



Mojave Desert Native Plants for Desert Tortoise

The Mojave Desert tortoise feeds on a variety of native plant species during spring and summer months. This list is intended as a guide for enhancing tortoise habitat on private property. Please note: The desert tortoise is a Federally Threatened Species and it is illegal to touch, harm, harass, or remove a desert tortoise from the wild.

Abronia villosa—Sand verbena

Amaranthus fimbriatus—Fringed amaranth

Amsinckia tessellata—Fiddleneck

Astragalus lentiginosus—Freckled milkvetch

Baileya multiradiata—Desert marigold

Boerhavia species—Spiderling

Bouteloua curtipendula—Side-oats grama

Chaenactis species—Pincushion

Chilopsis linearis—Desert willow

Emmenanthe penduliflora—Whispering bells

Eriogonum species—Buckwheats

Erodium texanum—Desert heron's bill

Euphorbia micromera—Sonoran sandmat

Hilaria rigida—Big galleta grass

Larrea tridentata—Creosote bush (shelter)

Lasthenia species--Goldfields

Layia glandulosa—White tidy-tips

Lupinus species--Lupine

Malacothrix glabrata—Desert dandelion

Mirabilis laevis—Desert four o'clock

Oenothera species—Primrose

Opuntia basilaris—Beavertail cactus

Pectis papposa--Chinchweed

Plantago ovata—Desert plantain

Rafinesquia neomexicana—Desert chicory

Salvia carduaceae—Thistle sage

Salvia columbariae—Chia

Senna armata—Desert senna

Sphaeralcea ambigua—Apricot mallow

Stipa hymenoides—Indian rice grass

Vitis girdiana—Desert wild grape

Additional plants for the low desert (these plants do not tolerate frost):

Abutilon palmeri—Indian mallow

Justicia californica—Chuparosa