

Botanical name

# OLEA EUROPAEA

## Olive

Common name

### DESCRIPTION

**Typical height:**  
5-7 metres

**Typical width:**  
5-7 metres

**Growth rate:**  
Slow

**Typical form:**  
Rounded

### CHARACTERISTICS

- Grey-green foliage, silvery beneath.
- Dark rough bark

### TOLERANCES

- High drought tolerance.

### ORIGIN

Mediterranean

### FACTS AND TRIVIA

Humans have been cultivating olives for their oil and as a food for several thousand years.

Some naturally occurring trees in Europe are over 1000 years old.

Freshly picked olives are inedible so they are pickled or cured prior to consumption. Colour of olive depends on stage of ripening with black olives being picked later.

Wood is valued as a hard and durable timber although it is rarely available. In Greek mythology, Hercules' club was made from the wood of a wild olive tree.



Images above: Treelogic P/L © 'Swan Hill'

