



OLIVE TREE CARE

LIGHT

Olive trees (*Olea europaea*), including Arbequina, need abundant direct sun. Give them the brightest available south-facing window indoors; a grow light may be needed. They benefit from a sunny summer outdoors after gradual acclimation. A dim indoor corner will not support healthy growth.

WATERING

Water container olives thoroughly when the surface begins to dry, keeping the root ball moderately moist during active growth. Let excess water drain and empty the saucer. Reduce frequency during a cool winter rest. Never leave the pot waterlogged or allow roots to remain completely dry.

SOIL

Use a gritty, well-drained container potting mix and a sturdy pot with drainage holes. Keep the trunk at its original planting depth. Check drainage regularly, especially outdoors in rainy weather. Repot crowded plants in spring, choosing a container that comfortably accommodates the roots.

TEMPERATURE

In Maine, grow olives in containers and overwinter in a bright, frost-free place. A cool winter location around 40-50°F can support the rest needed for flowering, but fruit is not guaranteed. Move outdoors only after frost danger passes; protect container roots from freezing.

FERTILIZING

Feed monthly during active spring and summer growth with a balanced liquid fertilizer, following label directions. Stop feeding during the winter rest. Prune lightly in early spring to maintain shape and remove dead or damaged growth, using clean, sharp tools.

PESTS

Inspect stems and leaf undersides for scale, especially before bringing plants indoors. Isolate infested trees and select a labeled treatment. Poor drainage can cause root rot. Sparse growth or leaf drop calls for checking light, soil moisture, temperature changes and pests before changing care.