



BULB LOG.....17-07-2003

Like most of the UK we are in the middle of a heat wave in Aberdeen and as a Northerner born and bred, I find it a little too hot for comfort. Many of the bulbs however will be lapping it up, this heat should ensure that the Narcissus buds ripen well and so I expect a bumper flowering of the winter narcissus.



Plunge frame

We have been working our way through this frame of plunge baskets repotting the Erythroniums, this is a task that we only do every second or third year. (See log 16 for the frame in full flower.) I just love to get in and see how they are doing underground.

Erythronium klamathense

One of the smaller Erythroniums, *E. klamathense* also make small corms and like many of the other species make very few, if any, offsets. You can see this basket has produced four small offsets in three years: seed is the best way to increase these species.





Erythronium elegans 2

Here are flowering sized seedlings of *Erythronium elegans* which were sown as seed in 1999, the first started flowering this year.



Erythronium elegans 1

If we look at the parent corms you will see that they are not much bigger. What at first appear to be offsets are the remnants of previous growth. This is more noticeable in the closely related *Erythronium montanum*.



*Erythronium montanum*

You can see on the right the chain-like feature which is the remains of previous years corms (not all *Erythronium*s have this characteristic) and on the left you can see that sometimes some of the plants will produce a second growth from this chain. When growing *Erythronium*s from seed it is worthwhile selecting out any that look like they will form clumps.



*Erythronium montanum* x2

Here is a comparison of almost-flowering-sized seedlings on the left and mature corms on the right. I keep calling them 'corms' but there is some debate as to whether they are corms or bulbs. Until I hear a convincing explanation otherwise, I think they are corms like *Colchicum*s.



Erythronium – Colchicum

If you look at *Erythronium tuolumnense* next to a *colchicum* you can see for yourselves and make up your own mind but I think they have a very similar physical look and their growth pattern is the same. I do not want to bore the pants off you on my pet subject of Erythroniums so I will not post the dozens of other pictures of Erythronium corms (yet), and instead I will leave you this week with two colour forms of a beautiful Lily that has a scent every bit as appealing as its looks.



*Lilium ducharteri*