



Olea europaea



Height	5 - 10 m
Crown	round to fan-shaped, dark, dense crown, capricious growing
Bark and branches	twigs silver grey on emerging, later dark brown, bark silvery grey, grooved
Leaf	opposed, evergreen, elongated to narrow obovate, grey-green, underside silver grey, 2 - 8 cm
Flowers	in axillar panicles, yellow-white, June/August
Fruits	elliptical to almost round drupe, olive green to black, 1 - 3 cm, edible fruits
Spines/thorns	None
Toxicity	usually not toxic to people, (large) pets and livestock
Soil type	nutrient-rich, very well-drained soil
Soil moisture	suitable for dry soil
Paving	tolerates no paving
Winter hardiness zone	8b (-9,4,5 to -6,7 °C)
Wind resistance	very good
Other resistances	can withstand wind
Application	parks, squares, tree containers, cemeteries, roof gardens, coastal areas, large gardens, small gardens, patio gardens
Shape	halfstem fruit tree
Origin	Mediterranean area, eastwards to Saudi Arabia

The olive is a very well-known small to medium-size tree that has spread quickly towards North-West Europe as a cultivated plant. The somewhat tangled, dense branching eventually forms a round to fan-shaped crown that usually attains maximum height of 5 to 6 m. The young shoots are silver grey turning dark brown as they mature. The bark of older trees is silvery grey and grooved. The evergreen opposed leaves are dark green on top and silver grey on the underside. In summer the small, sweet, fragrant green-yellow flowers open in axillary panicles. Mainly in warmer climates they are followed by the familiar olives. It takes a year for the fruits to fully ripen and turn from light green to olive green or black. Very wind resistant and tolerates sea wind. Needs a nutrient-rich, very well-drained soil and does not tolerate stagnant water around the roots. Clearly warmth-loving tree for dry, sunny sites.