

# **MAINTENANCE GUIDEBOOK IV LANDSCAPE AND GENERAL GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

## **CHAPTER FIVE - FLOWER BEDS**

### **SECTION A GENERAL**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents selected information for effective and economical maintenance of flowers.

#### **2. RESIDENT COOPERATION**

Successful upkeep of flowers requires attention from both residents and grounds personnel, and demands continued maintenance by staff on a year-round basis. Refer to Chapter One, Section A-3 for information concerning resident cooperation.

#### **3. EQUIPMENT**

Refer to Chapter Three, Section A-3, Equipment and Materials, for a list of common tools and materials usually required in the maintenance of flower beds.

### **SECTION B FLOWER SELECTIONS**

New and improved varieties of flowers are constantly being developed. Local nurseries and growers should be consulted for the selection of flowers.

### **SECTION C PLACEMENT AND SPACING**

Flower plantings should be located in areas of high visibility—at entrances, community buildings, and recreation areas. However, the number of planting beds should be minimized because of high maintenance requirements. Flowers for seasonal color should be spaced close enough so that the individual plants will grow into each other and form one continuous bed of color. Greater visual impact is achieved when flowers of one type are planted in a mass. It is harder to maintain a mixture of different plant species and it does not make as big an impression as mass planting of the same species.

## **SECTION D MULCHING**

Mulching is the application of shredded bark or other appropriate materials over the soil around plants. Refer to Chapter Two, Section E for mulch types and application methods.

## **SECTION E WATERING**

Refer to Chapter Two, Section G for guidelines concerning irrigation systems and watering quantities.

## **SECTION F FERTILIZING**

Fertilization promotes good color, stimulates growth, and enhances a plant's ability to withstand adverse environmental conditions and disease. Refer to Chapter Two, Section H, for fertilization information.

## **SECTION G PLANT-PROBLEM DIAGNOSIS**

Refer to Chapter Three, Section I for a plant problem diagnosis table.

## **SECTION H SCHEDULE**

See Chapter Nine - Schedule for schedule information.

**END OF CHAPTER FIVE**