

Mourning Geckos

<u>Average Adult Size</u>	4" Inches
<u>Average Life Span with proper care</u>	10 years;
<u>Diet</u>	Omnivorous

Enclosure

Medium Used in Enclosure

Depending On Their Stage In Life

Sphagnum Moss to Basic Peat Moss and Topsoil Mixture

When younger, it's best to have a medium that can hold a lot of moisture and as they get older having a healthy mix that clean up crew can live in as well. Starting with sphagnum moss while younger and slowly switching to the peat moss and topsoil mixture as they grow is the recommended medium

Habitat for Enclosure

An Emphasis on height over width

When they're younger, they can slip through ventilation if not prepared properly. Be sure to have a screen vent that they can't squeeze through. As they get older they love to climb, so be sure to have a taller cage with a lot of plants and ledges they can climb.

Temperature and Humidity Control used in Enclosure

Day Time Temperature: 70-80F

Night Time Temperature: 65-75F

These stats apply to all ages of Mourning Geckos, however hatchlings are usually kept toward the higher-end of humidity to ensure easy sheds for the younglings. Mourning geckos will generally thrive at room temperature, but a low wattage basking light may be needed in cooler climates.

Requires a humidity of at least 50%

Unless your house is very cold, supplemental light and heat is not really needed for mourning geckos. An ambient temperature inside the enclosure of about 70 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit is fine. If it's a bit cooler than that, add a 40-watt night light on top of the enclosure. Adults can do well at a humidity of up to 90%, as long as a drier area is provided.

Diet

Live(Optional)

Generally, only feed a live option to Juvenile and Adult

Feeder flies are offered in larger numbers, while still being careful to not overwhelm the enclosed Geckos. As Geckos approach 2in in length, larger hydei feeder flies can be offered, and eventually make a more suitable prey item than the smaller melanogaster fly. Additionally, small crickets, fruit flies, very small roaches, small mealworms and small Calci-worms are great

Commercial(Options)

Commercial food is a healthy alternative or additional source

Mourning geckos will also lick baby food out of a bowl, or you can try offering them some of the nectar-based, commercially manufactured crested gecko or day gecko diets as an add-on.

Water

How often the species requires hydration

A water feature, such as a water fall or plant dripper, should be provided. You'll also want to mist the tank daily. Misting is needed to keep the humidity up but it also serves as the gecko's main source of drinking water, which they will lap up from misted surfaces inside the enclosure. Offer mourning geckos a water bowl. In a naturalistic enclosure that will include misting, a water bowl is likely not needed

Supplements/Exercise

Simple Calcium Dusting Can Go A Long Way

Add calcium dust either in a cup or dust the live feeders with it. This strengthens their bones and promotes more climbing which is their natural exercise.

Basic exercise that these animals can benefit from

Be sure they have plenty of narrow branches, either artificial or real, throughout the enclosure, providing plenty of areas for the geckos to climb on. Elevated hides made of cork bark or similar commercially available items will be most welcome. Mourning

geckos are nocturnal, but they will venture out during the day if they feel secure in their enclosures.

Temperament

Cathemeral

Mourning geckos are cathemeral, meaning they are irregularly active during both the day and night. They are primarily active at night, when they socialize with other geckos in the colony, hunt, and eat. They're tiny, lightning fast, and very delicate, so handling should be restricted to when absolutely necessary. In fact, they've even earned a nickname: "pocket rockets." That being said, some keepers have managed to train their mourning geckos to tolerate handling without bolting.