

Olea europaea

Scientific classification

Kingdom : Plantae
Clade : Angiosperms
Order : Lamiales
Family : Oleaceae
Genus : *Olea*
Species : *O. europaea*



O. europaea

DESCRIPTION:

- **Olea europaea**, commonly called common **olive**, is an evergreen tree that is native to the Mediterranean region. It typically grows to 20-30' tall with a rounded crown. Young trees have smooth gray bark, but trunks and branches will gnarl somewhat picturesquely with age. an evergreen tree usually growing 2-10 m tall with much-branched upright stems.
- its oppositely arranged leaves are elongated in shape (3-7 cm long and 0.8-2 cm wide) with pointed or hooked tips.
- these leaves have glossy dark green upper surfaces and silvery, greenish or yellowish-brown undersides.
- its small creamy-white flowers have four petals that are joined into a very short tube at the base.
- its purplish-black oval-shaped fruit (15-30 mm long and 6-20 mm wide) contain a single hard seed (10-15 mm long) surrounded by oily flesh.

MEDICINAL USES :

Olea europaea is used traditionally as diuretic, hypotensive, emollient, laxative, febrifuge, **skin** cleanser, cholagogue, and also used for the treatment of urinary infections, gallstones, bronchial asthma and diarrhoea.