

## **The Care and Fertilisation of Olive Trees: Olea europea "Lessini", "Bonsai" and "Regional".**

**-Water Management:** If the olive tree is planted with hydro grains and Mediterranean soil, the olive tree needs in the growing season (February to October) once a week a lot of water! In the summer with dry and hot weather this has to be extended to 2 times a week.

Do not confuse the olive for a desert plant: it needs regular watering to thrive. Insufficient water will cause your tree to suffer and even die if left too dry for too long.

In the autumn watering depends on weather conditions. If it rains a lot, the olive tree needs no additional watering. However, if autumn is dry, the olive tree should be watered again several times: you will have to water sufficiently to get your tree established and thereafter as necessary during dry periods. No one can give you a formula for that; you will have to observe and evaluate.

Please note that you also water the olive tree during wintertime (if it is not freezing).

If the olive tree gets yellow leaves it will be too dry. However, if there are just a few yellow leaves scattered throughout the canopy, it may be natural senescence. Since olive trees are not deciduous, they have continual leaf loss through the season.

Please also note that when an olive tree is planted in a planter, the tree needs more water than in the open ground.

**-Fertilisation:** the Special Mediterranean soil from the Olive Tree Specialist contains enough fertilizer for about 7 months (1 growing season). The following years, you can fertilize the olive tree with special Osmocote for Mediterranean trees. This fertilizer pellets are available at the Olive Tree Specialist.

**-Pruning:** it is important to prune your olive tree in spring (preferably in April) to achieve a desired shape.

Prune the top, upwardly growing, branches back by a few inches to encourage lateral growth. It is also good to cut out small interior branches that will ultimately clutter the tree's appearance. You can shape your olive tree to any shape you please.

**-Winter:** when it's winter, you keep a close eye on the weather. The trunk of the olive tree can, depending on the breed and the girth, take -15 degrees Celsius. On the other hand, the leaves can be damaged at -12 degrees Celsius. To stay on the safe side, please protect your olive tree with a fleece cloth in combination with a heat hose at temperatures of -10 degrees Celsius. In this way your tree is best protected during any severe or long Frost periods. When the minimum temperature rises above zero please remove the fleece cloth (you can let the heat hose connected to the wall outlet for possible later use) right away from the tree. For more information, see our instructions of the fleece cloth and the heat hose.

**-Pests and diseases:** - during long wet periods a fungus may occur, apparent to round, black or yellow spots. The fungus causes leaf drop which robs the tree of vegetative energy leading to smaller crops and poor growth. Copper fungicides are the mainstay for control. The copper fungicides (an organic spray) is available at the Olive Tree Specialist.

**-Re-potting:** if your olive tree is in a planter it needs to be re-potted after 8 to 10 years. You can use the original planter for re-potting. Take the tree out of the planter, shake off loose soil, prune the roots and replace the tree in the planter with new hydro grains and Mediterranean soil.