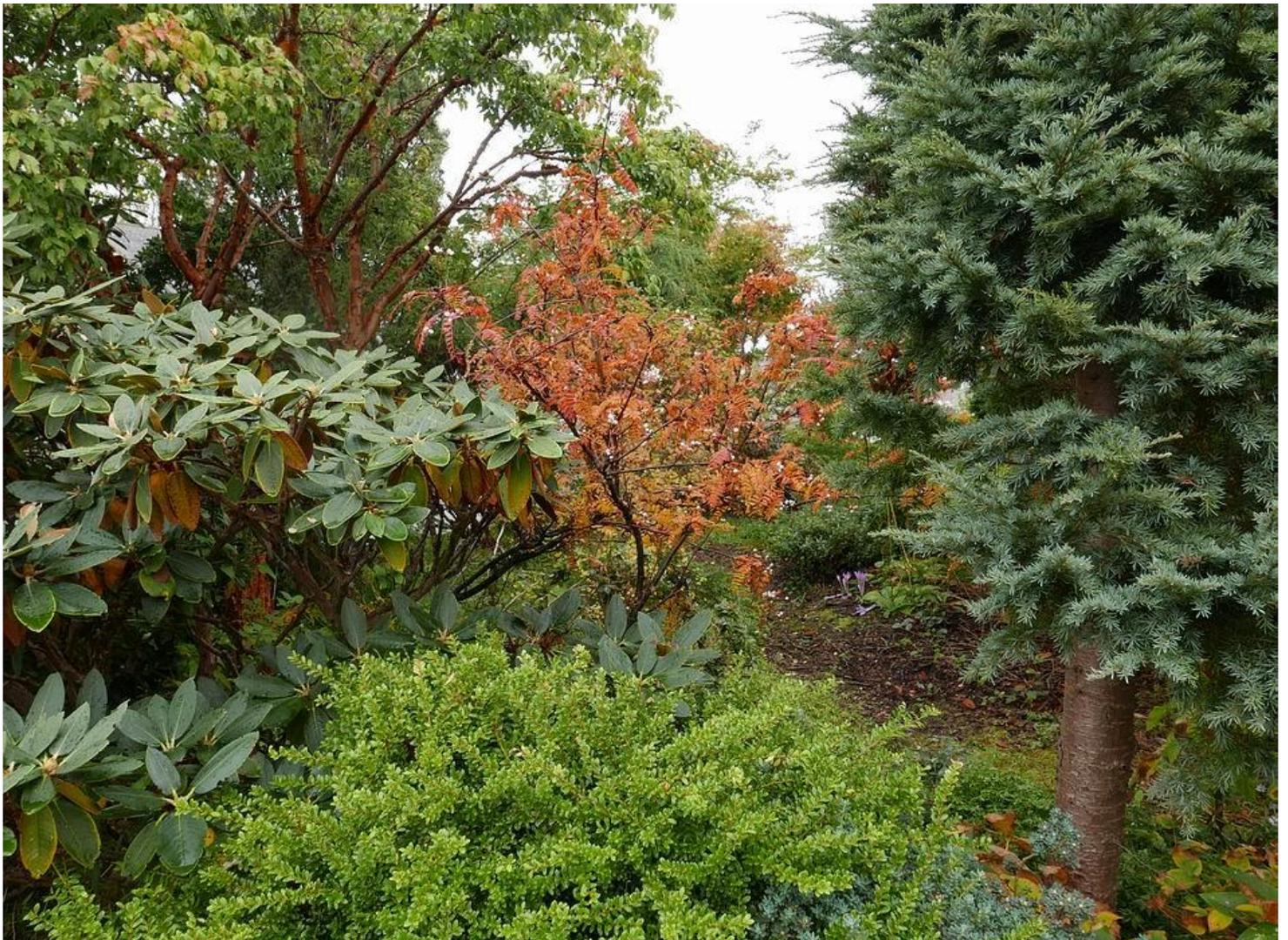
***Acer palmatum* var. *dissectum***



***Rhododendron elegantulum*, *Acer palmatum* 'Osakazuki' and a *Cotoneaster* x *hybridus*.**



Most of the trees and shrubs in the front garden are ever green but there are a few deciduous one that colour up in autumn.





For a brief time I can enjoy the contrast between the yellowing *Roscoea* foliage and the various evergreen subjects.



*Celmisia* foliage is among the best for year round interest, the *Dactylorhiza* will soon disappear underground until well into next year.



Purple blotches on a yellow background of *Dactylorhiza*.



*Cardamine pentaphylla*



*Arisaema candidissimum*



*Podophyllum pleianthum*



Rhododendron makinoi



Fat buds indicate that flowers have formed on some of the shoots of **Rhododendron ciliatum**; they nestle in the centre of the top most leaves, which grew this year - these will stay green until this time next year when like some of those you can see in the picture they will turn yellow and fall off.



Autumn leaves fall from *Rhododendron rex* subsp. *fictolacteum* - whose leaves are stunted in our east coast garden.



*Rhododendron rex* subsp. *fictolacteum* with seedpods and next year's flower buds.

Roscoeia foliage goes through various shades of yellow in the process of dying back – it is further enhanced here by red Acer leaves.

It is always worth trying different angles when you are taking photographs. In the years of film I spent a lot of time viewing all the angles before deciding which one to take. I was taught that every time you clicked the button it cost you money but with digital that is no longer the case I can be trigger-happy and take multiple angles.



Just a slight move of position can make a big difference to the resulting image.



Sorbus foliage and berries



View towards the bulb houses.



*Salix lanata* in the pond.



Trough with fallen birch leaves.



View across some of the troughs towards the slab beds.



The growth of moss on the stone mushroom is a good indicator of how cool and damp our climate is.



Moss grows everywhere and I used to see it as a problem and removed it - now I see it as an environment with planting opportunities and have been sowing seeds directly in some places.

This Rhododendron seeded itself and has been growing happily on the moss covered rock for several years now.



View



I will leave you this week with this view across part of the garden which shows both the mess and the colour autumn season brings – join me on a short walk in this [Bulb Log Video Diary Supplement](#).....