Late Summer Behavior
Changes in Behavior & Diet
Planting & Pruning for fall
Normal Pee and Poop
Hatching Video

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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 your 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=V5N0tKMvV0M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5N0tKMvV0M)