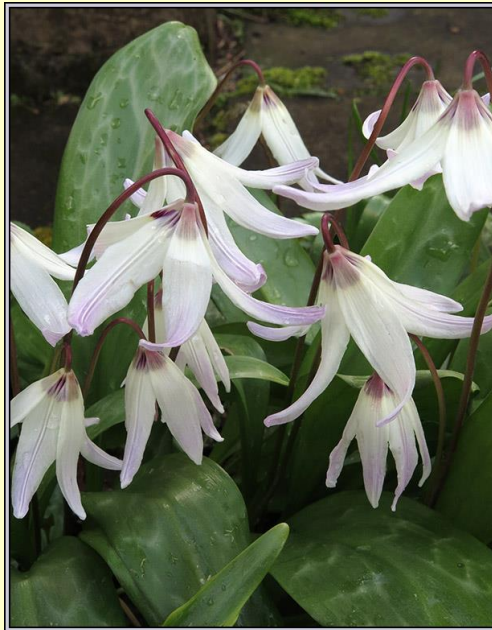


Plant of the Month, May 2019

Erythronium hendersonii - by George Gordon

Erythronium hendersonii is endemic to southern Oregon and north-western California on the west coast of North America. It grows there in woodland between 300 and 1,600m. Perhaps one of the most graceful of an inherently beautiful genus it has distinct purple-tinged flowers. Amongst its fellow North American species this is unique, and makes it relatively easy, even at a distance, to identify it.



Unlike, for instance, *E. revolutum* and *E. californicum* "White Beauty" however the bulbs do not increase readily by offsets. Some forms in cultivation do build up slowly into clumps, and Harold McBride has a more vigorous form given to him many years ago by Kath Dryden. It has bulked up slowly to fill a small sink.

The species is named after Professor Louis F. Henderson (there are at least 16 species from North- West America named after him). Seed from both AGS and SRGC has germinated readily for me, albeit often skipping a winter if sown in January. It can take four or five years for you to enjoy the fruit of your labours and enjoy the flowers, but they are worth waiting for. You can also purchase the bulbs from specialist nurseries but they are relatively expensive.

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