



A different type of dance

Teens at Cistercian Preparatory School throw their annual dance for the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas. 8E



Mail-order log cabins on the prairie

We all know about Neiman Marcus' extravagant catalog items, but Orvis? The 150-year-old Vermont sports outfitter is offering through its catalog a luxury line of log homes priced from \$550,000 to \$1.2 million. There are seven models, which can be equipped with features such as a fly-tying area, boot dryers and a place for dusting off the dog. Orvis partnered with Rocky Mountain Log Homes; 5 percent of profits will go to conservation efforts. The homes are pre-milled, and can be custom-built to your site. The price does not include interior finish-out, however, just the frame.

For more information, call 1-866-363-5680 or visit www.orvisloghomes.com.

Erin Wade

INSIDE

Do the math

Discounts are easier to calculate quickly when you know the right equations, according to the Discount Dame. 2E

Furniture finds

A new book scopes out furniture stores all around the country, including Dallas. 3E

Effective downsizing

Many types of garden plants are bred for growing in small spaces. Lone Star Gardening, 4E

FUNNY OF THE DAY

The trunk room

Extra storage is on wheels. Cathy, 5E

THINK YOU HAVE PROBLEMS?

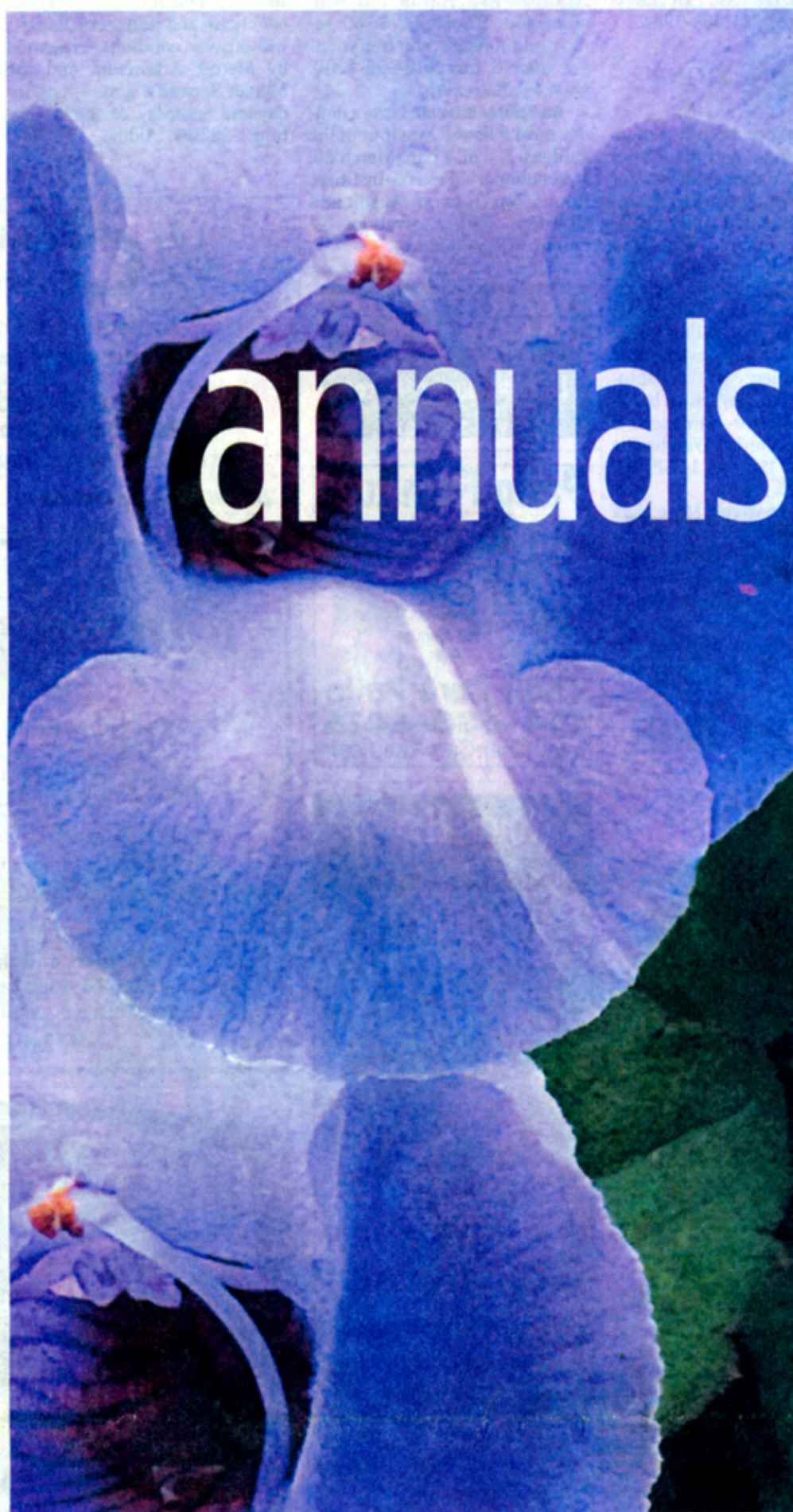
Destructive fun

Horseplay by young men in the family doesn't amuse her. Dear Abby, 9E

COMING SATURDAY

A ham primer

For many families, it just wouldn't be Easter without a ham on the table. But which kind? We'll tell you what to expect for the money. Texas Living: Food & Wine



Regional experts look for Texas-tough plants, and they've found them

annuals awards

By MARIANA GREENE
Staff Writer

This time of year, we're lured like mythological sailors to the sirens' rocks by catalog photographs of lushly blooming flowers. At garden centers, we're sorely tempted by bedding plants that have been chemically treated in growers' greenhouses to ensure a floriferous debut in the retail aisles. The U.S. Department of Agriculture may designate a plant officially suitable for our Zones 7 and 8, but that's no guarantee that a plant will prosper in North Texas.

We have poor soil, too much water some seasons, too little water other seasons, wild fluctuations in temperatures from October to May and that miserably long stretch of baking, simmering, scorching summer.

