

Botanical Name: Olea europaea

Common Name: Olive

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an upright or spreading, multi-trunked tree, which forms a dense bushy rounded canopy if unpruned; with training, the plant develops a distinctive gnarled branch structure

Height 20-30' (40') Spread 2/3-equal Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun

Soil tolerates most; prefers well-draining

Hardiness hardy (zones 8,9,11-24); thrive in hot inland locations

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, opposite on squarish small stems, elliptic-oval or obovate; 1"-2" long, gray-green above, silver beneath, leathery

Flowers inconspicuous, greenish-white, in small axillary panicles; spring

Fruit a drupe; black, 1/2"-1" long, oval

Propagation: seed

Usage: a widely used accent tree for its picturesque form and gray foliage; commercial fruit tree; very messy; flower and fruit drop; develops adventitious stems from lateral roots

Landscape Care:

Watering an occasional deep soak - avoid wet heavy soils if in-stalling large tree; smaller trees are more adaptable to heavy watering

Fertilizing little is required

Pruning head high and keep canopy thinned out; can bonsai tree

Pests/Diseases relatively free

Special Conditions

Origin: Europe/Asia Family: Oleaceae