

Olive tree care in zone 8-10

Olea europaea

QUICK FACTS

USDA ZONES

8-11

SUNLIGHT

Full Sun

HEIGHT

20-25 ft

AT A GLANCE

Olives are among the least demanding fruit trees where they are hardy (zones 8b-11). They need sharply-drained soil, full sun, and relatively little irrigation or fertilizer. The main caution: pollen is a significant allergen, and 'Swan Hill' and other pollen-free varieties are available where this is a concern. Also: raw olives are bitter and inedible without curing.

PLANTING CHECKLIST

- Match site to sun requirements above before buying
- Test soil drainage — dig a 12" hole, fill with water, time it (should drain in 1-2 hrs)
- Dig hole 2x wider than rootball, same depth
- Backfill with native soil — do NOT amend the planting hole
- Water deeply at planting and weekly for first 3 weeks
- Mulch 2" deep, keep mulch 2" away from trunk/stems

FULL GUIDE WITH SOURCES

<https://outdoorplantcare.com/plants/olive-tree-care/>