

Where do our Olives come from?

Like many of our other exotic specimens, our Olive Trees have been driven over from their natural environment in Spain, via a large container lorry. They originate from sustainable sources or in some cases, areas of development where trees were being cut down, and would have otherwise gone to waste.

Further Information

Please note that this information is only intended as a guide – put together from our knowledge and experience.

It should be noted, that on occasion, a plant or tree can thrive in one situation but struggle under almost identical conditions. Like us, plants are living individuals – all different and unique. They should therefore be treated as such.

One of the best bits of advice we can give you however, is to have a look at your neighbour's garden and see what they are growing. If your neighbours have a thriving Olive or other drought tolerant plants, chances are, you can enjoy an impressive Olive Tree in your own garden.



Olea
europaea

Why choose an Olive?

There are many reasons, but just a few are listed below!

- Trouble free & easy to grow
- Striking specimen and garden focal point
- Beautiful & durable – they can last a lifetime
- Big choice – available in a range of sizes
- For a taste of the Mediterranean!
- They can make a wonderful gift!

For more information get in touch with us, and we'll do our best to help and advise you.

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the classic
Olive Tree

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Cultural Notes

Generally trouble free and easy to grow, the classic evergreen Olive Tree has grey-green foliage, fragrant creamy-white flowers in summer followed by edible green fruits (olives), which turn black in hot summers—although in the temperate UK, these trees aren't grown so much for their fruits, but their architectural brilliance.

With trees available in many sizes, shapes and forms, there is the potential to bring a taste of the Mediterranean into gardens large and small, on a budget that's tight or generous.

The Olive will grow 10-18 inches a year, forming a classic rounded head shaped tree.

For that Mediterranean look it can be planted with Lavenders, Rosemary and *Chamaerops humilis*. It can be pruned to any shape or size; some we know of have even been pruned with a chainsaw!

It's a tough specimen and grows well in coastal areas of Cornwall like St Mawes and Falmouth – which are located in more sheltered inlets, although it is not generally recommended for cliff top coastal gardens like Land's End or The Lizard unless it has some shelter. These positions are generally too exposed.

Plant Care

Drainage

Just about the most important factor for successful growth of an Olive Tree, is drainage. It needs perfectly free draining soil and a sunny spot – if the site is too wet it will lose its leaves.

If you can stand there with a hose and the water drains away before your eyes it is ok! You can even double dig the subsoil to improve drainage.

A stony free draining site is perfect (it is easier to water a bit more in the summer than to get rid of excess water in the winter).

Some of the huge olives come in large pots. Many of our customers have removed the pot and built a low wall around the tree, backfilling with soil. This creates a taller tree and excellent drainage.

Feeding

The tree should also be fed with an excellent slow release fertiliser like Trevena Cross Fertiliser especially if it is being kept in the pot.

From the feedback we have received from customers; large trees have survived down to -17°C , and most sizes we stock have been fine at Trevena Cross Nurseries in the last few cold winters that have reached temperatures as low as -10°C .

To be totally safe, it is best to fleece when it gets really cold, removing any vulnerability to extreme 'minus' UK temperatures.

It's worth noting however, that if the tree loses all of its leaves, it will normally be down to poor drainage rather than as a result of cold weather.

