



Olives

Olive trees are steeped in history and unrivalled for their role in cultures throughout history. In fact, the olive tree is one of the most mentioned cultivated plants in recorded history. Painted by Van Gogh, cited by Sophocles as 'the tree that feeds the children' and printed on roman coinage - this truly is a majestic choice.

The tree itself represents peace and happiness, wood is highly valued by woodworkers and the oil is a symbol of goodness and purity. The leaves were used as a symbol of wealth and peace and used in crowns for victors of friendly contests. The oil is also considered sacred and was used to anoint kings in ancient Greece. Leaves of the olive tree were even found in Tutankhamun's tomb. So, with an olive tree in your garden, you would be in pretty good company!

Olives are also the ultimate in recycling with older, gnarled stemmed plants available today having been saved from old olive groves.

The oldest known olive trees are believed to be around 2000 years old. With the right treatment, soil, drainage and planting advice, yours could live to a ripe old age too.

When placing your olive tree, ensure that it is situated in an area that receives as much sun and as little wind as possible. Olives do not like being exposed to very windy conditions.

Olives are used to a hot dry climate with sharp drainage and poor soil around the roots. Always add grit or gravel when planting to aid drainage or plant in **Provender Lightweight Soil Mix**, the ideal mix for Mediterranean plants. Plants in pots should be raised off the ground to aid drainage especially in the winter months. Good drainage is key to a happy olive whether in the ground or in containers.

Exposed conditions with cold winter winds can cause your olive to drop some leaves. They will soon re-foliate in the spring growth but can sometimes be slow to show the new foliage. Patience is key.

Feed during the growing season with **Olive Tree Fertiliser**, an organic based fertiliser with the balance of nutrients to sustain fresh new growth.

Olives are low maintenance plants that will thrive given the soil conditions and situations stated above. They will benefit from a light prune in early spring to maintain shape, remove any dead or dying branches and to encourage any new growth. Heavy pruning can take place later in the summer but before the autumn months.

Architectural, Mediterranean, drought-tolerant, formal, hot dry areas, olives are a versatile and dramatic addition to any garden.





Olive trees ... an elegant focal point in any garden

