

TERRARIUM RECIPE CARD

Project Level:
Medium

Materials

- Container: 10 Gallon glass aquarium for one small box turtle
- Mesh Screen lid
- Bag of coconut bark substrate
- Medium Resin Drinking Dish with a ramp
- Small feed dish
- RO Water or Water conditioner to treat tap water
- Aquarium Thermometer
- Cricket or feed keeper
- Clean spray bottle used only for water
- One small box turtle
- 75 watt UVB Lamp

Food

- Crickets
- Mealworms
- Wax worms
- And other feeder insects
- Calcium powder
- Romaine lettuce
- Sliced vegetables and fruits
- See Cricket Keeper page for insect care instructions

Recommended Temperature:

The Box Turtle Terrarium should have two temperatures, on one side with the UVB lighting should be about 85° F (29° C) and about 67-70° F (21° C) on the other side of the tank .



BOX TURTLE HABITAT

Set up: This display is for a small turtle (4-5 inches across) Anything larger needs to be in a larger tank. The tank for a larger turtle should be oblong and shallow to give the turtle a way to walk around. Pour coconut bark substrate into the clean glass aquarium about 5 CM deep. On one side of the tank place the medium resin drinking dish and on the other side of the tank place a piece of bark that will act as a cave for the turtle. Fill the drinking dish with RO water. Place the turtle in the tank. Cover with mesh screen lid. Place the 75 watt UVB lamp on the screen mesh shining directly onto the area with the bark. Do not shine UVB lamp through the aquarium glass as it will filter out the UVB rays. (Turtles need UVB lamps to absorb Vitamin D so that they can grow their shell.)

Maintenance: These guys are messy and you might find yourself having to clean out the water dish on a daily basis and the feed dish almost as often. Since turtles are rather clunky they may splash out water and moisten their bedding. Scoop out any moist bedding and replace with dry. Do not let bedding stay moist for long periods of time because it may grow mold or begin to smell. If the tank becomes too moist you may have to completely replace the bedding. Clean aquarium with water do not use detergent.

Care: Although they are messy creatures, turtles are interesting to keep for observation. Since they are omnivores they will eat a variety of foods including live foods like crickets and other insects as well as romaine lettuce, sliced veggies and fruits. Remove old vegetation from food dish daily to prevent rotting. The UVB lamp should give the turtle the light he needs to keep the shell healthy. It is a myth that this animal will stay small because of a small enclosure. Once he grows bigger he will need to be transferred to a larger tank with more room to walk around. If the turtle seems like it is trying to escape and continues to claw at the glass, please surround the glass with construction paper to block his view of the outside. A box turtle cannot determine if the glass is an open area and this behavior leads to stress for the animal.