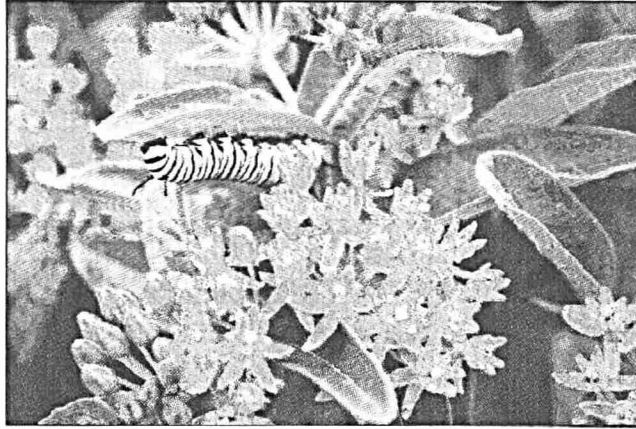


## MAILBOX



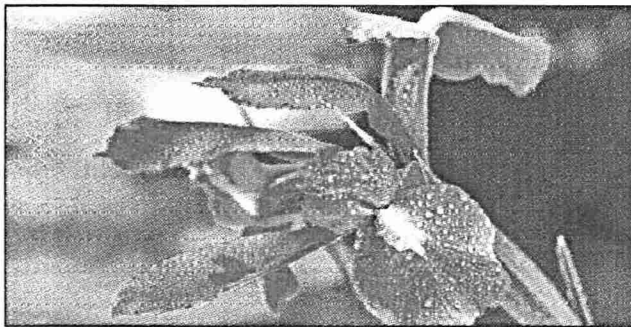
— *Green and Growing* —

### Showy wildflower tolerates drought, full sun

Butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) — A very drought-tolerant perennial with an extensive root system. Showy dark orange-red flower clusters in summer followed by attractive seedpods in fall. It's a Great Plains wildflower. Care must be taken not to overwater. Plant in full sun and a light soil or raised bed. Grows 24 to 36 inches tall.

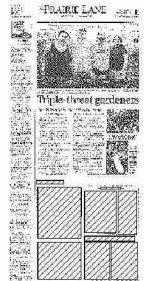
— Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

To suggest a plant, send your ideas to *Green and Growing*, Lincoln Journal Star, 926 P St., Lincoln, NE 68508.

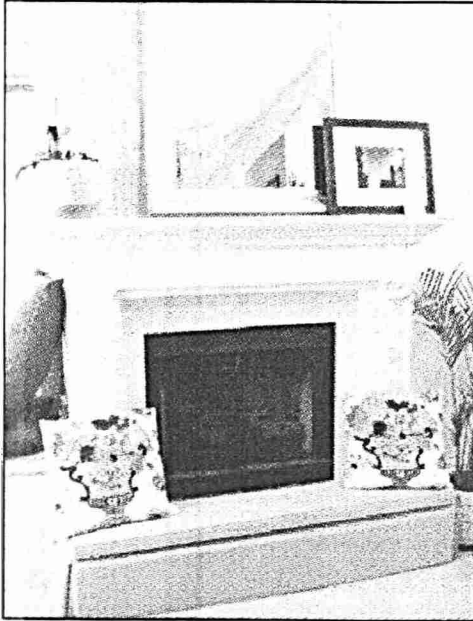


— *Five Things To Do This Week* —

1. Organize cubbies for kids' school stuff.
2. Dig, divide and replant crowded iris plants.
3. Remove sucker growth from trees.
4. Mow grass ½ inch higher than usual.
5. Harvest onion and garlic when the tops turn brown.



## Promising Product



### HearthSoft adds protection for kids

If you are worried about making the sharp edges around your fireplace safe for children, check out this soft-sided fireplace hearth cover. HearthSoft by Jamboo Creations was designed by parents who were searching for a solution to their problem. It adds a safe layer of protection and can be used for seating, too. Made of flame-retardant fabric, it can be removed and easily cleaned. It comes in 12 colors and costs \$249. Unusual hearth shapes and custom fabrics can be accommodated. More information can be found at [www.jamboocreations.com](http://www.jamboocreations.com).

## — Decorating Direction —

### Create your own outdoor theater experience at home

With budgets tighter than ever, inexpensive entertainment-at-home options are in high demand.

How about watching a movie in your backyard with lightning bugs?

Here's what you'll need to transform your space:

■ **Video screen:** Just about anything goes: white bedsheets, black-out cloth, canvas dropcloths, plywood, backer board or even a smooth white wall.

■ **Projector:** Dust off an old LCD or DLP projector and bring it outside. Or scour classified ads, garage sales and online home theater forums for used projectors. New projectors cost from \$500 to \$1,500.

■ **Speakers:** Don't invest in dedicated outdoor speakers. Save your cash and pump the audio through old

stereo speakers, instead.

■ **DVD player:** Start by looking at what you already own. If you don't have an extra DVD player, a brand-new basic model can be had for under \$50.

■ **Video game console:** If you or the kids are feeling too antsy to sit through an entire movie, break out the Xbox or PS3. Hook it up to your projector, and see how much fun the combination of summer breeze and Rock Band 2 can be.

■ **Outdoor extension cord:** Made to withstand weather and the kind of wear and tear that can only occur in open-air environments, outdoor power cords are the safest choice.

■ **Surge protector:** Use a simple surge-suppressing power strip.

— From Paul Holstein, of [CableOrganizer.com](http://CableOrganizer.com)