

Late Summer Behavior

Changes in Behavior & Diet

Planting & Pruning for fall

Normal Pee and Poop

Hatching Video



www.tortoisegroup.org

Changes in Behavior

Fall & cooler temperatures bring:

- More time outside the burrow – every day
- Male pacing
- Very active

Brumation starts in mid September-early November
(depending on your tortoise)

- Before then, decrease in activity, time out of the burrow, and eating

Changes in Diet

- More browsing
- Interest in dry grasses and leaves
- Increased appetite until the slowdown before brumation



Planting & Pruning for Fall

- Great time for planting
 - Check with nurseries for new plants
 - Check TG's list of plants tortoises like
 - All the primroses
 - Gazenias
 - Petunias
 - globe mallow
 - yellow bells
 - grape (Thompson seedless)
 - Spineless cactus
 - Plant hollyhock seeds now



Pruning

- Prune the fall growth spurt so your tortoise can walk freely around the edge of its habitat



Normal Pee

- Tortoise pee consists of fluid and urate salts



Can vary in consistency

Normal Poop

- With MegaDiet RF, scats (poop) should be firm and fibrous. Dries out quickly for easy pickup.



Monsoon Time

- Tortoise's strategy for survival—come out to get a drink any time it rains, summer or winter
 - Drinks from puddles, just like in the wild



Burrow Protection

- We can help the burrow with heavy rain
- Temporarily cover with a tarp
- Remove immediately to avoid a greenhouse effect (steamy interior)



Hatching Time



Please separate you mating pair!!!!

- If you are expecting hatchlings, please remember:
 - All tortoises **must live outside** to be healthy, even hatchlings
 - Refer prospective custodians to TG *before* you give them a tortoise
- Hatching occurs late August - early October
- Video: Desert tortoise hatching from the egg
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5NOtKMvV0M>