

## Gopher Tortoise Forage Plants

Family	Scientific Name (Genus)	Common Name
Acanthaceae	<i>Dyschoriste</i>	twinflower
	<i>Ruellia</i>	petunia
Agavaceae	<i>Yucca</i>	yucca
Aizoaceae	<i>Mollugo</i>	carpetweed
Annonaceae	<i>Asimina</i>	pawpaw
Arecaceae	<i>Serenoa</i>	palmetto
Asclepidaceae	<i>Asclepias</i>	milkweed
Asteraceae	<i>Ageratina</i>	snakeroot
	<i>Ambrosia</i>	ragweed
	<i>Aster (Sericocarpus)</i>	whiteweed aster
	<i>Baludina</i>	honeycombhead
	<i>Berlandiera</i>	greeneyes
	<i>Carphephorus</i>	chaffhead, vanillaleaf, paintbrush
	<i>Chrysopsis</i>	goldenaster
	<i>Elephantopus</i>	elephantsfoot
	<i>Eupatorium</i>	fennel
	<i>Gaillardia</i>	blanketflower
	<i>Hieracium</i>	hawkweed
	<i>Krigia</i>	dwarf dandelion
	<i>Lactuca</i>	lettuce
	<i>Liatis</i>	blazing star
	<i>Phoebanthus</i>	false sunflower
<i>Pityopsis</i>	silkgrass	
<i>Solidago</i>	goldenrod	
Bromeliaceae	<i>Tillandsia</i>	airplant
Cactaceae	<i>Opuntia</i>	pricklypear
Caryophyllaceae	<i>Stellaria (Cerastium)</i>	chickweed
Chrysobalanaceae	<i>Licania</i>	gopher apple
Cistaceae	<i>Helianthemum</i>	frostweed
	<i>Lechea</i>	pinweed
Clusaceae	<i>Hypericum</i>	St. John's wort
Commelinaceae	<i>Commelina</i>	dayflower
	<i>Tradescantia</i>	spiderwort
Convolvulaceae	<i>Evolvulus</i>	morning-glory
	<i>Stylisma</i>	dawnflower
Cyperaceae	<i>Bulbostylis</i>	hairsedge
	<i>Cyperus</i>	flatsedge
	<i>Rhynchospora</i>	beaksedge
	<i>Scleria</i>	nutsedge
Ericaceae	<i>Vaccinium</i>	blueberry
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Acaphyla</i>	acaphyla
	<i>Cnidioscolus</i>	tread-softly
	<i>Croton</i>	croton
	<i>Tragia</i>	noseburn

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Fabaceae	<i>Cassia</i>	various
	<i>Centrosema</i>	butterfly pea
	<i>Chamaecrista</i>	partridge pea, sensitive pea
	<i>Crotalaria</i>	rattlebox
	<i>Dalea</i>	summer farewell
	<i>Desmodium</i>	ticktrefoil
	<i>Galactia</i>	milk pea
	<i>Lezpeza</i>	bush clover
	<i>Rhynchosia</i>	snoutbean
	<i>Schrankia (Mimosa)</i>	sensitive briar
	<i>Stylosanthes</i>	pencilflower
	<i>Tephrosia</i>	hoarypea
	<i>Zornia</i>	viperina
Fagaceae	<i>Quercus</i>	oaks
Iridaceae	<i>Sisyrinchium</i>	blue-eyed grass
Lamiaceae	<i>Scutellaria</i>	skullcap
	<i>Trichostema</i>	bluecurls
Melastomataceae	<i>Rhexia</i>	meadow beauty
Onagraceae	<i>Oenothera</i>	eveningprimrose
Oxalidaceae	<i>Oxalis</i>	woodsorrel
Passifloraceae	<i>Passiflora</i>	passionflower
Pinaceae	<i>Pinus</i>	pine tree
Plantaginaceae	<i>Plantago</i>	plantain
Poaceae	<i>Aristida</i>	threeawn
	<i>Andropogon</i>	Bluestem
	<i>Dichanthelium</i>	witchgrass
	<i>Digitaria</i>	crabgrass
	<i>Panicum</i>	panicgrass
	<i>Paspalum</i>	crowngrass
Polygalaceae	<i>Polygala</i>	milkwort
Polygonaceae	<i>Eriogonum</i>	buckwheat
	<i>Polygonella</i>	jointweed
	<i>Polygonum</i>	knotweed
	<i>Rumex</i>	dock
Pteridaceae	<i>Pteridium</i>	bracken
Rosaceae	<i>Crataegus</i>	hawthorn
	<i>Prunus</i>	plum
	<i>Rubus</i>	blackberry
Rubiaceae	<i>Diodia</i>	buttonweed
	<i>Hedyotis (Houstonia)</i>	bluet
	<i>Richardia</i>	Mexican clover
Scrophulariaceae	<i>Aureolaria</i>	foxglove
	<i>Vernonia</i>	speedwell
Smilacaceae	<i>Smilax</i>	greenbriar
Solanaceae	<i>Physalis</i>	groundcherry
Xyridaceae	<i>Xyris</i>	yellow-eyed grass

Notes: Check to find out which plants are native to your area

Common names for this list were selected by using the Florida Plant Atlas

[www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu](http://www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu)

Only some references provided genus and species and in some cases multiple species were listed

## **Gopher Tortoise Forage Plants**

### **SOURCES**

Birkhead RD, Guyer C, Hermann SM and Michener WK. 2005. Patterns of folivory and seed ingestion by gopher tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*) in a southeastern pine savanna. *American Midland Naturalist*. 154(1): 143-151.

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