

## **OLIVE TREE (*Olea europaea*)** **Cultivable as a tree or bonsai**

### **Description:**

The olive tree is a medium-sized, evergreen, richly branched, and, when old, gnarled tree. It requires a lot of time to grow, however it can live in the open for several hundred years. The true olive tree is originally native to the entire Mediterranean and the Canary Islands. There it is an important element of the Mediterranean vegetation and cultural landscape. The origin of this characteristic plant can be traced back to the Bronze Age, whereby the oldest specimen can be found in Vouves (e.g. Crete, Greece) is estimated at 4,000 years.

Olive trees are not demanding and make lovely adornments in pots on the balcony and terrace. They thrive best in a Mediterranean climate with constant temperatures of 15°C - 20°C and require little rain. The tree tolerates heat, however it is sensitive to cold. Thus, the olive tree tolerates only short-term temperatures of -8°C. It is therefore essential that the tree be kept indoors during the winter in a bright location and at temperatures of 5°C - 10°C.

### **Sowing:**

There is one thing that must be noted: sowing an olive tree requires patience! A pre-treatment of the seeds is essential, because this speeds-up germination. The seeds must first be scratched, filed or roughened with sandpaper. Next, the pre-treated seeds are placed in lukewarm water for 24 hours; the water should be changed several times. The seeds should then be planted in germ-free cultivation soil, with the tip of the seed pointing upwards. Cover the seeds loosely with about 0.5 to 1 centimetre of soil and must be kept moist - but not wet!

To best retain heat, cover the seed pots with cling film. Place the seed pots in as bright and warm a place as possible. Temperatures of about 20°C to 25°C are ideal. Place seedling in a location that is as bright as possible, otherwise its shoots become too thin and too long. Germination takes place within four to twelve weeks. Please, be patient!

### **Please note:**

This is a natural product. Therefore, we do not guarantee a sprout or germ for seeds since the conditions under which sowing by the customer is made can not be assessed or influenced by us.