

## **Arizona Native Plants Suitable for Sonoran Desert Tortoise Diet**

This list includes plants that tortoises have been observed eating in the wild and in captivity. There are many more native plants tortoises will eat that are not on this list. Tortoises instinctively avoid plants that could make them sick so experiment with other native plants, but be aware that wild mushrooms can make captive tortoises very sick.

### **Cacti and Fruit (only offer fruit during fruiting season and should not be planted in enclosures)**

**Hedgehog cacti**, Echinocereus spp. perennial full to part sun slow growing  
**Pincushion cacti**, Mammillaria spp. perennial full to part sun slow growing  
**Prickly pear cacti**, Opuntia spp. perennial full to part sun moderate

### **Grasses (best nutrition for adult tortoises)**

**Arizona cottontop**, Digitaria californica perennial full to part sun moderate  
**Bamboo muhly**, Muhlenbergia dumosa perennial full to part sun moderate  
**Blue grama**, Bouteloua gracilis perennial full to part sun moderate  
**Bush muhly**, Muhlenbergia porteri perennial full to part sun fast growing  
**Curly mesquite**, Hilaria belangeri perennial full to part sun moderate  
**Deer grass**, Muhlenbergia rigens perennial sun/shade fast growing  
**Fluffgrass**, Dasyochloa pulchella perennial full sun slow growing  
**Needle grama**, Bouteloua aristoides summer annual full to part sun moderate  
**Sideoats grama**, Bouteloua curtipendula perennial full to part sun moderate  
**Slender grama**, Bouteloua repens perennial full to part sun moderate  
**Threeawn**, Aristida spp. perennial/annual full to part sun moderate  
**Vine mesquite**, Hopia obtusa perennial full to part sun fast growing

### **Vines (fast growers producing lots of leaves)**

**Arizona grape ivy**, Cissus trifoliata perennial sun/shade fast growing  
**Janusia vine**, Janusia gracilis perennial full sun moderate  
**Native passionflower**, Passiflora spp. summer perennial sun/shade moderate  
**Snapdragon vine**, Maurandya antirrhiniflora perennial sun/shade fast growing

### **Medium to large shrubs**

**Chuparosa**, Justicia californica perennial full to part sun fast growing  
**Creosotebush**, Larrea tridentata perennial full to part sun fast growing  
**Desert honeysuckle**, Anisacanthus thurberi perennial full to part sun fast growing  
**Desert lavender**, Condea emoryi perennial full to part sun slow growing  
**Ocotillo**, Fouquieria splendens perennial full sun slow growing  
**Ruellia**, Ruellia nudiflora perennial full to part sun moderate  
**Whiteball acacia**, Acaciella angustissima perennial full to part sun moderate  
**Yellow trumpet flower**, Tecoma stans perennial full to part sun fast growing

### Small shrubs

**Arizona foldwing**, *Dicliptera resupinata* perennial sun/shade fast growing  
**Arizona rosemallow**, *Hibiscus biseptus* summer perennial full to part sun fast growing  
**Bladdermallow**, *Herissantia crispa* summer perennial full to part sun fast growing  
**Dalea**, *Dalea* spp. perennial full to part sun fast growing  
**Desert rose mallow**, *Hibiscus coulteri* summer perennial full to part sun fast growing  
**Fairy duster**, *Calliandra eriophylla* perennial full to part sun slow growing  
**Flattop buckwheat**, *Eriogonum fasciculatum* perennial full to part sun fast growing  
**Globe mallow**, *Sphaeralcea* spp. perennial full to part sun moderate  
**Indian mallow**, *Abutilon* spp. summer perennial full to part sun fast growing  
**Rock rose mallow**, *Hibiscus denudatus* summer perennial full to part sun fast growing

### Wildflowers (small, leafy, flowering plants)

**Arizona lupine**, *Lupinus arizonicus* spring annual full to part sun moderate  
**Desert chicory**, *Rafinesquia neomexicana* spring annual full to part sun moderate  
**Desert lupine**, *Lupinus sparsiflorus* spring annual full to part sun moderate  
**Desert rock pea**, *Acmispon rigidus* spring annual full to part sun moderate  
**Desert senna**, *Senna covesii* summer perennial full sun fast growing  
**Dogweed**, *Thymophylla pentachaeta* summer annual full sun moderate  
**Elegant lupine**, *Lupinus concinnus* spring annual full to part sun moderate  
**Esteve's pincushion**, *Chaenactis stevioides* spring annual full to part sun moderate  
**Evening primrose**, *Oenothera* spp. summer perennial full to part sun moderate  
**Foothill deervetch**, *Acmispon brachycarpus* summer annual full sun moderate  
**Lizard tail**, *Oenothera curtiflora* summer annual full to part sun fast growing  
**Locoweed**, *Astragalus nuttalianus* summer annual full sun moderate  
**Penstemon**, *Penstemon* spp. spring perennial sun/shade moderate  
**Owl's clover**, *Castilleja exserta* spring annual full to part sun moderate  
**Showy four o'clock**, *Mirabilis multiflora* summer perennial full to part sun moderate  
**Silver puffs**, *Uropappus lindleyi* spring annual full to part sun moderate  
**Spiderlings**, *Boerhavia* spp. summer ann/per full sun fast growing  
**Spurges**, *Euphorbia* spp. summer ann/per full to part sun fast growing  
**Strigose birdfoot trefoil**, *Ottleya strigosa* spring annual full to part sun moderate  
**Summer poppy**, *Kallstroemia grandiflora* summer annual full sun fast growing  
**Trailing 4-o'clock**, *Allionia incarnata* summer perennial full sun fast growing  
**Woolly plantain**, *Plantago patagonica* spring annual full to part sun moderate

Annuals: Plants come up from seed each year. Plant seeds of Spring annuals in the Fall/Winter. Plant seeds of Summer annuals in the Spring.

Perennials: Plants persist all year. Some are long lived and some live only a few years