Pushing the Limits
with Cacti and Succulents in Cold Climates # 28

There is a trivia game that people in the music business sometimes like to play: if you were limited to just one piece of music what would it be? I have always hated that concept. I am a collector by nature; I have never wanted to limit myself when it comes to collecting anything, especially succulent, garden plants. Having said that, I know exactly what genus of cacti I would pick if I had to limit myself to just one in my garden. *Echinocereus* would have to be my choice. It is a large, diverse genus that includes some of the showiest, cold hardy cacti. Sure, I would pout if I was limited to one, but I would still be able to create an outstanding garden. No other offers such a large variety of cold tolerant cacti that grow into so many shapes and sizes and have such a wide range of flower colors. Some species have stems that are hidden by a dense covering of spines while others are almost spineless. There are species that form impressively large stems, like *E. triglochidiatus* ‘White Sands’ and *E. ×lloydii*, but there are also beautiful, small plants such as *E. viridiflorus* or *E. fendleri*. There are species with several varieties that show an amazing amount of diversity like *E. reichenbachii* and *E. triglochidiatus*. There are those like *E. coccineus*, and some forms of *E. triglochidiatus* that will make outstanding, large, rounded mounds of stems. Some have colorful, plump fruits that follow flowering and can help to add an interesting element as well as to

1. The first cactus species that impressed me in a favorable way was *Echinocereus triglochidiatus*.