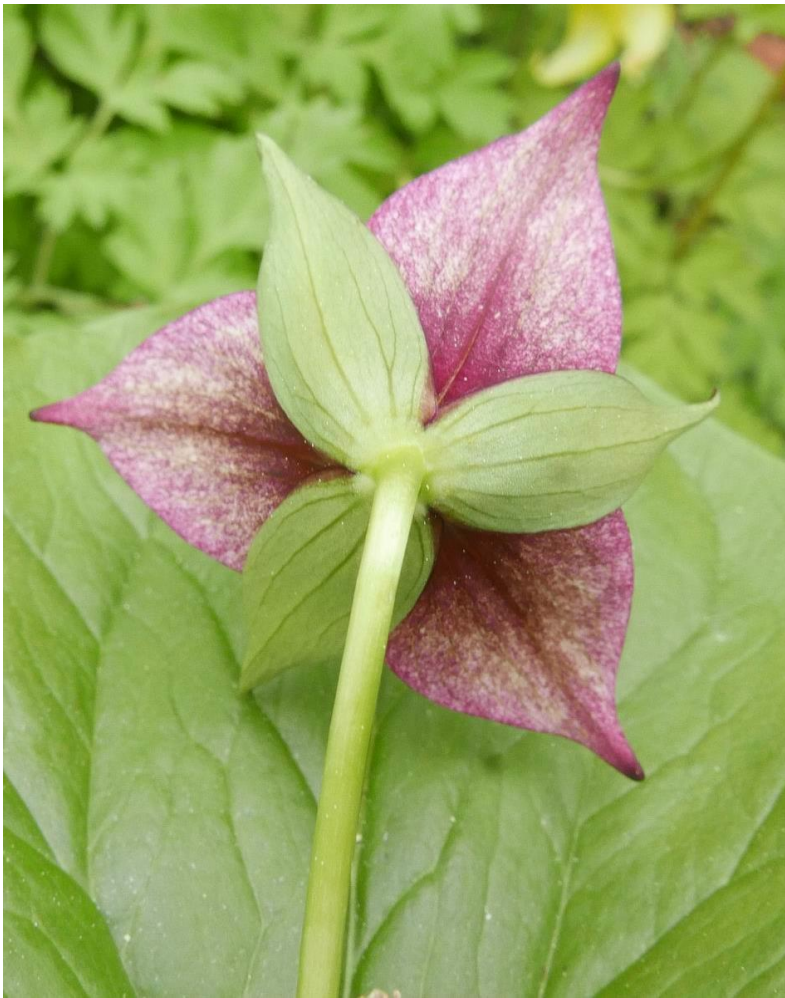




BULB LOG 21.....22nd May 2019



Trillium erectum hybrid



This week I am showing some shady characters; otherwise known as plants that have evolved to grow in woodlands where the tree canopy casts varying degrees of shade. Part of the variation adopted by some of these plants is to have comparatively large leaves to capture the reduced levels of light that reaches them through the tree canopy and as a result they can be easily damaged if planted out in strong sunshine and so they are regularly referred to as shade plants - having said that for these purposes I always describe Scotland as being in shade because we rarely ever get the prolonged periods of strong sunshine and hot temperatures experienced in warmer areas that would scorch the leaves. We do have to be aware that Trillium leaves, having evolved in the shelter of woodland, are very easily damaged when exposed to wind which can shred the leaves so consider that when you are planting them.

The first few plants are some of the many *Trillium erectum* hybrids that appear when raising plants from garden seed –possibly crossed with *T. flexipes*, there is a wide range of variations in the colour and some very beautiful forms can be selected.

***Trillium erectum* hybrid**



***Trillium erectum* hybrid**



Trillium erectum hybrid

The large soft leaves of *Trillium erectum* make them particularly susceptible to wind damage.



Trillium erectum seedlings



A typical form of the species - **Trillium erectum**.



Trillium sulcatum



Trillium simile

There is a whole group of plants in cultivation that are confusing and difficult to name accurately; even the books available to gardeners sometimes give different opinions and the many hybrids that occur when plants are raised from garden collected seeds adds further to the confusion. I have stopped worrying about the names and just enjoy the plants in all their variations.



Trillium flexipes



Trillium flexipes seedlings



Trillium grandiflorum

As evidenced by this picture you will see that slugs and snails are also attracted to the flowers of Trillium.



