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# *Olea europaea*

*OH-lee-uh your-oh-pee-uh*

(COMMON OLIVE)

Family: Oleaceae (ōlē'āsē, ē)

Includes lilac, forsythia, jasmine

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Wendy Hunter

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## Story of the Olive Tree

- Fossil evidence indicates the olive tree had its origins 20–40 million years ago
  - First cultivated 7000 yrs ago
  - Commercially grown in Crete 3000 BC
  - Spanish colonists —> New World —> Missionaries —> California 1769
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*Olea europaea* 'Mission'

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# CHARACTERISTICS

- **Gnarled trunks, silver foliage**
- **Evergreen, drought tolerant**
- **Grows to about 30-40 ft**
- **Full sun, well drained soil**
- **Does not like to sit in water**



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# FLOWERS

- Grow on previous years branches
- Be careful if pruning
- Most cultivars are self sterile - better fruit production with a second cultivar for cross-pollination
- Wind pollinated - very allergenic - strong asthma trigger





# PESTS

- Borers
- Scales
- Olive Fruit Flies

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[How to Manage Pests](#)

**Pests in Gardens and Landscapes**

[More trees and shrubs](#)

**Olive—*Olea europaea*\***  
**Family Oleaceae (Olive family)**

## Pests and disorders of *Olea europaea*

### Invertebrates

- [American plum borer](#)
- [Armored scales](#)
  - California red scale
  - Oleander scale
  - Olive scale
- [Branch and twig borers](#)
- [Clearwing moth borers](#)
  - Ash borer
- [Cottony cushion scale](#)
- [Glassy-winged sharpshooter](#)
- [Olive fruit fly](#)
- [Psyllids](#)
  - Olive psyllid
- [Root nematodes](#)
- [Soft scales](#)
  - Black scale
- [Whiteflies](#)
  - Citrus whitefly

### Diseases

- Bacterial leaf scorch (similar to [Oleander leaf scorch](#))
- [Olive knot](#)
- [Olive peacock spot \(scab\)](#)
- [Root and crown rot \(Phytophthora root rot\)](#)
- [Verticillium wilt](#)
- [Wood decay](#)

### Environmental disorders

- [Branch dieback](#)
- [Messy fruit](#)
- [Mineral deficiencies](#)
- [Nutrient and mineral excesses](#)
- [Poor water management](#)

### Weeds

### Vertebrates

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## PESTS

- Few pests
- Presence of ants or sooty mold indicate possible scale insects



- Olive tree produces lots of seeds - can become invasive itself near open areas
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## CULTIVARS

- Olive oil vs Table olives
- Size, color



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<b>‘Swan Hill’</b>	Non-fruiting	Not messy, low allergen	Trademarked
<b>‘Sevillano’</b>	Large black	Low oil content	Pollinizer for Manzanillo
<b>‘Mission’</b>	Small pit	Cold-pressed olive oil	Cold resistant
<b>‘Manzanillo’</b>	Easy to remove pit	Great flesh	
<b>‘Arberquina’</b>	Self-fruiting	Aromatic oil	Hot, dry climates

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