



## Taking Care of your Olive

Olives are slow growing evergreen trees, which have tiny, fragrant, creamy white flowers with yellow centres during the summer. Fruit may be produced in southern England but is unlikely to ripen.

### Position

**Outside-** Site in a position that will provide the most sun possible. The more mature plant can adapt to being outside. They will not be affected by short cold periods. Grow in deep, fertile, sharply drained soil in full sun.

**Inside-** Most plants will do well kept in cool, bright rooms, greenhouses, porches or conservatories.

### Soil

Use equal parts a mixture of soiless compost and John Innes No 3 with extra sharp sand or grit. Ensure good drainage at all times.

### Watering

Water when the compost surface has dried out. Water regularly in summer, very sparingly in the winter. Plants should not stand in water.

### Feeding

Apply a well-balanced fertiliser monthly during summer.

### Pruning

Plants under glass can be pruned in spring, by thinning and shortening shoots into a good tree-like shape.

Plants outside can be pruned, if needed, during summer to maintain and improve shape.