I think we can all understand why the hobbyist is constantly on the search for something unique or different to add to their collection. Because of the entertaining, and bizarre manner in which they grow, cacti and succulents that are referred to as fascinated, monstrose, cristate, or crested have always been highly prized by collectors. Cold tolerant, monstrose cacti and succulents are available from time to time and they can add interesting detail to our cold hardy cactus gardens, or containers. For instance, last year Miles To Go Nursery was offering grafted *Echinocereus reichenbachii* var. *perbellus* crests, but other species are sometimes available from Miles and others. Be sure, if the plants you have are grafted, which is the typical way they are sold, that they are attached to cold hardy grafting stock, or they will have to be removed from the grafting stock and rooted before they are put in the garden. Sometimes hardy opuntias are used as grafting stock, but even then it is better to remove the grafts and plant them in the garden on their own root system. If the opuntia stock is planted it will usually try to branch, which means that the graft will be deprived of what it needs to grow.

There are several ways that succulent plants can become cristate, but it is injury to the meristem tissue that that causes the strange, unusual growth pattern. A few years ago a new employee at Wild Things Wholesale Nursery, in Pueblo, was moving trays of freshly potted cacti when he got distracted. The result was that he left a full tray of 32 *Echinocereus triglochidiatus ‘inermis’* seedlings that had been under shade cloth, outside, in direct sun. The next day when the plants were found they were moved to the correct bench, back under shade cloth, but there was already obvious signs of damage to the small plants. A month later, every plant in that tray looked like it was starting to show signs of abnormal growth, and in time they all turned out to be crested (Fig. 1). Here is another example of how cacti can become crested. I worked on a ranch for quite a few years where dozens of horses ran free. There were trails that the horses used daily winding through the garden.