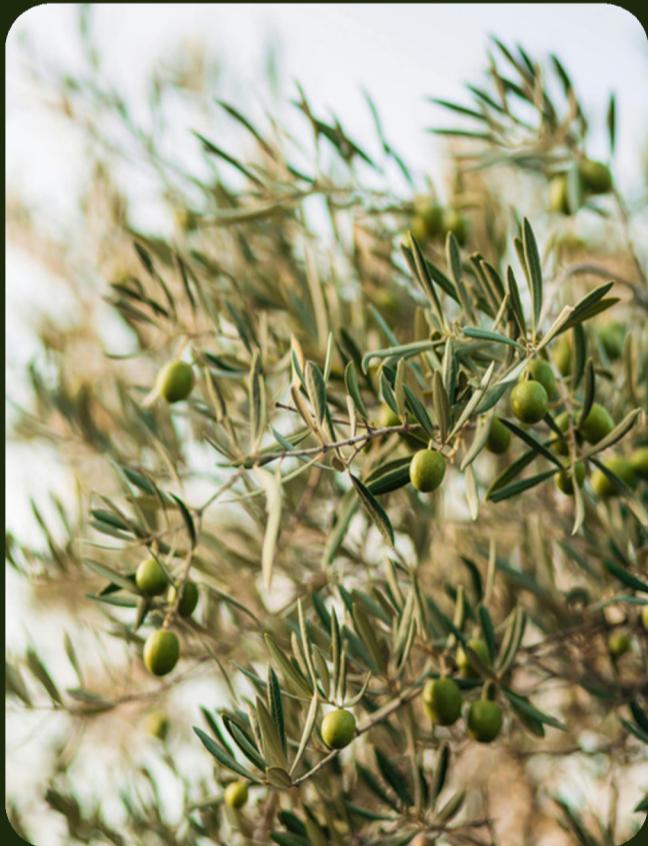


OLEA EUROPAEA



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Olea europaea, commonly known as Olive, is a very long-lived evergreen tree belonging to the Oleaceae family. It is recognized for its narrow, elongated leaves with a silvery-gray underside. When left unpruned, it forms a broad and majestic canopy; as it ages, its trunk becomes gnarled and develops an artistic, sculptural form.



The olive tree is native to the Eastern Mediterranean basin, encompassing regions of present-day Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine. Cultivated for approximately 6,000 years, this tree has been a symbol of peace, abundance, and wisdom since ancient times. Due to its ability to live for thousands of years, it is also known as the “Tree of Life.”

Cultivation and Uses

The olive tree thrives in full sunlight and is exceptionally resistant to drought. It can grow even in rocky, poor soils, although fertile, well-drained soils promote faster development. It is a typical plant of the Mediterranean climate, performing best in areas with mild winters and hot, dry summers. Its low maintenance requirements make it one of the most preferred plants in landscaping.



In landscaping, it is used both for its fruit and as a decorative focal point. In modern designs, centuries-old olive trees—either pruned into bonsai forms or left in their natural shape—are often placed at the center of gardens to create a prestigious appearance. Its silvery foliage forms a striking contrast with dark green plants. Additionally, thanks to its resistance to wind and tolerance of air pollution, it is frequently preferred in urban landscaping projects.