











Fact Sheet

Common name	European Olive		
Botanical name	<i>Olea europaea</i>		
Summary:			
<p>An extremely hardy and long lived evergreen tree that is generally kept small for ease of cultivation, but can be utilised as a shade tree, screen, hedge or even topiary. Originally cultivated around 4000 BC in the Eastern Mediterranean with trade making it a staple food right across the Mediterranean by 2000 BC. Large tired trees can be drastically cut back to promote rejuvenated growth, care should be taken though to reduce sun scald on exposed old wood.</p>			
Likes		Doesn't like	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full sun • Long hot dry summers • Cool winters to stimulate flowering • Will tolerate -9c but at -2c blossoms may be harmed 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shade • humidity 	
Flowers in	Late spring with sprays of perfumed white flowers	Fruits in	Ripens in late Autumn
Care			
Planting	Free draining soil, avoiding the hot times of the year.		
Pollination/ self-fertile, requires another tree	Partially self-fertile but cross pollination with another tree is advised.		
Pruning	Train to an open vase shape, removing over vigorous growth and keeping the centre open to sun shine. Fruiting on last season's wood, regular clipping after harvest will promote new fruiting wood		
Disease and pest management	Olive scale, treat as per any other scale insect; white oil etc.		
Moisture, how much and when	Highly drought tolerant but will perform better with supplementary water during flowering, fruit set and as fruit ripen.		
Feeding	High nitrogen NPK in Autumn and spring		
Harvesting	Olives for oil are left until fully ripe and black. Table olives are picked a little earlier when still a little yellow/green		

What to do when		 Prune	 Harvest	 Feed	 Pest / Disease
 Summer	Dec				
	Jan				
	Feb				
 Autumn	March			•	
	April		•	•	
	May	•	•	•	
 Winter	Jun	•	•		
	Jul	•			
	Aug				
 Spring	Sep			•	
	Oct			•	
	Nov			•	

This is a rough guide only. Individual fruit tree care depends on the variety, the conditions in your garden and your personal preferences!

picture



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on tailored care for your fruit tree