

(Adding Flowers to Course cont'd.)

- When planning a bed of daffodils and tulips, use "single early tulips," which flower at the same time as daffodils.
- Leave bulb foliage undisturbed for six weeks after flowering before cutting back, to allow for replenishment of the bulb.
- Planting in clumps or broad swaths is more effective than planting in straight lines.
- Tulips are excellent when interplanted among daylilies. The tulip gives early season color, and their drying foliage is covered by the daylilies.
- Annuals are generally planted in beds or borders where they can supply a splash of color. However, they are also effective when planted in smaller numbers among trees and shrubs. Try planting a few individual plants of impatiens in a shrub border. You will be quite surprised at how large a 'Blitz' or 'Novette' impatiens can grow in one season! For a very low-maintenance small edging plant around a flower bed or shrub border, try **Sanvitalia procumbens**, the Creeping Zinnia. It is 6" tall and very spreading with masses of small daisy-like yellow flowers. A orange-flowered cultivar, 'Mandarin Orange', is among the 1987 All-American Selections. Creeping Zinnia has no insect or disease problems and the plants bloom until frost, despite heat and drought. Another annual to try in small clumps is **Salvia farinacea** 'Victoria'. This cultivar of the Mealycup Sage has a high flower-to-foliage ratio, giving maximum blue color and excellent quality foliage. Sometimes old ideas are best; **Canna x generalis** is still one of the best large annuals. Older cultivars grow to 5' in height and are hard to use in landscape, but newer types are only 24" tall, with less coarse foliage. Try a few among shrubs.

Two last suggestions; break any rule you don't like, and be creative. Some of the best flower combinations happen through experimentation. Try a few new flowers each year, and keep notes for future reference.

Credit: *The Grass Roots*, December '86

## UI Agreement Reached

After lengthy negotiations, representatives of business and labor finally reached agreement on a new Unemployment Insurance (UI) system for the state. The agreement, which was also approved by the General Assembly during the fall veto session, revamps the state's 50-year-old UI system.

The measure simplifies the state's UI system by directly relating contributions owed to benefits paid, and assesses benefit charges only against the benefit recipient's last employer. In the past, benefit charges were often assessed against employers two or three times removed from the present one.

Also under the agreement, businesses will be relieved of paying more than \$400 million in FUTA penalty taxes, and the state will make the \$580 million final installment of a \$2.6 billion federal government loan. In addition, the plan will provide UI benefits, under certain circumstances, to locked-out employees.

The plan also gives labor a four percent annual increase in benefits over three years, and establishes a targeted balance of \$750 million in the State of Illinois Trust Fund. The state can borrow from the fund, interest free, while maintaining the UI system's stability. To provide for greater stability, the system will contain a self-adjustment mechanism to balance UI benefits with employer taxes.

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