

Colchicum 'Waterlily'.

Cyclamen purpurescens.

Laughing children run along the stone path - Reader named the area, will be replanted by ways again. Lovers take their wedding vows the end of the 2008 season. under the canopy of hundred-year-old trees. Perhaps most exciting is the rehabilitation Rock hounds come to admire the collection of the two large ponds in the West Garden, of petrified wood and other unusual rock now nearing completion. Recent improve- types. Avid gardeners bend down to examine them to the pumping system will allow the ever-changing display of alpine and other these original ponds to run daily, treating the herbaceous perennials. Photographers and garden's visitors, both human and feathered, painters find ample opportunity for their to cascading waterfalls and a trickling steam. art. And - a modern addition to the many The goal this year is to plant up the beds near historic attractions of the garden - hungry the ponds until they mirror archival photo- patrons wind their way up the stone steps graphs. According to Reader's own photos towards the critically acclaimed restaurant and plant list, the pond's edge was bordered that occupies the replica of Reader's house with collections of shooting stars, bellflow- in the centre of the property. ers, irises, sedums and primroses, and the

There have been several developments Stream edge was bursting with ostrich ferns since 2006. The Colorado spruce tree near and marsh marigolds. the house has been chosen for the upcoming Visitors often ask about the gazebo (Read- edition of the Alberta Heritage Tree Project's er called it *the hut*) and the many wooden *Alberta Trees of Distinction* publication. benches found throughout the site. The de- Archival photographs circa 1920 show this signs, typical of the popular Arts and Crafts tree as a knee-high sapling. style of the time, are copied from Reader's

Nature educators in Calgary's parks photographs of his own hut and benches. department are now holding Reader Rock Handmade from saskatoon branches by Garden one-day schools where elementary local craftsman Fred Coates, each bench is school students learn about nature, plant an original. A bench sponsorship program biology, and gardening and play historic supports the endowment fund that helps games such as croquet and horseshoes. to ensure the future care of the garden. tour of the adjacent Union Cemetery helps Heirloom sweet peas, recommended to early the children understand history through the Calgarians by Reader and his contemporar- stories of some of Calgary's most notable es, are grown today on the hut as they were early citizens. when the Reader family lived here.

New governmental funding has made pos- May and June are the months to experi- sible the rehabilitation of the second and final ence the garden's spring bulbs and alpine phase of the project. The Western Slope, a plants at their best. Reader was quick to Campanula thyrsoides.