

**Botanical Name:** *Echinocereus engelmannii*

**Common Name:** Hedgehog Cactus, Strawberry Hedgehog



**Family:** Cactaceae

**Native Distribution:** Well drained deserts, sandy slopes, flats, and rocky hillsides from the Southwest US into Baja and Sonora, Mexico

**Plant Size:** 30-60 stems, 2-18" tall, branching at the base and forming clumps to 3' wide

**Flowers:** Up to 3.5" wide purplish red to lavender flowers in spring (February to April in Phoenix) that blossom during the day and last about 5 days

**Foliage:** Green with 10-13 small ribs growing on stems of 4-6 yellow or brownish central spines, 2-3" long with 10-13 radials each, about ½" long

**Site Preferences:** Full sun, well drained soils, open areas

**Landscape Uses:** Use as specimens or in combination with other shrubs for natural effect.

**Other Stuff:**

- Common in habitat throughout the Southwest.
- Very popular in the spring with photographers.
- Hardy to 14° F (-10°C).
- One of the most common species of hedgehog cactus in the southwestern US.
- Grow slowly and like a sandy, well draining soil.
- Edible fruit tastes like strawberry.
- Prefers elevations of 0 – 8,000 ft.