Trillium grandiflorum seedlings – the fact that their leaves and flowers are all arranged at the top of the stem means that they grow very naturally through ground cover plants.



Looking down on the same group of seedlings you can see there are subtle differences in the leaves of the different clones as well as in their flowers.



Trillium grandiflorum roseum



Trillium grandiflorum Gothenburg pink



When you cross pollinate *Trillium grandiflorum* with the roseum forms you will get a whole range of seedlings displaying varying degrees of pink.



Trillium grandiflorum seedlings



Trillium grandiflorum seedlings



Trillium grandiflorum seedlings



Trillium hybrids

Because all the flowers of the Trilliums I have shown above are held on a short stem rising above the leaves they are placed in the Pedicellate group - now I will show some of the Sessile group without a flower stem.



Trillium albidum



Trillium luteum



Trillium kurubayashii with Uvularia grandiflora



Variations in *Uvularia grandiflora* seedlings, which are plants that also grow well in shade or full sun in our garden.



Prosartes smithii* and *Prosartes hookeri

I have always known these plants as **Disporum** but it seems that is now a synonym and I should be calling them *Prosartes smithii* and *Prosartes hookeri*.



Prosartes smithii and Prosartes hookeri – showing the reverse of the leaves.

Whichever name you adopt they are interesting plants that grow well in woodland or shaded areas- these comparative pictures are to show the differences between the leaves and flowers of the two species.



Prosartes hookeri

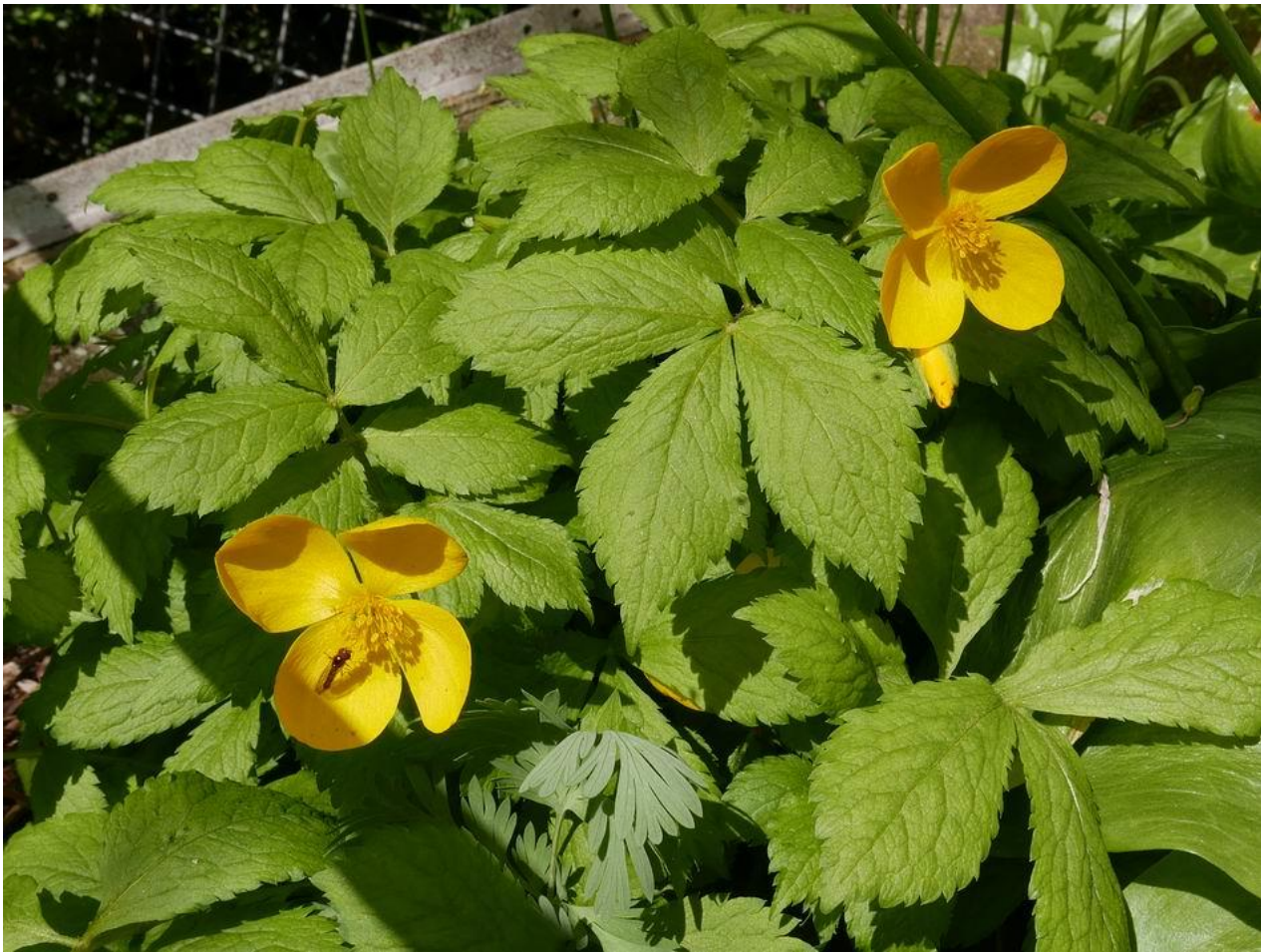
The seed of both these species appears in the form of orange to red berries later in the year.



Prosertes smithii



Sanguinaria canadensis f. multiplex



Hylomecon japonicum
I thought that we had lost Hylomecon japonicum as it was overgrown by various shrubs including rhododendrons but a few years ago, as I was reclaiming the ground planting by cutting back the shrubs, I found one tiny bit hanging on to life. I lifted this survivor and have been growing it in a plunge basket

in one of the frames and now I have enough to reintroduce it back into the now better-growing conditions of the opened up ground I rescued it from.

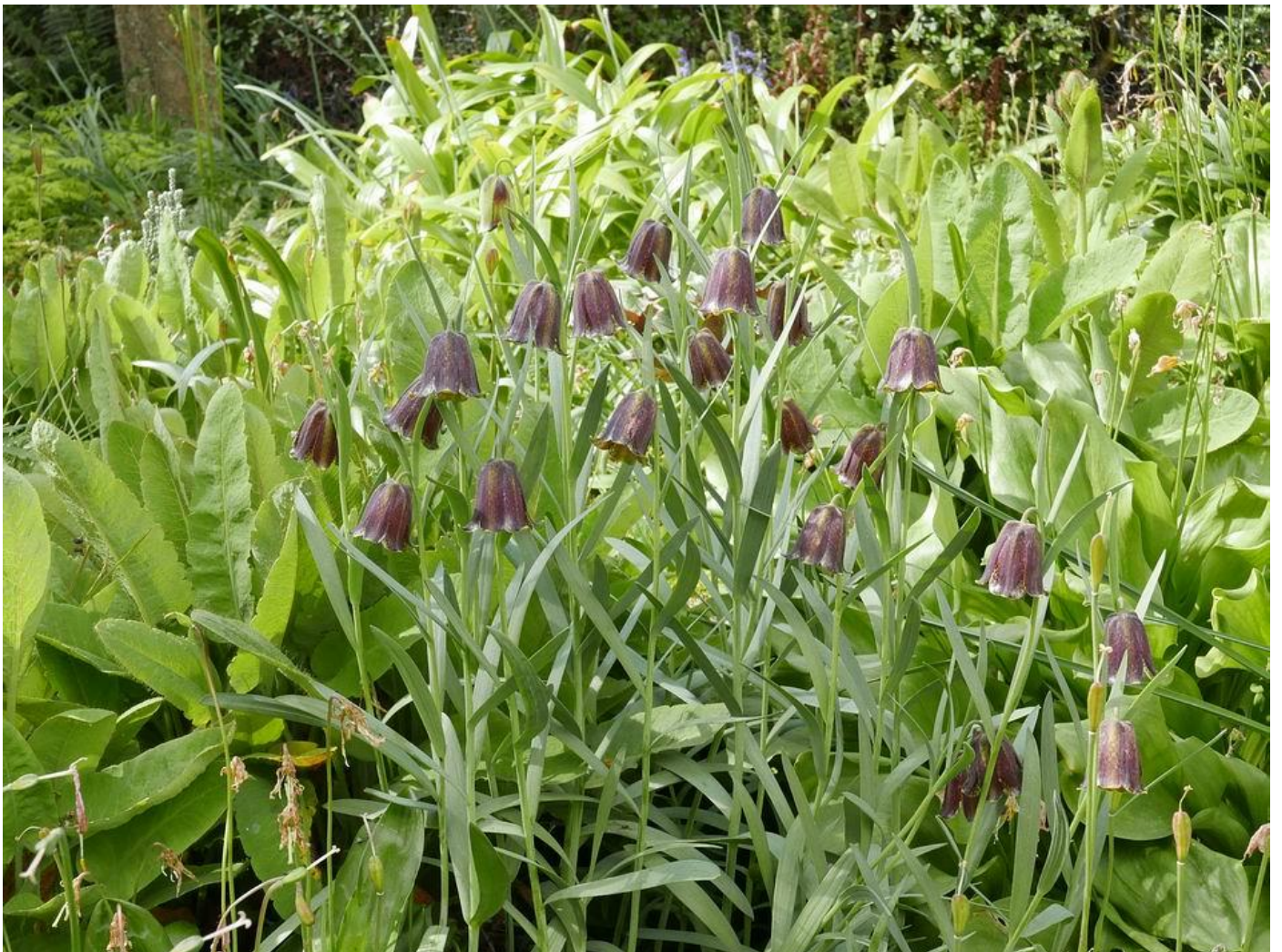


Hylomecon japonicum

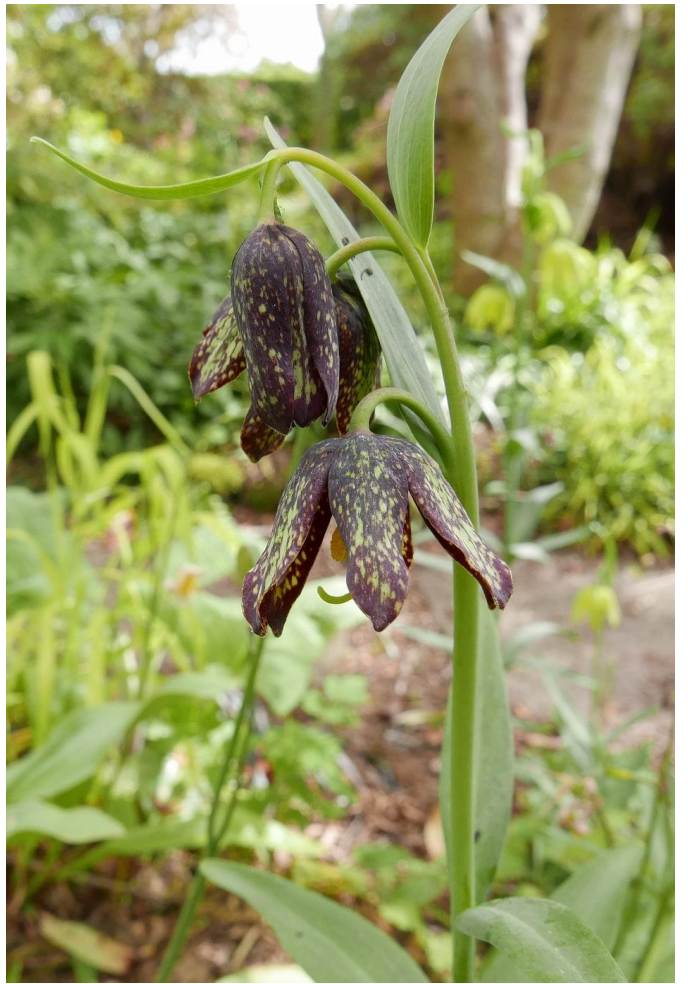


Fritillaria pyrenaica

Some of the larger Fritillaria will also grow in semi shade and are tall enough to be combined with other plants.



