



Images (above and below): Treelogic P/L © 'Swan Hill'



Botanical name:  
***Olea europaea***

Common name:  
**Olive**

Origin:  
**Mediterranean**

Typical height:  
**8-10 metres**

Typical width:  
**5-8 metres**

Growth rate:  
**Slow**

Typical form:  
**Rounded**

Characteristics:  
**Grey-green foliage, silvery beneath. Dark rough bark**

Site requirements:  
**Adapts to most soil textures, prefers good drainage.**

Tolerances:  
**High drought tolerance. Low tolerance to waterlogging.**

Suitable for use under powerlines:  
**Suitable (cultivars)**

Notes:  
**Fruit drop can cause problem unless community use it.**

**May be clipped into a robust hedge.**



Image: Treelogic P/L © 'Tolley's upright'

'Swan Hill' is a sterile (non-invasive) form.  
'Tolleys Upright' is a low-fruited form.

Facts and trivia:

Humans have been cultivating olives for their oil and as a food for several thousand years.

Some naturally occurring trees in Europe are over 1000 years old.

Freshly picked olives are inedible so they are pickled or cured prior to consumption. Colour of olive depends on stage of ripening with black olives being picked later.

Wood is valued as a hard and durable timber although it is rarely available. In Greek mythology, Hercules' club was made from the wood of a wild olive tree.

References:

More, D., & White, J. (2003). *Cassell's trees of Britain and Northern Europe*. Cassell.

Spencer, R. (2002). *Horticultural flora of south-eastern Australia*. UNSW press.

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