

# GREATER ROADRUNNERS



## YOUR YARD IS A GOOD PLACE FOR GREATER ROADRUNNERS!

- **ICONIC AND FASCINATING:** These symbols of the desert are exciting to see up close.
- **AMAZING HUNTERS:** They eat lizards, large insects such as grasshoppers, and rodents.
- **MODERN DINOSAURS:** They safely hunt rattlesnakes and eat venomous scorpions.
- **LARGER DESERT HABITAT:** Multiple yards with native plants are needed to support a roadrunner family.

## ROADRUNNERS LOVE LIZARDS

- Lizards love the desert and roadrunners need lots of lizards to thrive and feed chicks.
- Lizards need lots of insects. Avoid spraying pesticides and let the lizards eat the insects for you!
- Lizards need places to hide. Brush piles and rock piles, especially at the bases of trees, can help keep them safe.
- Do you see any of these lizards in your yard? Having lots of lizards and dense cover plants is the best way to get roadrunners in your yard.



Ornate Tree Lizard



Desert Spiny Lizard



Sonoran Spotted Whiptail



Regal Horned Lizard



Zebra-tailed Lizard



Greater Earless Lizard



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## INGREDIENTS

- SHELTER: Dense, thorny plants provide cover for nesting
- HABITAT: Patches of native desert plants and trees
- FOOD: Lizards, insects, and other small prey
- SAFETY: Keep dogs and cats inside to protect wildlife

## PLANTS



Desert hackberry



Cholla



Ironwood



Creosote bush



Prickly pear



Graythorn

## DIRECTIONS

- Keep cats indoors: they kill many lizards and other small animals.
- Provide thick, thorny plants for nest safety.
- Create complex ground structure including rock and brush piles.
- Leave leaf litter on the ground.
- Leave open dirt patches: lizards bury their eggs in loose soil to keep them safe.
- Increase patch size: encourage neighbors to make wildlife-friendly yards.
- Avoid insecticides: insects feed lizards, and roadrunners eat insects and lizards.

