

## In The Garden

November 1997

by Joan Sargent

There's still a lot to do in the garden right into November. Because of the dryness I'm holding off on mulching until we get a good soaking rain. I try to put several inches of fairly well-rotted leaf mold - mainly oak and beech - on everything in the perennial border. That's all the fertilizing I ever do. Most of my bulbs are in the ground by now except for tulips. They are planted traditionally on Election Day.

Tulips are the only flowers I refuse to share with the varmints so I spray, fence, net...whatever it takes so that I can have bowls-full of Tulips for the house in May. A friend of mine finds the small species Tulip batalinii is never eaten in her garden. It's a sweet little thing with greyish leaves and a jaunty yellow cup-shaped flower. It blooms early, needs to bake in the summer sun (no sprinkler systems) and might spread.

Ipheion uniflorum, the blue star flower is another winner. This one for late spring. You need quite a few to make a show and it will naturalize. The narrow leaves wither away quickly.

Trying something new every year should be part of your fall planting... it is mine.

Ed. note:

*We have tried to find photos of each for reference.*

*Joan Sargent, a longtime member and master gardener who passed away in August; wrote about 24 gardening columns through the years for our newsletter. We are reprinting them again.*



Tulip batalinii



Ipheion uniflorum  
'Spring Starflower'