

Golden Greek Tortoise

Testudo graeca terrestris

Golden Greek tortoises are a type of woodland tortoise. They can brumate when kept outdoors but Golden Greeks are much more delicate when it comes to extreme cold temperature in comparison to other species of *Testudo*. As a hobbyist or keeper, it is not necessary to brumate this species. Golden Greeks have also been known to develop respiratory issues when kept in humid or tropical environments.

Golden Greeks are a subspecies of the *graeca*, known for their beautiful coloration. Their distinct color is not a form of Albinism, the Golden Greeks reach a real golden color; some of the adult males even obtain a beautiful peach around their throats. Remember, tortoises are a lifetime commitment. Their age expectancy is 85+ years old.

Housing

Hatchlings, 2" - 4" in length, can be kept easily in **2'Wx12"Lx12"H**. Adults thrive in **5'Wx3'Lx2'H** enclosures or larger. It is always suggested that with more than one animal, you must think bigger than five-foot.

Most substrates that one can find in their backyard works very well on these tortoises. Mixing multiple types incorporates all of the positive aspects into one.

Soil, leaf litter, grass cuttings, mulch, aspen shavings.

They need a water dish, with water changes daily. When deciding what dish to use, make sure it's something your tortoise can easily crawl into. For hatchlings, you have very flat, small-lipped containers that they don't fall into. And, you want the water level to ONLY reach half way up their shell so they don't drown when fully inside. Tortoises do like hides. They need an area where they can escape the light if they choose to.

Temperatures

Daytime

95°F (hot side) and 70°F (cool side)

Nighttime

65°F is a good *minimum* nighttime temperature. This can be easily accomplished with an UNDER the tank heat pad under the area they go to sleep in.

Brumation should not be attempted unless by experienced keepers. Golden Greeks are unforgiving to sudden drops in temperature. Many complications can surface. There are no long-term studies indicating health issues coming about when one does not brumate their tortoises. Brumation should be left to breeding situations.

Infrared Temperature Guns are very beneficial in keeping a healthy enclosure; they read the momentary surface and air temperatures. I highly recommend you invest in one.

UVB

ALL Tortoises need UVB florescent bulbs if they are not receiving natural (unfiltered) sunlight. UVB bulbs include;

Repti-sun 10.0, Power-suns 100 watts, Arcadia D3 + 10% T5 HO

Food

Their base diet is green vegetables.

Endive, escarole, dandelion greens, shredded cactus pads, baby kale, red leaf, green leaf, arugula and chicory leaf, oak leaf, mizuna, mustard leaf, frisee, berry leaves, grape leaves, radish greens

Root veggies, shredded, will add variety into their diet. Usually, I feel these out two to three times a week.

Yellow squash, banana squash, zucchini, yams or sun burst squash

There is a very large variety of flowers that are non-toxic. You must be aware of the source of your flowers. Food-grade flowers are hard to find. They must be non-fertilized and fully organic. Runoff from contaminated water can leach pesticides into the flowers.

Dandelion Flowers, Hibiscus, Roses, Dendrobium Sp. Of Orchid, Pansies, Carnations

Fruit should be fed moderately. Fruit is a treat. This between 10% of their diet. Fruit with a higher concentration of sugar and vitamin C should be fed in fewer quantities because it can cause diarrhea in high doses.

Fruit can have a high percentage of acid. *Do Not* feed oranges, lemons and limes.

Berries, Bell pepper, Tomatoes, Peaches and Nectarines, Watermelon, Mango, Cantaloupe

Do Not feed spinach, parsley, chard, iceberg lettuce or broccoli.

Do Not feed animal based protein (dog or cat food, bugs, meat)

Supplementation

Supplementation needs to be a Calcium (1.5% per serving) + Vitamin D3 (3,000 IU/KG)

Repashy Grassland Grazers, Zoo Med Repti Calcium *with* D3,
Mazuri tortoise diet (soaked), Repashy Superveggies.

For More Information, please visit our website :
<https://www.sunlandbreeders.com/care-sheets>