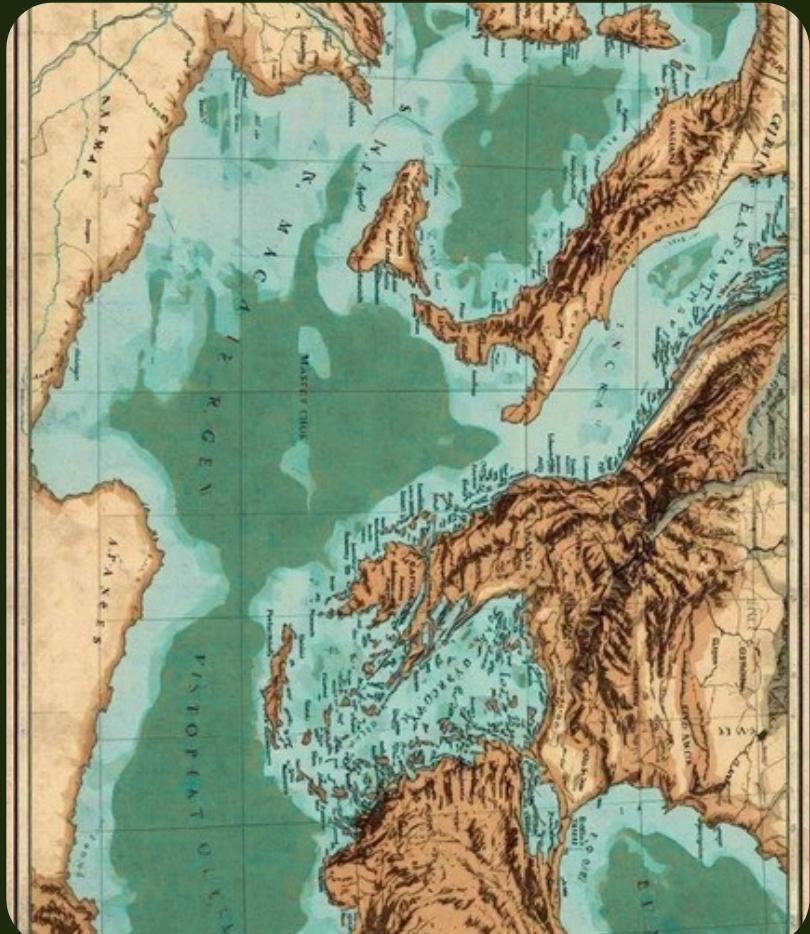


# OLEO EUROPEA



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Olea europaea, commonly known as the olive tree, is an evergreen tree belonging to the olive family (Oleaceae), whose fruit is edible and traditionally native to the Mediterranean climate. Its botanical name means "European olive."



The tree is generally stunted, rarely exceeding 8-15 meters in height. It has a broad, twisted, knobby trunk, and its bark cracks with age. Its leaves are silvery-green, thick, leathery, and arranged oppositely. It is an extremely long-lived species; well-cared-for olive trees are known to live up to 3,000 years. Young saplings grown from seed have a taproot, but later develop a hairy root system near the surface.

# Cultivation and Uses

It prefers the Mediterranean climate, requiring hot summers and mild winters. It is sensitive to frost.

It can adapt to poor soils with good drainage, but grows better in fertile soils.

It is drought-tolerant, but regular irrigation increases yield.

It is generally propagated by cuttings (vegetative propagation), but seed propagation is rare.



It is used as an ornamental plant in gardens and parks due to its monumental and aesthetic appearance. Olive leaf extract is used for its antioxidant and antimicrobial properties. Olive oil is also used in soaps and skin care products. Its hard and durable wood is used in furniture making, carvings, and as fuel.