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Plant of the Month

Echinopsis

The Echinopsis is one of those round, ribbed cactus with vertical rows of spines. It sits quietly tucked in a pot or in the ground beside a rock until late May rolls around. Then the beauty of this plant reveals itself in a stunning display of trumpet-shaped flowers in colors of white, red, pink, yellow or orange. One can readily see why the common name of this cactus is "Desert Lily".

Echinopsis originated in South America in southern Brazil and Argentina, and will easily tolerate full sun in the Inland Empire area of Southern California. They prefer filtered sun during the hottest part of the summer in the Desert areas and may show signs of sunburn (brown, scaly patches) if they are completely exposed to the sun. Echinopsis will survive to 28° F for brief periods and may have some damage from freezing. Plant Echinopsis in very well-draining soil. They do not like to have wet feet.

Echinopsis will begin to form offsets when they are a few years old. These offsets can be removed and planted in a new area or left to form large clumps that produce a profusion of flowers in May and June.

Various Echinopsis Hybrids:

