

HATCH A TORTOISE

Instahatch Egg



COMPLETE CARE GUIDE

INSTAHATCH EGG CARE GUIDE OVERVIEW

Hatching your own tortoise, in the comfort of your own home, can be one of the greatest experiences.

This care guide will help you successfully care for your tortoise egg the moment you open the box. These detailed instructions are for you to get through the hatching process, start to finish, without a professional breeder's help. Tortstork is an email away and will always be available to help guide you on every step of the process.

Please note that you as the buyer are required to supply your own incubator. I recommend the Hovobator 1602N. If you have another brand, please email Tortstork. For warranty reasons, Tortstork needs to approve the incubator if you are not using the Hovobator 1602N.

Please take the time to read the disclaimer below.

Buyer assumes all risks in connection with the purchase of one or more tortoise/turtle eggs. Tortstork will appropriately pack egg to protect it during shipping, but shipping is provided by third parties over whom Tortstork has no control. For instahatch eggs the seller will prove fertility via candling and/or heart rate via the egg buddy. At the time of shipping the egg will be fertile. Tortstork cannot guarantee that the egg will arrive intact, but if the egg does not arrive intact, depending on the situation Tortstork will decide whether a replacement of the egg or refund is offered. Tortstork shall have no liability for any claims, causes of action, or the like arising at law or equity in connection with the sale and/or shipment of tortoise/turtle eggs, and moreover, shall have no liability for incidental, consequential, and/or special damages; although it is the intent of the parties that seller shall bear no liability, the parties further agree that seller's liability is explicitly limited to the amount paid for the egg or eggs which are the subject of the transaction. Buyer is required to use recommended incubator (Hovobator 1602N). Warranty void if that incubator is not used. If the egg does not hatch, a refund or replacement of same cost will be granted. Original shipping cost will not be refunded and buyer must pay shipping if a replacement is agreed upon. Proof of egg not hatching will be requested via pictures, video and in certain situations returning of said egg (shipping paid for by Tortstork and shipping label will be provided).

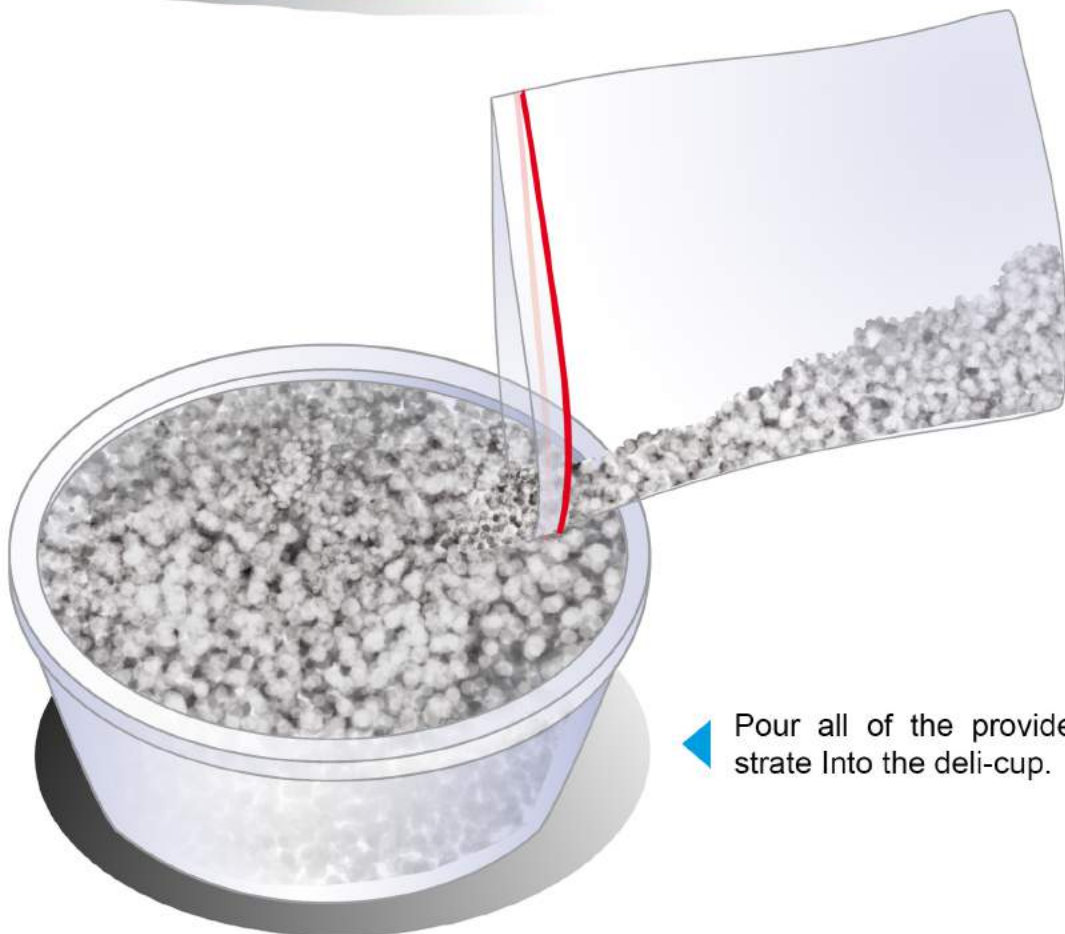




Take the lid off the deli-cup and remove the top piece of bread, be very careful as the bread tends to mold to the egg. Place the top piece of bread next to the deli-cup.



Lightly pick up the egg and place it onto the piece of bread you removed. Then remove all the remaining bread from the deli-cup.



Pour all of the provided Hatch-rite substrate into the deli-cup.



Using your thumb, make a small imprint in the center of the hatch-rite substrate.



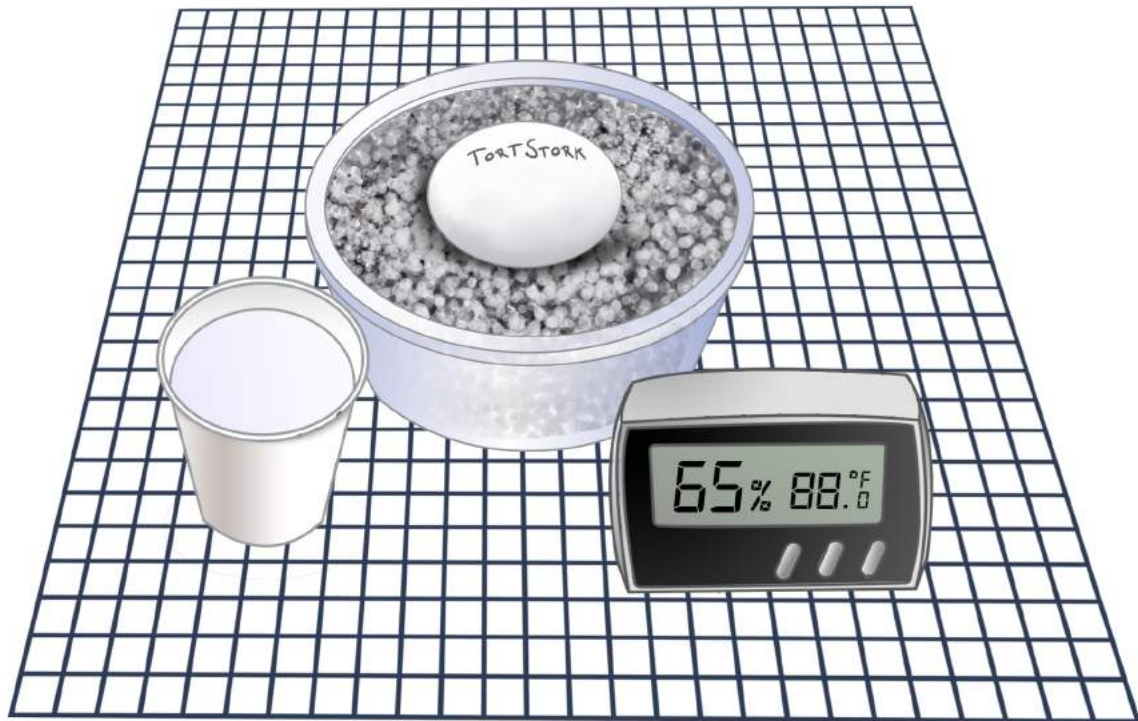
Carefully place the egg in the imprint that you just made in the substrate.



◀ Make sure the "tortstork" writing is facing up towards the ceiling (as this is the top of the egg, where the airsac is).

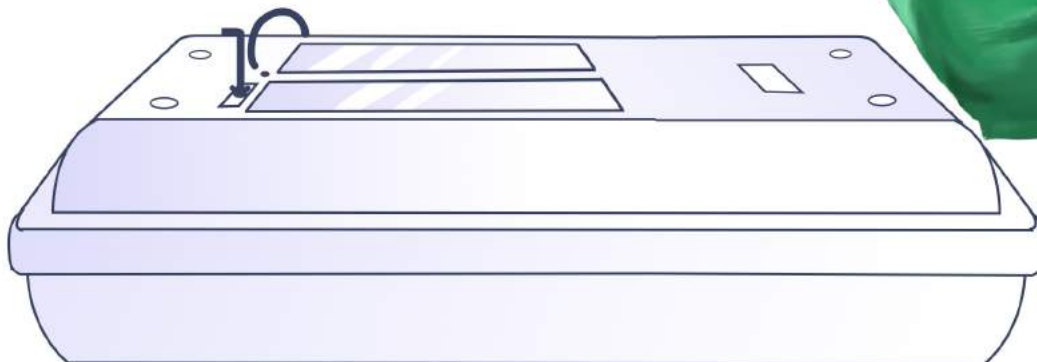


▲ Place the deli-cup in the center of your incubator.



Confirm that the temperature in your incubator is 88°F and the relative humidity is between 50-75%. To keep the humidity up, place a cup of lukewarm water in the incubator.

Check on your egg as often as you wish, but refrain from opening the incubator often, as this rapidly changes the humidity and temperature. Only open the incubator if you need to add more lukewarm water to the cup.





Once you see your tortoise pip (which is a small crack in the egg, created by the tortoise's egg tooth), take the egg out and place it on a paper towel next to the deli-cup.



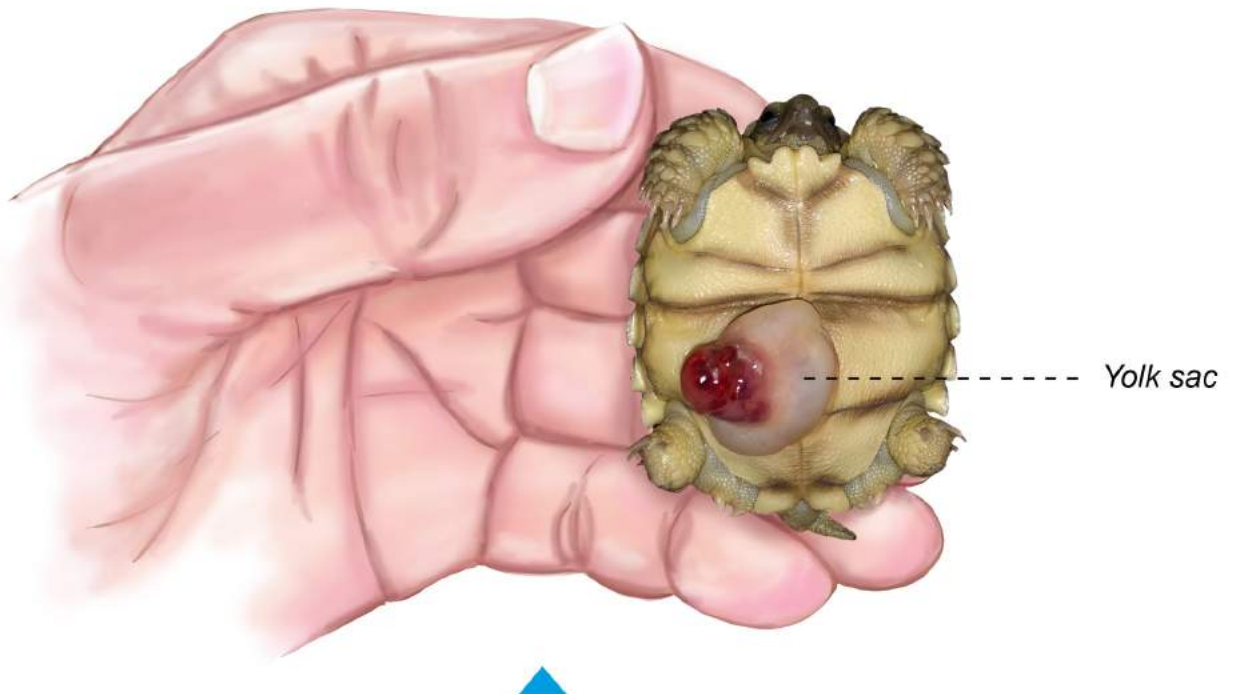
Remove all of the white hatch-rite substrate and replace with a lightly damp warm paper towel. Take a second lightly damp warm paper towel and make a donut shape in the cup.



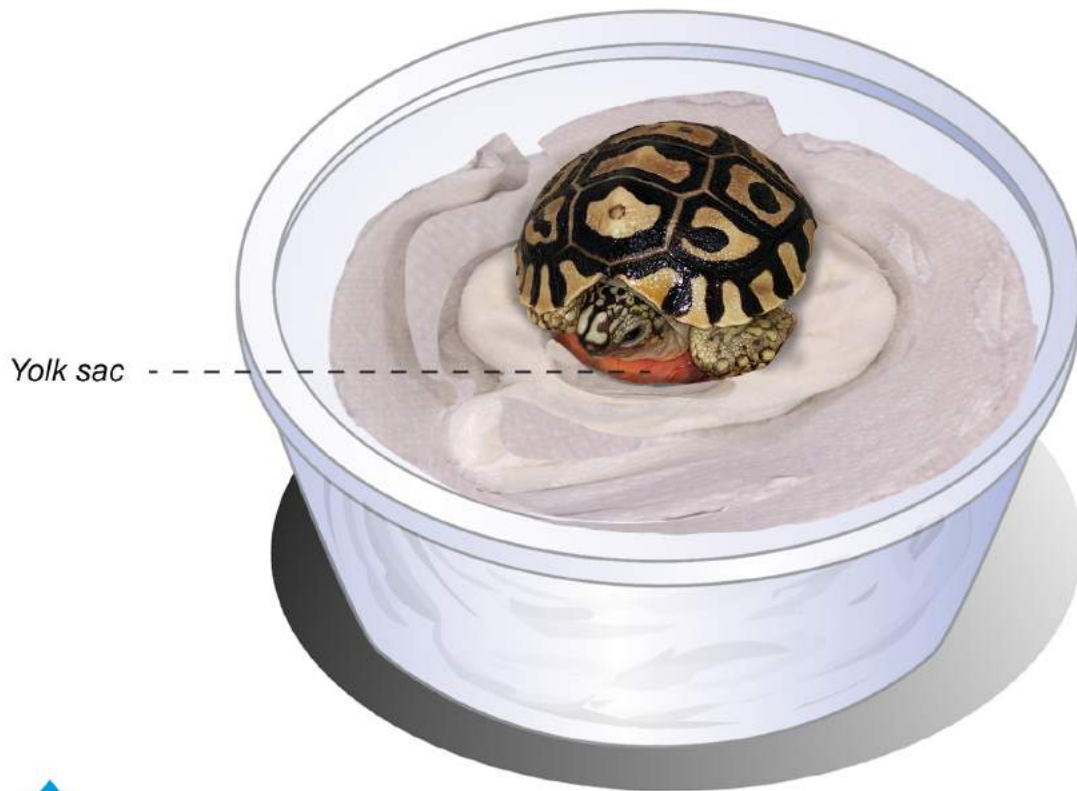
Place the egg onto the donut shaped paper towel in the deli-cup and put it back into the incubator.



It will take 24-72 hours for the tortoise to completely hatch and exit the egg. Please refrain from assisting the tortoise, as this could stress it out.



Once your tortoise has completely hatched and is out of its egg, you will need to change the paper towels to clean ones. Your tortoise will most likely have a yolk sac protruding from its plastron (bottom shell). This is completely normal and will be absorbed within 24-72 hours. The yolk sac provides nutrients for the first few days of life, so you do not need to offer your tortoise food.



▲ If your tortoise has a Yolk Sac, you will need to keep it moist so it does not dry out. Place the tortoise on the center of a damp donut shaped paper towel. This helps relieve the pressure of the tortoise laying on its yolk sac. During this time frame, it is very important to keep the paper towels clean and moist. It is okay to change them daily.



▲ The yolk sac will slowly absorb completely within 24-72 hours and the plastron will close



When the tortoise has completely absorbed its yolk sac, you will be able to soak it. Fill the deli cup up with shallow lukewarm water (just deep enough to cover the tortoise's tail and that the tortoise can lean its head down into the water to get a drink). Place the tortoise in the lukewarm water and put the deli-cup and tortoise back in the incubator to be soaked for only 5 mins.



After the soak, place a clean damp paper towel on the bottom of the deli-cup and put the tortoise back in the incubator.



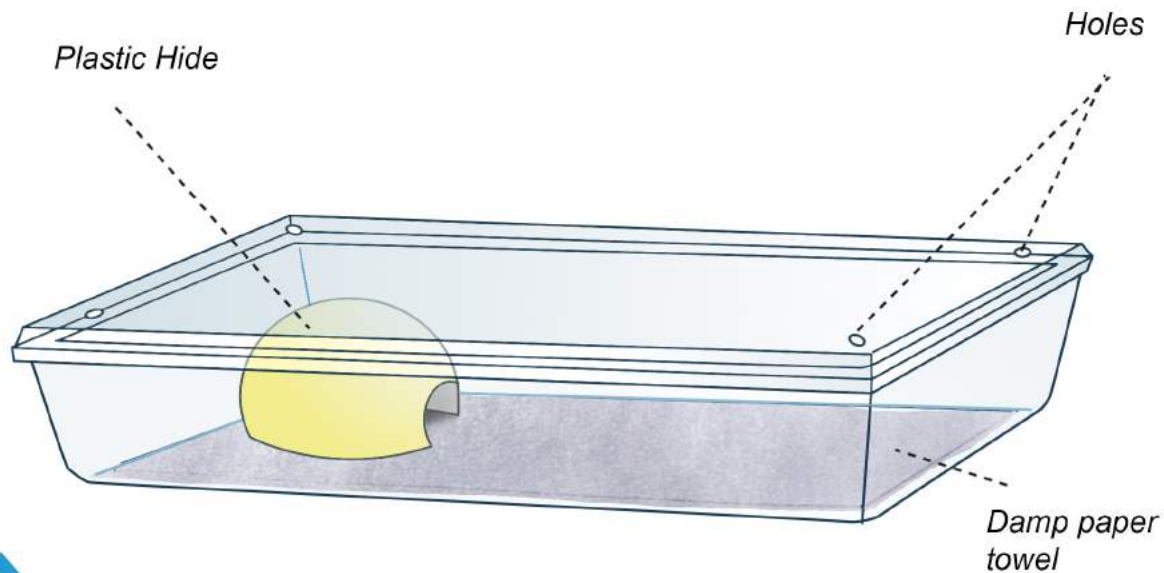
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After your tortoise's first soak, you can start offering it food. I prefer using spring mix (NO spinach) because they are baby leaves and are easier for the tortoise to digest. Offer in small quantities so you are able to tell whether it is eating.

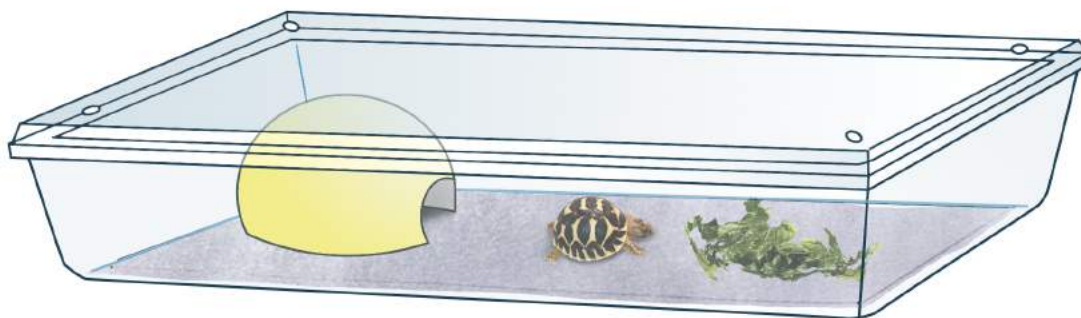
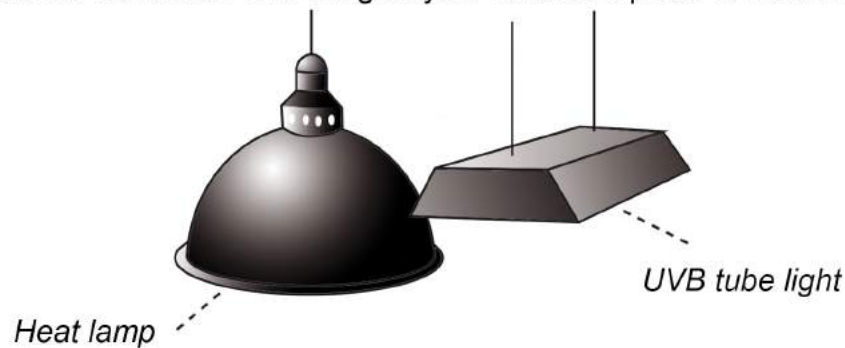


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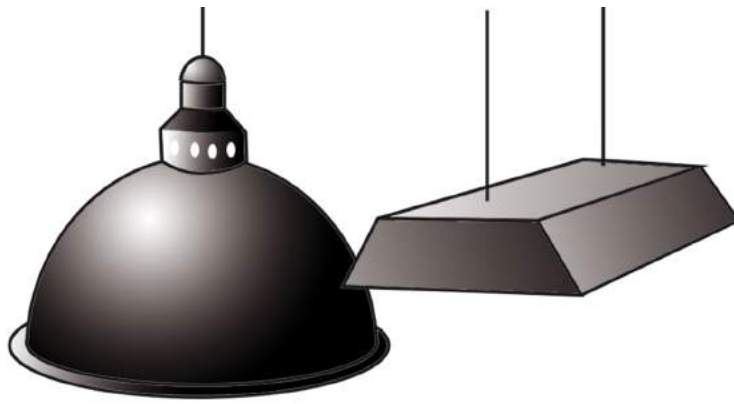
Your tortoise might be very active, trying to escape the deli-cup. While doing so, there is a possibility that it flips upside down and falls on its back. If your tortoise is doing this, place it in a larger plastic container with more surface area, but still inside the incubator.



On average, after 5 days, you can transfer the hatchling to a growing enclosure where it will spend its first few weeks. This is basically an incubator without an internal heat source, but rather an exterior heat source. You need a clear plastic container with a clear lid. Make sure it's at least 23" Long x 16" Wide x 6" High. Drill 4 holes in the lid, preferably near each corner. Place lightly damp paper towels on the floor of the container. Place any sort of plastic hide that will fit inside the container. This will give your tortoise a place to hide and feel safe.



Hang a light fixture with a 100 watt heat bulb and a light fixture with a 10.0 UVB tube light, 12 inches above the enclosure. Keep the lid on at all times. The heat lamp will create humidity within the enclosure. You might need to change the distance of the heat lamp from the container until you manage proper temperature and humidity. Ideal temperature inside the holding enclosure is 88-90F and 75-90% relative humidity. Do NOT transfer your tortoise into the growing container until you have managed the temperatures for 24 hours.



Keep the heat lamp on for 16 hours during the day. At night make sure the ambient temperature does not go below 75F. For the first few weeks the UVB light only needs to be on when you soak your tortoise, as UVB does not transfer through the plastic lid. Tortoises do better when they are on a schedule. Try to soak your tortoise at the same time every day. I suggest doing so 30mins after the heat lamp is turned on in the morning. Soak your hatchling daily in lukewarm water. Place the soaking container on top of the enclosure lid, under the UVB light. This gives the hatchling access to UVB light. Soak for 10-15 minutes a day, making sure you change the water frequently to keep it lukewarm.

Some suggestions



Collard greens



Romaine



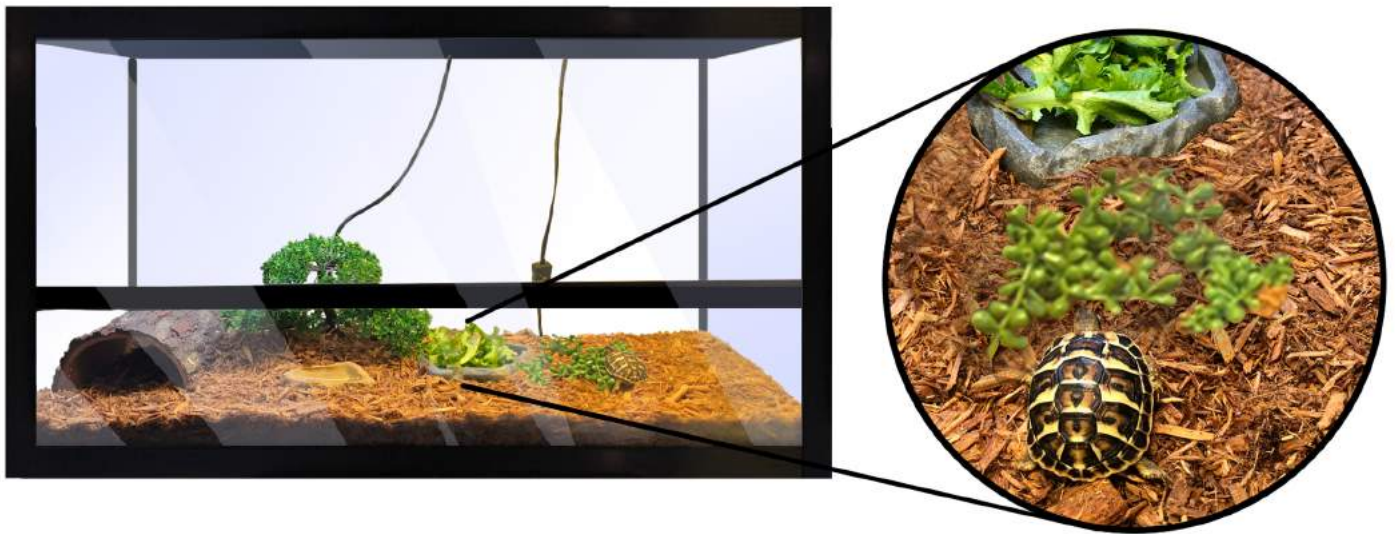
Arugula



Mustard greens



Change paper towels daily. Offer a variety of food daily. Some suggestions are spring mix (without spinach), arugula, romaine, collard greens , mustard greens, dandelion, hibiscus leaves and flowers.



Your tortoise will stay in the growing container for 4 weeks. After that time period it can be transferred to a larger enclosure with real substrate.



Continue to do your research on best ways to care for your tortoise. There is a lot of information on **www.tortstork.com**, including some species specific care guides to help prepare your enclosure and properly care for your new tortoise.