

Olive Tree	<i>Olea europaea</i>	is-Sigra taż- Żebbuġ
Common English name	Scientific name	Maltese name

Where is this tree found in the world – (Species Distribution)

The cultivated olive tree is native to Africa and temperate Asia and southern Europe, including the Maltese Islands, where it is considered one of the oldest species of cultivated trees.

What is the preferred habitat for this tree?

It is often found in all Mediterranean climate regions globally, primarily located along the coasts, adapted to poor soils in arid and saline environments.

Is it green all year (evergreen), or does it change according to the season (deciduous)?

It is evergreen.

How tall can it grow? (Usual or maximum height)

It may grow to a max of 25m.

What are the leaves and flowers like?

Its leaves are narrow, grey-green on the upper surface, silvery-white underneath. The yellowish-white flowers (having both male and female parts) grow like panicles on short shoots and blossom in June. Flowers are pollinated by wind.

What are the fruits like?

After pollination, flowers develop into the olives, which ripen between October to December.

What do humans use this tree for?

It is one of the most important crops in the Mediterranean, for the olives and the olive oil these produce. Its leaves have extensive use in traditional herbal medicine to prevent and treat several diseases.



Does this tree have legal protection?

The olive tree is not protected if planted for agricultural purposes for fruit or oil production in a field registered for agricultural use with the Agriculture Directorate and used by a registered farmer (according to the ERA 2018 list of trees and woodland protection regulations).