

Captive Desert Tortoise Diet

Favored native plants (all of plant consumed unless otherwise noted)

Hoary abutilon (<i>Abutilon</i> spp.)	Evening primrose* (<i>Oenothera</i> spp.)
Arizona cottontop grass (<i>Digitaria</i> spp.)	Fern acacia (flowers) (<i>Acacia angustissima</i>)
Bamboo muhly grass (<i>Muhlenbergia dumosa</i>)	Globe mallows* (<i>Sphaeralcea</i> spp.)
Blue grama grass (<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>)	Morning glory (Convolvulaceae)
Buckwheats (<i>Eriogonum</i> spp.)	Plantain* (<i>Plantago</i> spp.)
Cassia (<i>Senna</i> spp.)	Prickly pear (fruit and new pads) (<i>Opuntia</i>)
Curly mesquite grass (<i>Hilaria belangeri</i>)	Hibiscus (flowers and leaves) (<i>Hibiscus denudatus</i> and <i>H. coulteri</i>)
Deer grass (<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>)	Spurges* (<i>Euphorbia</i> spp.)
Desert four-o'clock (<i>Mirabelis spectabilis</i>)	Trailing four-o'clock (<i>Allionia incarnata</i>)
Desert honeysuckle (<i>Anisacanthus thurberi</i>)	Vine mesquite grass (<i>Panicum obtusum</i>)
Desert senna (<i>Cassia covesii</i>)	
Desert willow (flowers) (<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>)	

Acceptable produce

Barley	Cilantro	Parsley
Bean sprouts (mung)	Collard greens	String beans
Beet greens	Endive	Snow peas
Bok choy	Kale	Spinach
Carrot greens	Mustard greens	Turnip greens

Other healthy foods

Mix of alfalfa and grass, i.e., Bermuda or timothy (fresh or hay)	Grape leaves and shoots
Bluegrass lawn	Mulberry leaves*
Cantaloupe leaves	Pumpkin leaves*
Clover*	Rose petals*
Dandelion greens	Watercress
	Zucchini/squash leaves

* = good for young desert tortoises

Avoid the following

All types of lettuce	Any protein rich foods
Avocado	Canned and frozen vegetables
All fruit	Starchy vegetables (including corn)
Cabbage	Chinaberry berries
Celery	Plants in the <i>Nicotiana</i> (tobacco) genus
Cucumber	
Mushrooms	