Fritillaria pyrenaica



Fritillaria affinis



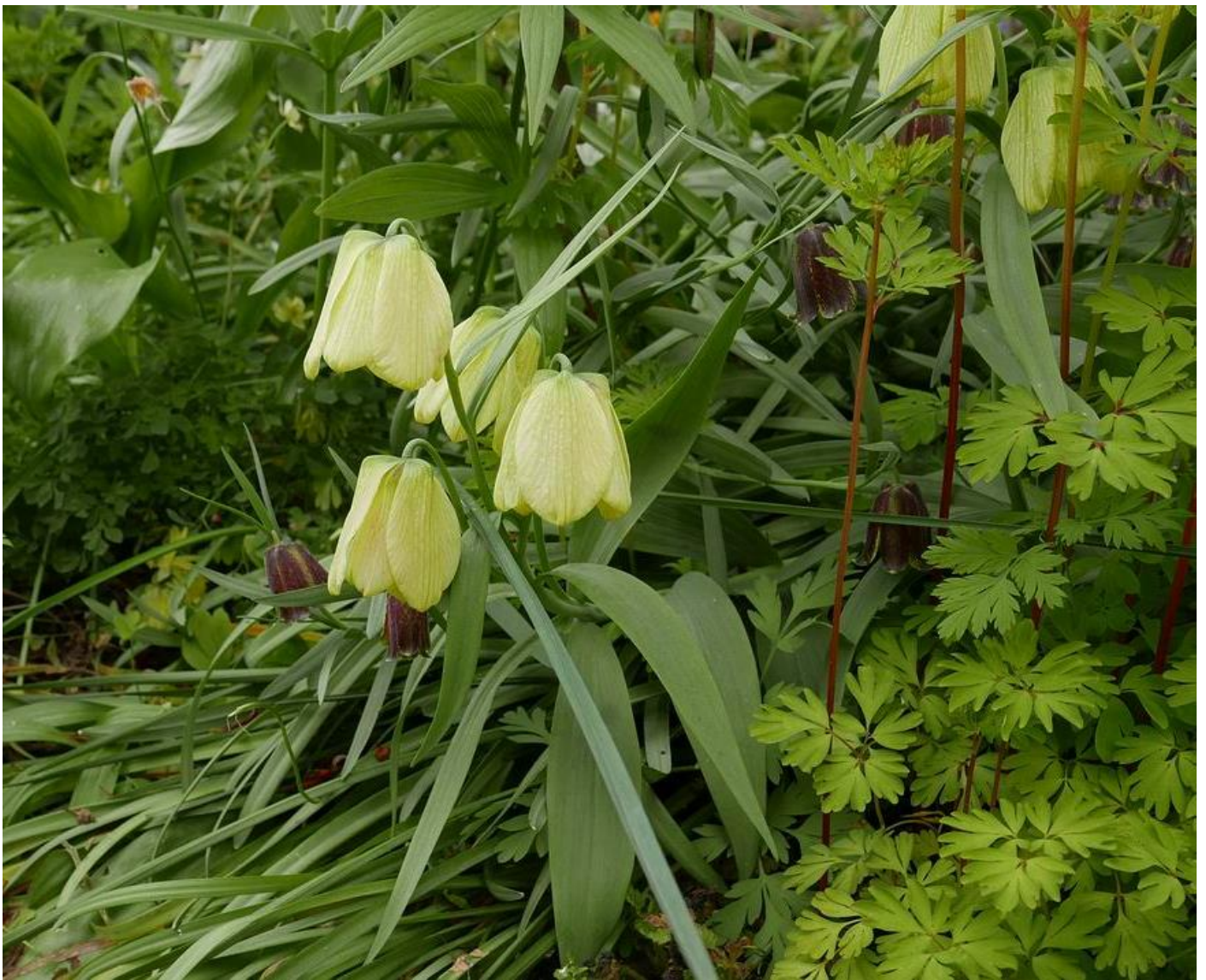
***Fritillaria affinis* yellow form**



Fritillaria affinis yellow form in front of a purple **Corydalis capitata hybrid** that came in second place to Corydalis ‘Craigton Purple’ when I was selecting out a group of seedlings.



You will need to look carefully to spot the subtle flowers of **Fritillaria pontica** and **Fritillaria acmopetala**.



Fritillaria pallida

***Erythronium caucasicum*
seed pods**

I collected these *Erythronium caucasicum* seed pods to ensure that I got the seeds before they were shed naturally. The seeds are perfectly viable at this stage - all that would happen now is that the capsules would slowly dry out until they split open and shed their precious contents.





Erthronium caucasicum

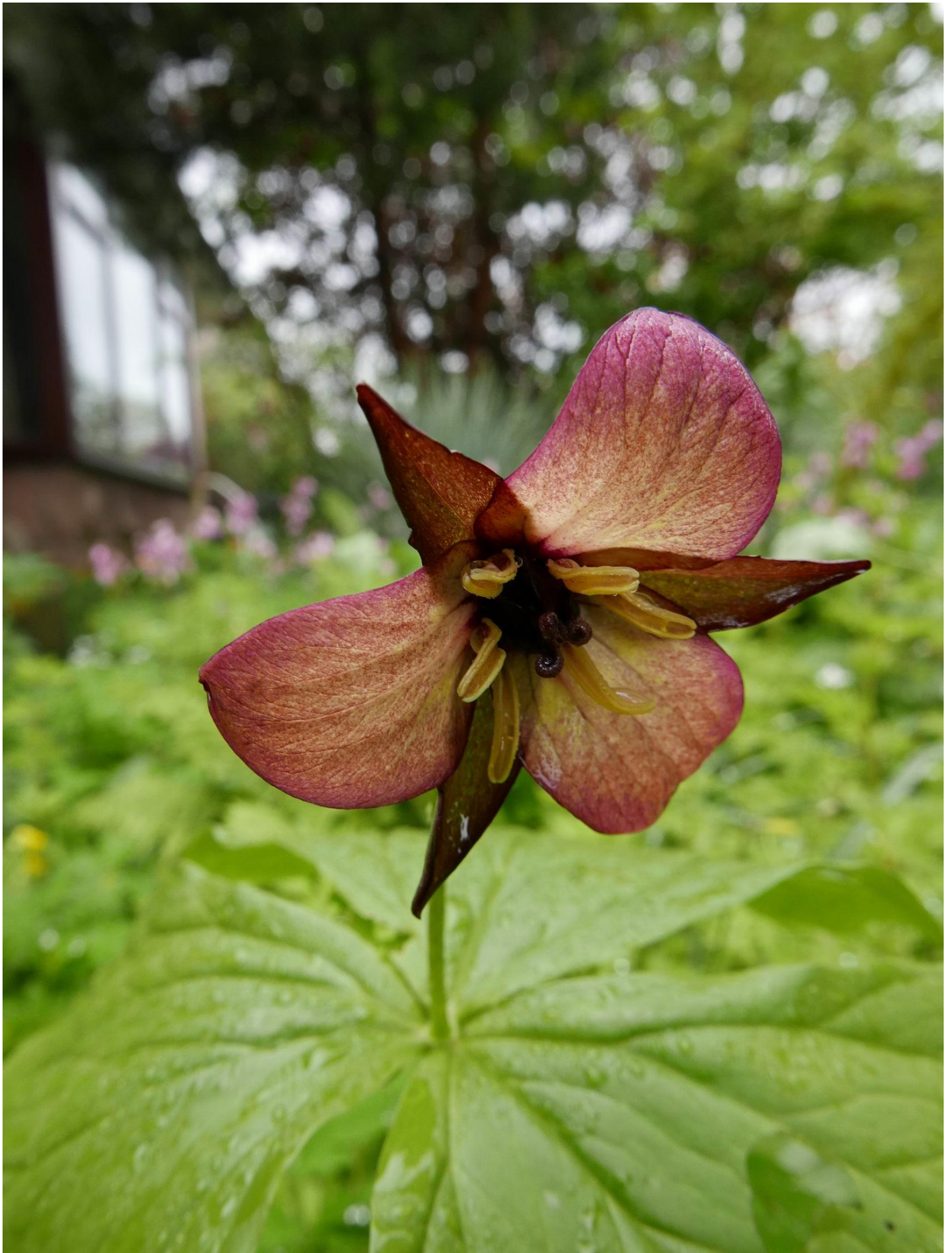
The seed capsule is divided into three individual sections which, so long as they were successfully pollinated and fertilised, will contain around twenty seeds.

The few flat brown 'seeds' seen here are those which, for whatever reason, were not reached by the pollen growing down the tube from the stigma and as a result they have not developed into a fully fertile seed.

The skin of these white seeds will quickly turn brown as it dries out but I prefer to sow the seeds from this Eurasian group of Erythroniums immediately.



Once removed I ended up with approximately sixty seeds from a good seed capsule which gives me plenty; allowing me to sow some directly into the garden beds to naturalise as well as sowing some into a pot to be nurtured. From my experience I will get a lower success rate from the seeds sown into the garden but they will reach flowering size at least a year before the ones I am sowing into pots.



Some weeks I have a difficult choice to make of which picture to use for the cover picture this one came in second place what do you think ?