

# Chilean Rose Tarantula



## ***Grammostola rosea***

Native to deserts and scrublands of South America, the Chilean rose tarantula is a hardy species that has adapted to a solitary life. Rosies have a reputation for being generally docile and easy to care for, making them an ideal choice for the beginner tarantula keeper. Male rosies live about 4-5 years, whereas females can live more than 15 years; both males and females average a 4-6 inch leg span.

## **Housing**

### **Size**

Tarantulas do not require a large enclosure, and even likely prefer something smaller. A five or ten gallon tank (or similarly sized plastic enclosure) should be sufficient for an adult rosie. A glass enclosure has the added advantage of being easier to heat if heating is necessary. A hide should be placed to one side of the enclosure so your tarantula has a place to retreat to and feel secure.

### **Substrate**

Rosies prefer drier environments and may burrow, so you want to choose a substrate that will accommodate those conditions. Coconut fiber works well, as does peat moss. If you prefer, you can make a 70%-30% coconut fiber (or peat moss)-sand mix. The enclosure should contain a water dish that is buried up to the rim. Avoid using a sponge in the water dish, as it is not necessary and can harbor harmful bacteria. Decorations may be added to make the enclosure more aesthetically pleasing for you, but are not necessary for your tarantula.

### **Lighting**

UVB lighting is not essential, but a fluorescent bulb may be used for day time viewing and to provide a day-night cycle for your tarantula. If you choose to use one, your daytime bulb should be on for 8-10 hours.

### **Water**

Tarantulas with at least a 3 inch leg span may drink from a shallow water dish. If you provide a water bowl, it needs to be kept clean and filled with fresh water.



## Some products to look for

- Lee's Kritter Keeper
- Zoo Med Eco Earth
- Zilla Jungle Mix
- Exo Terra Heat Wave Under Tank Heater
- Penn-Plax EZ Clean Oasis Dish with Plant
- Zoo Med Natural Cork Round
- A&E Reptile Java Wood Hide
- Exo Terra Barrel Cactus Terrarium Plant
- Exo Terra Tree Fern Background



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## Temperature

Rosies are a hardy species and can tolerate a larger range of temperatures than many other types of tarantulas. Your rosie will likely fair fine at room temperature, but an environment closer to 80°F would be best. If you need to heat your tarantula's enclosure, care must be taken when deciding on a heating device. Overhead heat bulbs may have more of a desiccating effect than other heating options, but an infrared heat bulb can provide a method of night time viewing. Other options include under tank heaters, heat tape, and heat cables. Whatever your decision, attention must be paid to ensure your enclosure does not become too hot. The ideal range is between 74°F and 85°F.

## Humidity

Being a desert-dwelling species, rosies do not require much humidity, and too much can be detrimental. Your tarantula should acclimate to getting its moisture from its food as well as drinking from a water dish. Misting the enclosure is discouraged.

## Diet

### Insects

Rosies will do fine on a diet of crickets. Four to six of the appropriate sized crickets should be offered no more often than once a week (once every two weeks would be sufficient). Crickets should be gut loaded prior to feeding. Other insect choices include roaches, meal worms, and super worms.

### Other food choices

Other optional prey items for your tarantula include wax worms, hornworms, and pinkie mice. None of these choices should be a staple part of your rosies' diet, but are fine choices for the occasional treat.



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