

Sheldon — Yellow-Foot Tortoise Build · Final Parts List & Reference

Chelonoidis denticulatus (juvenile) · enclosure build for Faisal & Lea · Long Island, NY Cart finalized 6/15/26 — 62 items, ~\$1,889 (excludes enclosure, already ordered)

Husbandry targets (set these before he moves in)

Parameter	Target
Basking surface	90-95°F
Ambient (warm side)	80-85°F
Cool side	high 70s
Night floor	don't let it drop below ~70°F (CHE kicks in)
Humidity	80%+ (closed chamber — screen top mostly covered)
UVB	6% "Forest," mounted over the warm/basking side for a gradient

Forest/rainforest species: deep moist substrate, dappled UVB, more fruit-tolerant and omnivorous than grassland tortoises. Adults reach 15-17"+ — this enclosure carries him through juvenile/subadult; plan a larger footprint (~8'×4') down the road.

Enclosure

- **Reptizoo 180 gal, 48"×24"×36" glass**, front sliding doors, screen top (*already ordered — cover most of the screen to hold humidity*)

Lighting & heat

- **Arcadia LumenIZE UVB Kit 6% 24"** — \$154.99 — UVB; mount over the warm side
- **REPTI HOME 100W basking bulbs (4-pack)** — \$23.99 — daytime basking heat (spares included)
- **Fluker's Repta-Clamp Lamp 8.5" (dimmable)** — \$23.73 — basking fixture
- **REPTIZOO PID Dimming Thermostat** — \$27.99 — controls the basking halogen to hold 90-95°F

- **DXOPHIEX 5.5" deep fixture + 100W ceramic heat emitter + thermostat** — \$39.99 — night heat, no light; set as a ~70°F floor
- **ennoLogic eT650D IR temp gun** — \$74.95 — verify basking surface temp

Monitoring & humidity

- **GoveeLife 5-in-1 WiFi thermo-hygrometer (3-pack + gateway)** — \$68.39 — ambient temp/RH + phone alerts
- **LRAZU 6L reptile fogger** — \$75.99 — humidity/fog (has its own probe)

Substrate & drainage (*layered bottom* → *top*)

1. **ZeeDix LECA clay balls 10 lb ×2** — \$22.79 ea — drainage layer (~1.5")
2. **Fiberglass window screen mesh 36"×100'** — \$39.99 — barrier between drainage and soil
3. Mix for the ~5-6" main layer:
 - **Zoo Med Forest Floor 24 qt ×2** — \$29.99 ea — cypress mulch bulk
 - **Zoo Med Forest Floor 4 qt ×2** — \$10.99 ea
 - **Josh's Frogs BioBedding Tropical 4 qt ×3** — \$19.98 ea — bioactive base
 - **BNOSDM reptile soil (2.64 gal)** — \$37.99 — fine soil
 - **Exo Terra Forest Bark 4 qt ×2** — \$6.59 ea — chunky fir bark
 - **Premium coconut coir bricks (6-pack)** — \$21.99 — fine, moisture-holding; hydrate only what you need, store the rest dry
4. **Legigo sphagnum moss 2.6 lb ×2** — \$18.99 ea — humid pockets / mounting
5. **Live oak leaf litter (1 gal)** — \$15.99 — top layer + cleanup-crew food

Cleanup crew

- **50 powder orange isopods + 8 oz springtails** — \$44.99 — seed it; they'll establish and breed. Spot-clean by hand while they catch up.

Hardscape & furnishings

- **Janinka wood branch 26-28"** — \$59.99 — climbing/feature piece
- **majoywoo mopani driftwood 9-14" (2 pc)** — \$25.19
- **Totority cork bark 3-pc ×7** — \$24.79 ea — main cork wall stock
- **EZ Botanicals cork bark 1 lb** — \$34.95 — additional cork
- **DECHOUS cork round/tube 6×5"** — \$24.99 — **enclosed hide #1** (warm hide)

- **Extra-large resin rock hide cave** — \$37.89 — **hide #2** (make this the humid hide — pack with damp sphagnum)
- **FISCAPE slate 6 pc, 6-8"** — \$35.99 — flat stone
- **Reptile basking platform slate 15×7.5"** — \$20.99 — basking + feeding surface (helps wear beak/nails)
- **AYNEFY resin water/food bowl (M)** — \$14.92 — shallow water dish; make sure he can climb out
- **Great Stuff Pond & Stone foam 12 oz** — \$12.98 — optional 3D background sculpting

Adhesives & tools

- **Kraken Bond aquarium silicone (2×10.1 oz)** — \$19.99 — use on any animal-contact surface
- **1DFAUL reef glue (5 pc)** — \$14.89 — quick-mount plants/cork/wood
- **Caulk gun kit** — \$16.99

Supplements

- **Fluker's calcium WITHOUT D3 (4 oz)** — \$5.99 — **routine dusting** (he makes his own D3 under UVB)
- **Gargeer calcium WITH D3 (4 oz)** — \$15.97 — **occasional only** (every week or two), not every feeding
- **Sepia King cuttlebone (large)** — \$19.45 — leave in as free-choice calcium

Growth tracking (for the Forage app)

- **OXO Good Grips 5-lb scale** — \$37.95 — weight in grams
- **HARDELL digital caliper 12"** — \$39.99 — shell length

Live plants — all verified safe/edible

⚠ **Quarantine first:** nursery plants carry systemic pesticides. Repot, rinse, and let fresh growth come in before Sheldon grazes.

- **Dandelion, 4" pot ×2** — \$33.99 ea — staple food
- **Costa Farms tropical Hibiscus (*rosa-sinensis*) 4-pack** — \$47.21 — edible flowers & leaves (*NOT cranberry hibiscus*)
- **Air plants — Tillandsia ionantha 25 ct** — \$33.99 — mount on wall/wood
- **Sempervivum 'Montfort' (hen & chicks)** — \$24.53 — ground cover
- **Boston fern + bird's nest fern (8 ct)** — \$49.99 — non-toxic cover

- **Bromeliad Neoregelia 'Fireball' (5 ct)** — \$37.99 — non-toxic greenery
- **Spider plant variety 4-pack ×2** — \$16.99 ea — safe, easy cover
- **Nasturtium (Alaska) ×3** — \$19.97 ea — edible climber (use instead of the grape vine)

Do NOT plant: pothos, philodendron (toxic oxalates) · creeping fig / *Ficus pumila* (irritant sap) · cranberry hibiscus / *H. acetosella* (high oxalic acid) · asparagus "fern."

Build-day checklist

- Drainage → mesh → mixed substrate (5-6") → leaf litter on top
- Silicone the cork wall; **cure 24-72 hrs with airflow until no vinegar smell** before he's anywhere near it
- Mount UVB over warm side; set basking halogen on the Reptizoo thermostat to **90-95°F**; set CHE thermostat to a **~70°F** night floor
- Quarantine/rinse/repot all plants; let new growth come in before grazing
- Run the enclosure 1-2 days and confirm **temps + 80%+ humidity hold** before Sheldon moves in
- Seed isopods + springtails; spot-clean by hand until they establish
- First weigh-in + shell-length measurement → log in Forage

Setup notes

- **UVB vs. heat are separate:** 6% tube for UVB, halogen-on-thermostat for the basking spot. No mercury-vapor bulb (can't be dimmed + doubles UVB).
- **Two controllers:** Reptizoo runs the daytime halogen; the DXOPHIEX CHE has its own thermostat for night.
- Verify the basking *surface* with the IR gun, not just the Govee air reading.