

European Olive

olea europaea



Young field grown European Olive

European Olive trees are a staple in the dazzling panorama of the Mediterranean sea. They are fruiting trees that thrive in sunshine; the species is well established in California, and it has become a popular ornamental in many southeastern United States landscapes.

They can reach up to 50 feet in both height and spread, though this can take decades – there are many specimens still in excellent health that are hundreds of years old! Typically, European Olives grow to be 20 to 30 feet tall.

The European Olive offers a unique feel to any landscape with its twisting shape and tightly packed canopy. Olive trees offer excellent shade and are known for their low maintenance requirements once the tree is established.

They keep their silver-green leaves year round and produce clusters of 15 to 30 small white flowers in Spring. The well known fruit of the European Olive is a fleshy drupe that contains a hard, single seed. When ripe, the fruit turns a purple black. This fruit can be plentiful and will drop from the tree – keep this in mind when choosing a placement for your new Olive.



European Olive foliage



European Olive fruit

European Olive

olea europaea



European Olive in the landscape

Common Names:

Drake' Chinese Elm,
'Drake' Lacebark Elm

Native Origin :

China

Environment:

Soil: sand, loam, clay,
acidic, alkaline, well-
drained
Salt: low
Exposure: full sun

Description:

Hardy Range: 7A - 10A
Mature Height: 40 - 50'
Mature Spread: 35 - 50'
Growth Rate: 20 - 30
years to maturity
Form: rounded to
weeping vase shape
Persistence: deciduous

Ornamental Characteristics:

Foliage consists of small dark green leaves that disappear when the tree defoliates. Bark exfoliates



Full Sun



Canopy



Evergreen



Slow growth