Netherlands-Adapted Annual Husbandry Schedule

Salea horsfieldii - Nilgiri Salea - outdoor management approximately April to October/November

Why this version is different

This schedule is specifically adapted for animals kept outdoors in the Netherlands for much of spring, summer and autumn. It preserves the Nilgiri biological sequence but does not force the native June-August cool monsoon onto the warmest Dutch months.

Outdoor-season principle

April and November are weather-dependent transition months. Normal Dutch summer temperatures are usable for this cool montane species if deep shade, airflow and thermal escape are available. Heatwaves are the main risk, not ordinary 18-24 C summer weather.

Breeding and moisture sequence

Keep January-March cool and relatively dry, retain spring breeding/laying, use June-August as the warm active outdoor phase, then move the coolest and wettest monsoon-like conditions toward September-October. This better matches Dutch outdoor weather while retaining the reproductive sequence.

MONTH	DAY AMBIENT	NIGHT	BASKING	UVI*	PHOTO	RH DAY / NIGHT	SPRAY / RAIN	FOOD	STATUS / BREEDING
January	18-21 C	8-11 C	28-30 C	2	8 h	55-70 / 70-85%	Light 1-2x/wk	3	Cool / dry rest
February	19-22 C	8-12 C	29-31 C	2	9.5 h	50-65 / 65-80%	Light 1-2x/wk	3	Conditioning
March	20-23 C	10-13 C	30-32 C	2-3	12 h	50-65 / 65-80%	Mist 2x/wk	3-4	Breeding build-up
April	18-23 C	8-13 C	30-32 C	2-3	14 h	55-70 / 70-85%	Mist 2-3x/wk	4	Outdoor if mild; breeding / laying
May	18-24 C	10-15 C	30-32 C	2-3	16 h	60-75 / 75-88%	Rain/mist 3x/wk	4	Active / repeat clutch possible
June	19-24 C	11-16 C	29-31 C	2-3	16.5 h	60-75 / 75-88%	Rain/mist 3-4x/wk	4	Outdoor summer active
July	19-24 C	12-16 C	28-31 C	2-3	16 h	60-75 / 75-88%	Rain/mist 3-4x/wk	4	Outdoor summer active
August	18-24 C	11-15 C	28-31 C	2-3	14.5 h	65-80 / 80-90%	Rain/mist 4x/wk	4	Rain increasing
September	16-21 C	9-13 C	28-30 C	2-3	12.5 h	75-85 / 85-95%	Rain/mist 5-6x/wk	4	Cool humid phase / hatchlings begin
October	14-20 C	8-12 C	28-30 C	2	10.5 h	75-88 / 85-95%	Frequent rain/mist	4	Peak hatchling period
November	16-20 C	8-11 C	28-30 C	2	9 h	65-80 / 80-90%	Mist 2-3x/wk	3-4	Usually indoors; drying / cooling
December	18-21 C	8-11 C	28-30 C	2	8 h	55-70 / 70-85%	Light 1-2x/wk	3	Cool / dry rest

Outdoor transition: move animals outside in April only when weather is stable and night lows remain around 8 C or above. Keep an indoor backup available. October/November return should likewise be forecast-driven rather than fixed to a date.

Heat management: 18-25 C outdoor weather is suitable. At 26-28 C, maximize deep shade, airflow and evaporative cooling. If shaded enclosure air approaches or exceeds about 28 C, provide access to a substantially cooler refuge or bring animals inside. Do not leave them exposed during 30 C+ heatwave conditions.

* T5 UVI: indoor/backup exposure target. Outdoors, unfiltered sunlight varies with weather, time and shade; keep dense cover available.

Outdoor Husbandry and Daily Management

Designed for a Netherlands outdoor season with indoor backup during cold snaps and summer heatwaves.

Outdoor enclosure design

Use a densely planted, highly ventilated enclosure with abundant thin and medium branches, shrubs, cork, shaded retreats and rain shelter. Provide both full-sun access and deep shade. A greenhouse-like enclosure that traps heat is unsuitable unless actively ventilated and cooled.

Temperature management

Normal Dutch spring and summer weather is useful, but the species still needs cool refuges. The basking value in the table is a local surface target only. During warm spells, remove or reduce supplemental basking and prioritize shade. Never allow the whole enclosure to track direct-sun temperatures.

April and November transitions

April outdoor placement should be gradual: first use mild days, then overnight outdoors only once lows are reliably near or above about 8 C. In autumn, reverse the process. November outdoor time is optional and should cease when persistent cold, storms or very low night forecasts make conditions unstable.

Rain and humidity

Use Dutch natural rain as part of the wet phase, but do not allow the enclosure to remain saturated. September-October should be the most consistently cool and humid phase. In June-August, use lighter rain/misting so warm weather does not combine with stagnant high humidity.

Heatwave protocol

Watch shaded-air temperature, not only weather-app maxima. At 26-28 C, increase shade and ventilation and mist vegetation rather than the animal continuously. If the shaded enclosure cannot stay below about 28 C, move the animals to a cooler indoor enclosure. During 30 C+ conditions, outdoor exposure should only continue if a reliably cooler microclimate is demonstrably available.

Diet

Continue a varied insect-based diet: small crickets, roaches, locusts, flies, moths and other appropriately sized arthropods. Feed roughly three times weekly in the coolest period and about four times weekly during active outdoor months and reproductive activity.

