



Chilean Rose tarantula *Grammostola rosea*

Adult size; 12 to 14cm (4.5 to 5.5")

Origin; Bolivia, Argentina and northern Chile

Temperature; 21°C to 30°C (70°F to 85°F)

Longevity; Males 1 to 2 years Females 17 to 20 years

Chile rose are fairly large, hardy and have a docile temperament. For these reasons they are viewed as a great starter species.

Housing

Chile rose are terrestrial tarantulas, this has an effect on the type of housing that you chose. They require housing with plenty of floor space with no real need for excessive height. 30 x 30 x 30cm (12 x 12 x 12") vivarium or terrarium would be suitable for an adult Chile rose. All vivariums and terrariums vary in dimensions depending on manufacture. It is common to use either plastic or glass terrariums when housing tarantulas as they allow for easy viewing. Make sure your housing has plenty of ventilation and is secure, bear in mind that tarantulas can squeeze through small gaps.

Substrate

Chile rose are found in dry desert and scrub land, a suitable substrate is soil or a soil and sand mix, around 5 to 7 cm (2 to 3") in depth.

Heating and lighting

One of the most effective ways of heating a tarantula set up is with a heat mat, they are low wattage and should be used with a mat thermostat to allow greater control of the temperature. The best way to check your heating equipment is working correctly is to use thermometers within the terrarium. Tarantulas prefer low levels of lighting and in most cases no additional light is required.

Decor

This is a real area of personal preference, it is advisable to provide a hide but this could be made out of a range of different items. Items commonly used; drift wood/bogwood slate granite, cork bark and bamboo.

Diet

Chile rose feed mainly on insects, they do this by injecting digestive juices into their prey once they have captured it. The digestive juices start to break down the prey's tissue and the tarantula draws the fluid back to its body through its mouth.

It is important not to offer insects which are too large for your tarantula, always take care when your tarantula is moulting the last thing you want is for your food item to eat your tarantula. Mealworms, crickets and locusts are suitable foods.

Humidity

The humidity should be between 60 to 70%. This can be achieved by lightly misting and by placing a small dish containing damp cotton wool within the terrarium. Tarantulas with an 8cm (3") plus leg span can be provided with a wide shallow water dish.