



Bonsai Care OLIVE

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Taxonomic Name: *Olea europaea*

Olive Family

Mediterranean Bonsai Plant

The olive is one of humankind's oldest cultivated trees. Though it is often primarily regarded as an agricultural plant, it has excellent ornamental qualities, as anyone who has seen the sunlit olive orchards of Italy can attest. Individual olive trees can live and bear fruit for hundreds of years. This penchant for survival, together with the handsomeness of the olive's silvery foliage, endears this venerable species to the bonsai collector.

How to Care for Your Plant:

LIGHT: Direct sunlight is preferable--for example, as found in an unobstructed southern, eastern, or western window.

WATERING: From spring through fall, water your olive bonsai whenever its potting medium or cover moss is dry to the touch. In warm, dry, and sunny conditions, you *may* have to water once every day or two. Water thoroughly: at least a little water should come out of the pot's bottom drainage holes, but the plant should not stand in saucer water afterward. In winter, wait three or four days after the potting mixture surface dries before you water.

HUMIDITY: The more air moisture, the better. If possible, place your bonsai on a humidity tray or on a pebble tray that is partially filled with water. Make sure your bonsai pot always sits above the pebble tray's water line.

FEEDING: Feed the plant only when it is actively flowering or producing new leaves. At that point, use a bonsai fertilizer every 2 weeks.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: While it may not be absolutely necessary, consider giving your olive tree a gentle dormancy treatment in winter by placing it in a cool location with a minimum temperature of 45 degrees Fahrenheit.