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Überwinterung von Europäischen Landschildkröten im Freigehege – ein Erfahrungsbericht

Overwintering of European tortoises in an outdoor enclosure – a report of my experiences

Abstract

Manually hibernating European tortoises of the genus *Testudo* is necessary, but always an intrusion in their lives. For that reason, I tried to find a more natural way than the typical overwintering in a cellar or refrigerator. I support my tortoises as they prepare for overwintering in their greenhouses. Here I describe how I lengthen the short German summer and how I prepare the tortoises and their greenhouses for the winter and what I do when they awakening. Furthermore I note which requirements have to be complied with when building a greenhouse that is to be used for hibernating.

Key words

Reptilia: Testudines: Cryptodira: Testudinidae: *Testudo* spp., captive care, overwintering in green houses in Germany

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