Breeding and nest provision

Keep a secluded 15-20 cm deep soil/leaf-litter nesting area available from March onward. April remains the main expected laying period, but later gravidity is documented in the species, so maintain a usable nest site through September.

Daily checks outdoors

Check shaded and sun-exposed temperatures, body posture, breathing, grip, hydration and feeding response every day. In wet weather inspect resting branches and hides for persistent saturation. During hot weather look for prolonged gaping, frantic shade-seeking or loss of coordination and move the animal to cooler conditions immediately.

Breeding Logic, Outdoor Calendar and Evidence Notes

The biological order is preserved; only the climatic expression is adjusted to the Netherlands outdoor season.

What has been shifted

The original Nilgiri-style version placed the coolest, wettest monsoon phase in June-August. For outdoor Netherlands management, that is impractical because these are usually the warmest months. The revised version treats June-August as the warm active period and moves the coolest high-humidity phase to September-October.

What has not been shifted

Spring reproductive activity remains in spring. Published work supports April egg laying, and gravid females have also been recorded later in the year. The revised calendar therefore keeps March-April breeding/laying activity and maintains nesting access through September rather than reversing the reproductive year.

Photoperiod

Because the animals are outdoors for much of the year, the schedule now follows approximate Dutch natural day length: short winter days, rapidly increasing spring daylight, long June-July days, then declining autumn daylight. Indoors, use lighting to transition smoothly toward and away from natural outdoor photoperiod.

Weather overrides calendar

The month is a framework, not permission to ignore actual weather. A cool July can be excellent; an unusually hot June may require indoor housing. Likewise, a mild early November can be usable, while a cold late April may not be. Outdoor placement should always follow measured enclosure conditions.

Evidence and adaptation confidence

Cool montane biology - High
High-elevation Nilgiri species with cool day/night conditions.

April laying - High-moderate
Published review identifies April as the main egg-laying period.

Later gravidity - Moderate
Females carrying eggs have also been recorded in September.

Autumn hatchlings - High
Hatchlings occur September-March, with a strong October peak.

Dutch summer use - Moderate-high
Normal Dutch summer temperatures overlap the upper usable range, provided shade and escape are available.

Heatwave threshold - Conservative working rule
28 C shaded-air trigger is a safety-oriented husbandry threshold, not a published species-specific lethal limit.

September-October wet shift - Working adaptation
Chosen to match Dutch outdoor climate while preserving the Nilgiri reproductive sequence.

Outdoor April/November - Weather-dependent
Use measured enclosure temperatures and forecasts rather than calendar dates alone.

Source basis

Salea horsfieldii natural-history and reproductive literature; Nilgiri/Ooty montane climate; and Netherlands outdoor climate constraints. This revised protocol intentionally separates documented species biology from practical Netherlands adaptation. Exact outdoor decisions should be based on measured enclosure temperature, shade, airflow and short-range weather forecasts.

UVI beneath the optional T5 tube

Salea horsfieldii

Your measuring point

Measure UVI at normal back height directly beneath the brightest accessible part of the optional T5 strip. Place the strip toward the middle/back with free access to and away from it; preserve a gradient into fully covered refuges near UVI 0. These numbers describe the exposure area, not the whole enclosure or a daily average.

Measure and adjust

1. Use a UV Index meter. A Solarmeter 6.5/6.5R or equivalent UVI meter is suitable. Broadband UVB readings in microwatts/cm2 cannot be substituted for UVI.

2. Measure the installed arrangement. Warm the tube for about 30 minutes. Keep the reflector, guards and mesh in their normal positions. With the animal elsewhere, hold the sensor at its normal back height, aimed toward the tube.

3. Adjust the fixture. Begin near the lower part of a newly selected working range and adjust gradually. Respect the lamp manufacturer's minimum distance. Recheck after each change and check every higher accessible branch, rock or platform.

4. Keep a full gradient. Provide usable exposure across the animal's body, lower-UVI areas and fully covered refuges near UVI 0. For daytime baskers, overlap the UV area with visible light and appropriate basking warmth while retaining cooler shade.

5. Record and recheck. Log UVI, measuring point, tube-to-back distance, tube age and lamp-on time. Recheck through the year and after changes to the tube, reflector, mesh or furnishings. Exposure duration and behaviour also determine dose.

A T5 range is a working exposure target, not a whole-cage setting, measured wild monthly average, guaranteed optimum or proven safety ceiling. The animal must be able to enter and leave freely.

Monthly target at normal back height

Month	UVI under T5 when on
January	2
February	2
March	2-3
April	2-3
May	2-3
June	2-3
July	2-3
August	2-3
September	2-3
October	2
November	2
December	2

Clarify indoor/outdoor targets
The UVI column now gives only the optional indoor/backup T5 target. Outdoors, actual unfiltered sunlight varies with weather, time and shade; it is not fixed at 2-3. The Netherlands outdoor schedule and its heat/weather precautions are preserved.

Evidence level: Definition correction. The seasonal schedule is a captive operating plan; it is not measured wild monthly UV. Off means the existing planned UVB-off/rest phase is preserved. Any staged Off/1 entry still means gradual reintroduction.

UV references: Baines et al. (2016), UV-Tool; Muryn, Baines and Dishman (2026), Reptile Lighting Guide V10. Full rationale and monthly comparison: UVI_Audit_Report.html.