You have to do your homework to know which annuals — and there are plenty — are most likely to survive our soil and climate. On the other hand, if your fingers are itching to ease into those new garden gloves instead of turning the pages of horticultural tomes, take our experts' word for it and take this shopping list to your favorite garden center.

E-mail magreene@dallasnews.com

See ANNUALS Page 3E



HOUSE & GARDEN

annuals awards

- 1 **Cuphea ilavea 'Georgia Scarlet'** It's ugly when small at garden centers, but it's heat-loving, fast-growing and flowers constantly. C. 'David Verity' also scored well.
- 2 **Euphorbia 'Diamond Frost'** This is the first euphorbia that seems to be impervious to our heat and humidity, says professor Brent Pemberton of the Texas A&M research center in Overton. "It provides a cloud of tiny white flowers all summer long."
- 3 **Gaillardia 'Torch Yellow'** Nonstop color, says Mr. Pemberton, plus nice, compact habit. Shear back spent blooms for continuous color. G. 'Sundance Bicolor' also scored well.
- 4 **Heliotropium amplexicaule 'Azure Skies'** Fast-growing, long-flowering and takes full sun, but it has no fragrance, not what one expects from heliotrope.
- 5 **Pentapetes phoenicia 'Copper Cups'** With its summerlong mallow-shaped flowers, Pentapetes grows in wet or dry conditions.
- 6 **Pentas lanceolata 'Galaxy' series** More compact than 'Butterfly', this series scored best of all. It flowers constantly in sun or shade.
- 7 **Purslane 'Fairytale' series** Flowers heavily all summer. 'Cinderella' is Arboretum patron favorite.
- 8 **Scaevola aemula 'Whirlwind White'** A nice white. It likes lots of water and fertilizer to keep it in bloom. S. 'Blue Ribbon', a mini, blooms nonstop.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

Selections from the Phlox 'Intensia' series (in background) are usually a spring annual for North Central Texas, but it flowered all summer at the Arboretum.



Our favorite annuals

HOUSE & GARDEN Celebrate spring by checking out the top annuals picked by local horticulture experts. Among our favorites (clockwise from top left): ageratum houstonianum, bouvardia ternifolia, cosmos sulphureus and angelonia. First in a five-part series about your spring garden. **1E**